

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: March 14, 2024
TO: Library Board, Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney
FROM: Ryan Wieber, Library Director
SUBJECT: Library Board Meeting

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING: Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Bennett Martin Public Library – 4th floor
136 S. 14th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

STARTING TIME OF MEETING: 8:00 a.m.
CHAIR OF MEETING: Dan Sloan, President
PURPOSE OF MEETING: Monthly Business Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Announcement of Open Meetings Law
2. Approval of Agenda*
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items
4. Approval of February 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes*
5. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Administration
 - b. Committee on Finance
 - i. Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for February 2024*
 - c. Committee on Buildings & Grounds
6. Special Committee Reports
 - a. Foundation Executive Director Report
7. New Business
 - a. Approval of a Contract Renewal with Frye, Frazey & Assoc. for Security Services*
 - b. 2023 Volunteer Report – *Kim Shelley*
 - c. Adoption of the Annual Volunteer Proclamation*
 - d. Approval of the Roster of Foundation Board Candidates*
8. President's Report
9. Assistant Library Director's Report
10. Library Director's Report
11. Public Comment – Anyone wishing to address the board on a matter not on this agenda may do so at this time.

*Action Item

Proposed agenda kept continually current and available for inspection at the Administrative Office of the Bennett Martin Public Library. The Board shall have the right to modify the agenda at said public meeting when convened.

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at 402-441-7624, or the City Ombudsman at 402-441-7511, as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request. *Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska posted in meeting room.*

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024, 8:00 a.m.
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Shaw, Rhonda Seacrest, Lisa Hale, Jackie Ostrowicki, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler, Nichole Bogen.
Absent: Dan Sloan. A quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

In President Sloan’s absence, Vice President Joe Shaw called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law was posted and available for review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shaw noted that the Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Shaw asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as posted. Seacrest so moved. Hale seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Gerteisen, Seacrest, Shaw, Ostrowicki, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Shaw noted that the December meeting minutes had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Seacrest so moved. Hale seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Gerteisen, Seacrest, Shaw, Ostrowicki, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration
No report

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for December 2023

Treasurer Ostrowicki shared that the Library’s Total Operational Expenditures for December, 2023 were \$958,833.66, and Total Expenditures from Other Funds were \$68,977.05, for a total in December of \$1,027,810.71. Ostrowicki moved approval of the report. Hale seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for January 2024

Treasurer Ostrowicki reported that the Total Operational Expenditures for January, 2024 were \$827,716.61, and the Total Expenditures from Other Funds were \$99,878.71, totaling \$927,595.32 for January. Ostrowicki moved approval the report, Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

No report

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail McNair shared that the Foundation finalized the 2023 annual payout and reported the book sale numbers. McNair urged all to mark their calendars on Thursday, April 25 for the annual Wine and Dine event at the Country Club of Lincoln. Invitations will be sent out shortly via email and USPS. She announced that the Foundation offices will be moving (date tba) from Bennett Martin to Walt Branch.

One Book One Lincoln

Patty Beutler shared that the first meeting of the new One Book One Lincoln committee was held on Saturday and new Chair, Alyssa Diehl did a wonderful job. She reported, the committee is a great group of readers and there was a lot of discussion. 71 titles were pared down to about 50. She shared she has a daunting six books to read in the next 2 ½ weeks. Ostrowicki asked how the 71 titles compared to past years' numbers. Beutler explained that over 200 nominations were received and narrowed to 71 by Support Services staff based on the usual criteria, things like—having digital or large print versions available to make the options accessible to all readers and eliminating ineligible books like those which have been on the top-10 lists from previous years.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Resolution Recognizing Library Staff and Guard for their role in a Patron well-being incident on December 22, 2023

Director Wieber commended the staff at Bennett Martin who have many opportunities to implement the training they've received and embody the outlook on library service they learn from Library Coordinator, LeeAnn Sergeant. He noted, library staff not only provide great library service, but also a great environment, including keeping people safe, and there is a great deal that goes on behind the scenes to make all of that happen.

Wieber also shared that the library also relies a great deal on our contracted security staff from Frye Frazey & Associates. He noted that today the board wishes to recognize a group of staff from Bennett Martin and in particular, Guard Firas Pirali who took part in the event near closing time on Friday, December 22.

Director Wieber stated, all our library teams strive to be prepared for anything, and in this case preparation, training and quick action gave the very best result. Reviewing the security tape showed how calmly and professionally all members of staff responded to the emergency and acted without hesitation to assist the patron in distress. Wieber expressed that often folks know only that we're here, checking

out books, greeting people and getting people logged into computers, but they don't realize that we're here making a difference in people's lives, and in this case, library staff made a huge difference in this person's and his family's lives.

Wieber commended the training Frye Frazey & Associates gives to Firas and all their staff. Members of Frye Frazey in attendance with Guard Firas Piralı were introduced – Owner Dave Frye, Manager Ofc. John Hudec, Chad Rowe, and Jack Erickson.

Vice President Shaw read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS on Friday, December 22, 2023, as the result of excellent training by Library Coordinator LeeAnn Sergeant and Supervisor Rio Beranek, a Bennett Martin team performed seamlessly and without hesitation together in an emergency situation; and

WHEREAS Library Service Associates Scott Clark and Sharon Sayer identified a patron in distress at a Public Access computer and notified Guard Firas Piralı; and

WHEREAS Firas, upon being unable to rouse the patron, immediately and loudly notified other staff that a medical emergency was taking place and began administering first aid to the patron; and

WHEREAS Service Associate Cindy Krushenisky rushed to assist Firas while Librarian Ali Bousquet called 911 and relayed critical instructions; and

WHEREAS Service Associate Kimberly Jorgensen quickly retrieved the defibrillator, and Sharon took over at the public desk to watch and provide directional help when LFR arrived; and

WHEREAS Firas checked for breathing and rapidly massaged the patron's chest, and when that had no effect, carefully moved the patron to the floor, cleared his face and neck, and continued chest massage and checking for a pulse. Per the 911 operator, Firas expertly began chest compressions and continued without pause until the patron suddenly moved of his own power, then again per instructions, Firas moved the patron onto his side and continued to monitor him until LFR arrived; and

WHEREAS "Saving Lives" does not appear in any one of anyone's job description, and yet they are trained, willing and able to leap to the rescue when needed; and

WHEREAS Bennett Martin serves a population of Lincolnites who sometimes have more than the usual sorts of library needs, and Bennett Martin staff are here for it, every day, acting quickly, skillfully, and compassionately as a team, ensuring what everyone loves best from libraries – stories with happy endings; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln City Libraries Board of Trustees expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Firas Piralı, Cindy Krushenisky, Ali Bousquet, Kimberly Jorgensen, Sharon Sayer, Scott Clark, Rio Beranek and LeeAnn Sergeant for their exceptionally skilled, fast, and compassionate teamwork that saved a patron's life.

Seacrest moved to approve the resolution. Ostrowicki seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Shaw, Ostrowicki, Hale, Beutler, Gerteisen, Seacrest – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

Many thanks were shared, and Firas responded, “We have all kinds of situations. You just go into it ... every day is a different story.” Hale commended Firas’ inclusive and welcoming work, calling him, “top notch.” Brief discussion followed.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

In President Sloan’s absence, Vice President Shaw reported on his Monday, February 12 attendance at the library’s all-day Strategic Planning Workshop, also attended by staff, board and community members, moderated by Parlay Consulting. Shaw shared that he learned a lot about the libraries, and the challenges faced. He noted there are fundamental things that need to be addressed and is looking forward to addressing them in the coming years. Shaw expressed the best part of the exercise was being around library staff, learning what librarians know and are concerned with, and knowing LCL has a great staff of people, and he’s happy to be a part of it.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Assistant Director Glass shared a look at the nearly completed new LCL website. She thanked Webmaster Peter Jorgensen for his hard work managing the transfer. Glass shared improvements like a “book river” that will display popular titles, showed how popular programs and services can be showcased, and the results of making the pages less text heavy. Board members commended the use of local photography, bright colors and the intuitive setup. Wieber shared that the library is coordinating with the City on a go-live date.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Wieber reported on the Strategic Planning workshop. He thanked Shaw and Gerteisen for participating, along with staff, community members and Amanda Barker from the Mayor’s office. He shared that after a day of great dialog, they landed on specifics for directives and goals, including strengthening the library’s identity (communication/marketing), maximizing access for all customers, improving internal training for all staff, and seeking out ways to grow funding sources (grants/collaborations.) Parlay will streamline the day’s work and provide a concise report to be used for crafting actions to meet the stated goals. Brief discussion followed.

Wieber reported on the biennial budget process, indicating that initial plans have been submitted, and will be discussed in more detail with the finance committee at their upcoming meeting. Brief discussion followed. He reported that the future library improvement plans are continuing, many options are possible, and the goal is to move forward soon with the best possible plans supported by the community.

Director Wieber shared that this would be Accountant Paul Jones’ last board meeting prior to retirement. Jones was roundly applauded and thanked for his service to the Library.

Ostrowicki shared her experiences working as a new Library Volunteer with her daughter at Gere Branch Library, and thanked Manager Brenda Ealey and Library Service Associate Aubrey Shumake for their training. She also provided information about a training opportunity for Board Members, the upcoming

Nebraska Library Association's 2-day Advocacy events. On Tuesday, March 19, Bennett Martin will host speakers including, among others, Director Wieber who will speak on "Creating Connections and Communicating Your Library's Value," recently retired LCL Youth Services Coordinator, Vicki Wood who will speak on "Understanding What's Really Behind Book Challenges and Bans" and Treasurer Ostrowicki on "Using Communication to Advocate for Nebraska's Libraries." March 20th events include more speakers at the Cornhusker Marriott in the morning and opportunities to meet Nebraska State Senators at the Capitol Building in the afternoon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Memo to the Library Board

March 2024

Please note: this month's Board meeting is at **Bennett Martin Public Library**, March 19, at 8AM.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET: The actual budget expended year to date is 50.32%, compared to the budgeted 50.00%. Annual adjusted expenditures to date is 50.06%.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

The Committee did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

The Committee did not meet.

Committee on Finance

*Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures—Action Item

Reports are attached. Jackie Ostrowicki of the Finance Committee will bring forward a motion to approve.

The committee met on February 29 to review the preliminary FY 24-26 Budget, and the preliminary CIP budget.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation Executive Director Report: Gail McNair

NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of a Contract Renewal with Frye, Frazey & Assoc. for Security Services*

We approved a new contract with Frye Frazee in March 2023, and now I am seeking a one-year renewal. This would be a first renewal, with the capability of additional renewals in 2025 and 2026. The library is pleased with the services of Frye, Frazee. There is no increase in hourly costs.

b. 2023 Volunteer Report – Kim Shelley

LCL annually presents a report of volunteer services for the year, in late winter ahead of the spring recognition ceremony. NESU Manager Kim Shelley is the system's volunteer coordinator.

c. Adoption of the Annual Volunteer Proclamation*

This annual Proclamation honors the many library volunteers and recognizes the tremendous contributions they give to aid in the daily operations of a great library system.

d. Approval of Foundation Board Candidates*

According to the bylaws of the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries, the Board of Lincoln City Libraries shall approve annually any new members of the FLCL Board. Biographical statements from each candidate were attached to your board packet email, please review them. Executive Director Gail McNair will answer any questions you may have concerning candidates.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Traci Glass will provide a report on the Youth Services coordinator position and the Frye Frazey contract.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I will provide a general update on a variety of topics. Please see my written Director's Report for additional news.

CONTRACTS FILED

Bob Hall	For an additional comics presentation on April 3, 2024 at Walt Branch Library, which Agreement was approved by Directorial Order No. 30669 dated August 29, 2023 at no cost.	2/28/2024
Tabitha Health Bereavement Services	Tabitha Health Bereavement Services will provide staff to conduct a three-part series on grief at Walt Branch Library at the dates and times detailed in the agreement.	2/21/2024
Nick Vaccaro, Musician	For additional musical programs at Lincoln City Libraries, which Agreement was approved by Directorial Order No. 30125 dated May 19, 2023 at an added cost not to exceed \$300.00.	2/20/2024
Jared Alberico, Musician	For additional musical performances at Lincoln City Libraries, which Agreement was approved by Directorial Order No. 30124 dated May 19, 2023 at an added cost not to exceed \$100.00.	2/20/2024
Courtney Kochner	Courtney Kochner will provide a training to library staff regarding living independently as a person with a disability on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at Gere Branch Library.	2/16/2024



LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

136 S. 14th Street

Lincoln, NE 68508-1899

MEMORANDUM

TO: Library Board

FROM: Paul E. Jones, Business Office

RECAP OF EXPENDITURES - FEBRUARY 2024

Library Operational Budget - FY 2023-24	\$ 785,696.27	
Library Enc/Reapp - From FY 2022-23	19,991.25	
Heritage Room Fund - FY 2023-24	2,404.56	
Polley Music Library - FY 2023-24	8,654.44	
	<hr/>	
Total Operational Expenditures		\$ 816,746.52
Grants	\$ 7,382.11	
Hompes Fund	-	
Keno	101,753.65	
Miscellaneous Library Donations Funds	2,270.63	
Capital Improvements	67,131.00	
	<hr/>	
Total Expenditures - Other Funds		178,537.39
		<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 995,283.91



Director's Report for February 2024

- The library had two retirements recently with a combined 78 years of experience at LCL. Rebecca Clark retired from her role as Library Services Supervisor at Walt Branch, where she had served since that building opened in 2002. Her last day was recognized by her longtime friends and colleagues with a warm and joyful reception. Rebecca wrote as part of her farewell statement that *"Knowledge is power, information is valuable, recreation is uplifting, community is important – Libraries are indispensable to a well-rounded life."* Also, Mayor Gaylor Baird presented a proclamation recently in honor of Paul Jones' 32 years of service to Library as an accountant. Paul provided professional and indispensable work and helped keep things running smoothly for the system. We're happy for Paul and Rebecca and thankful for their service and valuable contributions to Lincoln patrons and to the library team. We will miss them!
- LB441 (addressing Neb Rev. State Statute 28-813) is expected to come to the floor for debate over the next few days. This is the once-again proposed legislation that removes defense to prosecution for school and public library employees for checking out "obscene" materials to minors. Contact your legislators to express your concern over this bill as it violates the intellectual freedom rights of Nebraskans and disregards the experience and expertise of library professionals in selecting and providing access to books. It could create fear, stifle 1st Amendment rights, and add to the waste of taxpayer dollars for municipalities and school districts to defend against the unwarranted prosecution of library professionals and educators.
- Gere Branch had **319** study room users during the month of February. Also- see notes below regarding the approximately **500** who attended the Wachiska Bird Count program at Gere in February..
- Norris School District has expressed interest in a program similar to Library OneCard where all students in the district who live in Lancaster County could automatically receive an LCL card (a small percentage of Norris students are outside the County and would not be eligible.). This

service would offer additional value to county families in addition to bookmobiles and their full access card. An agreement may be forthcoming.

- The new (and final!) go-live date for the new website has been set for Tuesday, April 10. We are making some last-minute design changes to meet city guidelines.
- We have a draft of the new strategic Plan in hand. Our staff team will review it this week and refine/edit where necessary. I think it'll be ready by the April Board meeting.
- I mentioned in last month's report that BMPL's first floor carpet was being installed, and I'm happy to report it was completed shortly after and looks beautiful. We are all grateful for this new addition and know it adds to the charm of Bennett Martin, creating an even more welcoming experience. Refreshes to our facilities are pleasing to patrons and indicates a pride in our libraries. Many thanks to the crew who helped plan the work involved and kudos to facilities superintendent Dan Miller and the Virtual Services staff for coordinating the physical move aspect involved.

Monthly Examples of the Strategic Plan in Action in February 2024

Our Vision: The Library Experience—setting a distinctive tone in promoting and providing lifelong education for our entire community

Interactions

- A senior patron came in to Walt Branch to pick up a hold that had arrived. She was frustrated because she did not have time to read it yet, so Vicki C. explained how in the future she could suspend a hold and release it when she was closer to being ready. She did not know about this service and was so happy when Vicki completed the process that she gave her a thumbs up and said "You Rock!"
- Nancy P. at BMPL assisted with finding a specific Chilton Auto Manual for a patron to put on hold. He arrived about 30 minutes later to pick up the manual. "He said he needed the manual as he had purchased an old pickup for his sister in Mississippi and wanted to make sure it was in good running shape before he drove it out to her. I happened to notice he checked out the book with a brand new Library card - People have all kinds of reasons to use our services."
- Anthony V. [Bennett Martin] said, "I had a memorable experience with a patron. It was one of those situations where you can see the fruits of people's labor. A patron who recently got a steady job and was able to secure an apartment asked me to help her scan documents. We needed to send financial docs and work records to the right people to make sure she moves in on time. We were working on a tight deadline. We had about 30 min to email requested documents. So, I hopped on the computer and started scanning about 10-12 documents. We then uploaded it to a secure link and sent it off. She was so appreciative because it secured her spot for the apartment. She expressed her gratitude towards the library staff, and I told her it was our pleasure. We are always here to help especially if it's helping people get back on their feet."

Collaboration

- LCL collaborated with the Lancaster County Election Commission. Several libraries hosted voter registration drives during the month of February. At NESU, a drive took place at Anderson Branch Library, February 28, 4-7 PM.
- Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) partnered with Wachiska for their Bird Encounter at Gere on the 17th. There were over 500 attending with stations that included binoculars for bird watching; sounds station with bird calls; making bird feeders; banding birds; and lots of other activities. Staff made at least 20-30 new library cards that day!

Programming

- Mindful Movements Storytime at Walt this month focused on what it means to be a friend for International Friendship Month. Meagan M. also led a discussion of what it means to be kind and different acts of kindness the children could do for Random Acts of Kindness Day.
- Selena S. at Eiseley held a wine glass painting program at Williams Branch. This program is one of our ongoing efforts to provide adult programming for the Air Park neighborhood.
- This month, Polley Music Library had an event with Andrew Borakove from Lincoln's unique company Gongs Unlimited. He and some of his staff brought in a wide variety of gongs from around the world to demonstrate the differences in sounds that they can produce, as well as some singing bowls. They had the audience gather in the middle area between the instruments to experience a short "sound healing," one of the common uses for collections of gongs and bowls today, and Borakove discussed additional uses for them, including musical, meditative, and ritualistic applications, from ancient traditions to modern-day innovations.

Outreach

- At Eiseley Branch Kate K. and Catherine S. staffed a booth at Arnold Elementary's Math and Science Family Night. It was a little different this year, as in the past Williams Branch was located in Arnold and allowed for a great staging area. Even with that change, library staff had 95 visitors to their booth. It was a great opportunity to promote Williams' new location. Also, Susan S. hosted a family school night for Clinton Elementary. Numerous staff were involved in making the program a success. One hundred patrons participated this year.

Early Childhood

- At Gere, Cally O. shared: "We had a very impressive number of attendees at storytimes this month. Over 39 sessions we had 1545 patrons attend a Baby Time, Toddler Time, Music and Movement, Preschool or Sensory Storytime. As best she could tell, this an all-time high attendance record for storytimes in one month."

Technology

- Diane V. at Gere shared this interaction: "A customer came into South branch asking if we had faxing services. After hearing it was a dollar a page she looked a little concerned and said she had twenty pages. I asked if scanning and emailing the information was acceptable, she made a quick phone call and was told she could. She got set up on the computer and after a quick tutorial in scanning was able to send off her document. She was very grateful to have saved \$20."
- Amanda T. at Gere shared: "I had a homeschool mom and her son schedule an appointment to get Transparent Language working on a Chrome Book. The app was not very easy to use on the Chrome Book, so I just had them go through the web version. This worked really well and she

said our session was really helpful! They want to learn Spanish for an upcoming trip to Puerto Rico.”

Building up the Culture of Lincoln

All Students

- Upon leaving Bethany Branch, a patron who had been working quietly on her laptop or at least half the day, told staff she really appreciated the library and was happy to give us her tax dollars, because we are the only place she can actually get any work done. At home, she said, she gets too distracted, "I start to do my work and then I think to myself, 'oh, there's some more laundry to do, etc. The library is the only place I can actually focus, and I'm so grateful for you, or else I would never get anything done!'"
- Karrie S. at Anderson Branch reported, “We held an after-hours event on Friday, February 9th for Huntington Elementary School. One-hundred and twenty-eight people attended and enjoyed all of our normal School Night activities: pizza, scavenger hunt, crafts, free books to take home and a door prize drawing.”

Local History

- Virtual Services added the videos from last summer's “Lincoln Cinema History” and “Starkweather After 65 Years” programs to LCL's YouTube channel. In addition to local history programs, the channel has a big collection of Ames Reading Series lectures and NLHA Lunch at the Library author talks.
- At BMPL, Kim J. relayed this regarding Reference by Mail requests for February: “The most interesting one came from a Librarian from California who was researching his grandfather, J. Harris “Jake” Gable, former Director of the Nebraska Writers Project in the 1930s. He had worked closely with Rudolph Umland and Weldon Kees (among others) so his name was mentioned on Heritage Room pages through our Library Website. Both Amber S. in the Heritage Room and I answered his questions, but also made it clear that he might want to make a road trip to Nebraska to do more research in the Rudolph Umland collection here at Bennett Martin.”

Low-Income Families

- During February, numerous citizens utilized the free tax help at Anderson Branch Library provided by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance [VITA] program. Unfortunately, as is always the case, there is much more demand for the service than sessions available.

Maker

- Anthony V. said, “This past month we have had a good amount of requests for 3D printing. I really like how practical some of these projects are. We have requests to make toy car mounts, tool holders, ornaments, brackets. We had projects to make dice, barrels, game board pieces, soda can holders and much more.”

Services to our Aging Population

- Jackie S. [BMPL] said, “One of our Home patrons is loving using Hoopla and Libby for audiobooks. Her and her husband called about having trouble getting Hoopla to play on her Roku TV. They had already restarted all their devices, so I suggested deleting the app and then putting it back on the TV. While they were doing this, I stayed on the phone with them and they talked about how much they love being able to access ebooks and audio books, especially since they have a hard time getting places. The deleting/reinstalling the app on the TV worked, and they were able to get to using Hoopla again.”

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February, 2024

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- The library is getting lots of questions from customers about taxes this month – no surprise, whether it's finding a particular form or wanting to make appointments for tax assistance. Chad S. at Gere shared: "This is my first year here during tax season and I am really proud of how smoothly the process between the library and the AARP works. This is clearly a very important program for a lot of people. And the fact that we can help facilitate it beyond simply offering our meeting rooms is pretty cool."

Ryan Wieber, Library Director
March 14, 2024

**Lincoln City Libraries
February 2024 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	February 2024	February 2023	CHANGE
					Total Use	Total Use	
Bennett Martin Public Library	13,754	10,524	1,900	1,120	27,298	25,880	5.48%
Anderson Branch	10,404	5,373	766	526	17,069	15,417	10.72%
Bethany Branch	7,089	3,084	307	244	10,724	11,067	-3.10%
Eiseley Branch	21,999	10,275	1,479	1,030	34,783	33,621	3.46%
Gere Branch	55,920	19,987	1,271	2,428	79,606	78,646	1.22%
South Branch	8,539	3,475	494	182	12,690	12,761	-0.56%
Walt Branch	39,678	13,328	1,217	1,442	55,665	52,743	5.54%
Williams Branch	954	1,013	166	305	2,438	1,486	64.06%
Lied Bookmobile	1,462	357	0	44	1,863	1,966	-5.24%
InterLibrary Loan	202	0	0	0	202	218	-7.34%
SUBTOTAL	160,001	67,416	7,600	7,321	242,338	233,805	3.65%
DownloadStream Audio	41,894	0	0	0	41,894	34,978	19.77%
Download/Stream eBooks	30,486	0	0	0	30,486	28,288	7.77%
Stream Video	889	0	0	0	889	925	-3.89%
Download SUBTOTAL	73,269	0	0	0	73,269	64,191	14.14%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	233,270	67,416	7,600	7,321	315,607	297,996	5.91%

Visits at Anderson Branch low due to counter not working from 6 pm 2/22/23 thru 3 pm 2/27/23

BMPL Closed 2/14 - 2/16/24 for carpet installation

WiFi Sessions	121,838	94,945	28.32%
WiFi Users	9,401	8,800	6.83%
Website Users	104,545	59,234	76.49%
Website Sessions	143,041	113,509	26.02%
Database Use	8,858	11,367	-22.07%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2024	2023	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	357,162	312,874	79,053	33,018	782,107	Purged	688	720	-4.44%
Added	1,777	1,872	231	28	3,908	Active			
Withdrawn	98	1	1	-1	99	Resident	147,558	146,587	0.66%
Current	359,037	314,747	79,285	33,045	786,114	ConnectED	47,862	42,447	12.76%
						County	9,044	9,143	-1.08%
						NonResident	934	942	-0.85%
						Reciprocal	483	482	0.21%
						Limited Use	9,551	8,515	12.17%
						Total Active	215,432	208,116	3.52%

Prepared by: Tina Queen

**February 2024 Use Compared to February 2023
Lincoln City Libraries**

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Loan Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	11,092	9,794	13.25%	2,662	2,524	5.47%	13,754	12,318	11.66%
Anderson	8,484	8,806	-3.66%	1,920	1,976	-2.83%	10,404	10,782	-3.51%
Bethany	6,312	6,683	-5.55%	777	1,126	-30.99%	7,089	7,809	-9.22%
Eiseley	19,185	20,107	-4.59%	2,814	2,961	-4.96%	21,999	23,068	-4.63%
Gere	48,864	51,854	-5.77%	7,056	6,904	2.20%	55,920	58,758	-4.83%
South	7,499	7,548	-0.65%	1,040	1,449	-28.23%	8,539	8,997	-5.09%
Walt	34,760	34,333	1.24%	4,918	4,642	5.95%	39,678	38,975	1.80%
Williams	781	545	43.30%	173	141	22.70%	954	686	39.07%
Lied Bookmobile	1,326	1,262	5.07%	136	211	-35.55%	1,462	1,473	-0.75%
InterLibrary Loan	202	218	-7.34%	0	0	0.00%	202	218	-7.34%
Subtotal Checkouts	138,505	141,150	-1.87%	21,496	21,934	-2.00%	160,001	163,084	-1.89%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	41,894	34,978	19.77%	41,894	34,978	19.77%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	30,486	28,288	7.77%	30,486	28,288	7.77%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	889	925	-3.89%	889	925	-3.89%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	138,505	141,150	-1.87%	94,765	86,125	10.03%	233,270	227,275	2.64%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	5,105	4,381	16.53%	8,649	7,937	8.97%	10,524	10,331	1.87%
Anderson	5,070	5,604	-9.53%	5,334	5,178	3.01%	5,373	3,830	40.29%
Bethany	4,173	4,577	-8.83%	2,916	3,232	-9.78%	3,084	2,794	10.38%
Eiseley	14,381	15,434	-6.82%	7,618	7,634	-0.21%	10,275	8,486	21.08%
Gere	32,067	33,354	-3.86%	23,853	25,404	-6.11%	19,987	17,602	13.55%
South	4,861	5,070	-4.12%	3,678	3,927	-6.34%	3,475	3,149	10.35%
Walt	27,377	26,930	1.66%	12,301	12,045	2.13%	13,328	11,352	17.41%
Williams	723	509	42.04%	231	177	30.51%	1,013	613	65.25%
Lied Bookmobile	924	897	3.01%	538	576	-6.60%	357	410	-12.93%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	202	218	-7.34%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	94,681	96,756	-2.14%	65,320	66,328	-1.52%	67,416	58,567	15.11%
Download/Stream Audio	5,809	4,826	20.37%	36,085	30,152	19.68%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	5,098	4,191	21.64%	25,388	24,097	5.36%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	889	925	-3.89%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	105,588	105,773	-0.17%	127,682	121,502	5.09%	67,416	58,567	15.11%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	981	928	5.71%	139	177	-21.47%	1,900	2,126	-10.63%
Anderson	526	235	123.83%	0	0	0.00%	766	570	34.39%
Bethany	201	197	2.03%	43	35	22.86%	307	232	32.33%
Eiseley	1,020	957	6.58%	10	38	-73.68%	1,479	1,072	37.97%
Gere	2,212	1,044	111.88%	216	24	800.00%	1,271	1,218	4.35%
South	181	185	-2.16%	1	4	-75.00%	494	426	15.96%
Walt	1,271	1,282	-0.86%	171	38	350.00%	1,217	1,096	11.04%
Williams	296	145	104.14%	9	0	0.00%	166	42	295.24%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	44	83	-46.99%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	6,688	4,973	34.49%	633	399	58.65%	7,600	6,782	12.06%

**Lincoln City Libraries
February 2024 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report**

Location	Loans			Visits			Computer Reservations			Program & Outreach Attendance			Total Use		
	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	82,055	77,398	6.02%	62,339	62,397	-0.09%	13,076	14,239	-8.17%	4,646	4,494	3.38%	162,116	158,528	2.26%
Anderson Branch	67,113	66,794	0.48%	30,931	28,157	9.85%	4,332	4,075	6.31%	4,285	4,130	3.75%	106,661	103,156	3.40%
Bethany Branch	43,503	48,719	-10.71%	16,987	17,198	-1.23%	1,441	1,397	3.15%	1,470	1,616	-9.03%	63,401	68,930	-8.02%
Eiseley Branch	133,176	139,002	-4.19%	52,844	48,973	7.90%	7,281	6,404	13.69%	8,578	9,253	-7.29%	201,879	203,632	-0.86%
Gere Branch	339,811	363,792	-6.59%	107,171	101,768	5.31%	6,045	7,395	-18.26%	7,836	7,228	8.41%	460,863	480,183	-4.02%
South Branch	54,391	54,673	-0.52%	20,364	19,407	4.93%	2,615	2,618	-0.11%	1,100	1,237	-11.08%	78,470	77,935	0.69%
Walt Branch	231,738	233,131	-0.60%	71,408	67,267	6.16%	5,830	5,763	1.16%	5,969	5,567	7.22%	314,945	311,728	1.03%
Williams Branch	5,794	4,482	29.27%	11,342	3,812	197.53%	672	280	140.00%	560	524	6.87%	18,368	9,098	101.89%
Lied Bookmobile	8,432	10,385	-18.81%	1,658	2,375	-30.19%	0	0	0.00%	836	1,775	-52.90%	10,926	14,535	-24.83%
InterLibrary Loan	1,029	1,176	-12.50%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,029	1,176	-12.50%
SUBTOTAL	967,042	999,552	-3.25%	375,044	351,354	6.74%	41,292	42,171	-2.08%	35,280	35,824	-1.52%	1,418,658	1,428,901	-0.72%
DownloadStream Audio	248,068	209,736	18.28%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	248,068	209,736	18.28%
Download/Stream eBooks	188,272	166,674	12.96%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	188,272	166,674	12.96%
Stream Video	5,251	5,169	1.59%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	5,251	5,169	1.59%
Download SUBTOTAL	441,591	381,579	15.73%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	441,591	381,579	15.73%
TOTAL LOANS	1,408,633	1,381,131	1.99%	375,044	351,354	6.74%	41,292	42,171	-2.08%	35,280	35,824	-1.52%	1,860,249	1,810,480	2.75%

	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	607	0	0.00%
Overall Registrations	5713	5372	6.35%

WiFi Sessions	711,674	605,197	17.59%
WiFi Users	56,359	56,975	-1.08%
Website Users	481,529	360,293	33.65%
Website Sessions	644,453	707,986	-8.97%
Database Use	48,987	75,991	-35.54%

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

Monthly Categorical Report

February 29, 2024

	Budget Amount	Budgeted Year-to-Date	Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
Administration-Div. 1					
Personnel	\$ 884,268.00	\$ 442,134.00	\$ 460,479.41	\$ 423,788.59	\$ 71,483.40
Supplies	33,000.00	16,500.00	13,768.47	19,231.53	2,341.85
Services & Charges	93,474.00	46,737.00	65,724.04	27,749.96	1,839.35
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,010,742.00	\$ 505,371.00	\$ 539,971.92	\$ 470,770.08	\$ 75,664.60
Percent Expended		50.00%	53.42%		
Buildings & Grounds-Div. 2					
Personnel	\$ 125,474.00	\$ 62,737.00	\$ 62,154.79	\$ 63,319.21	\$ 9,866.71
Supplies	25,000.00	12,500.00	11,467.71	13,532.29	981.20
Services & Charges	1,026,920.00	513,460.00	582,825.39	444,094.61	76,828.05
Other	90,900.00	45,450.00	45,415.82	45,484.18	-
Total	\$ 1,268,294.00	\$ 634,147.00	\$ 701,863.71	\$ 566,430.29	\$ 87,675.96
Percent Expended		50.00%	55.34%		
Public Service-Div. 3					
Personnel	\$ 5,847,868.00	\$ 2,923,934.00	\$ 2,712,852.70	\$ 3,135,015.30	\$ 432,648.58
Supplies	65,500.00	32,750.00	32,405.06	33,094.94	12,113.65
Services & Charges	46,750.00	23,375.00	21,067.02	25,682.98	6,518.94
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 5,960,118.00	\$ 2,980,059.00	\$ 2,766,324.78	\$ 3,193,793.22	\$ 451,281.17
Percent Expended		50.00%	46.41%		
Support Services-Div. 4					
Personnel	\$ 1,222,052.00	\$ 611,026.00	\$ 598,531.87	\$ 623,520.13	\$ 90,188.65
Supplies	63,500.00	31,750.00	27,639.39	35,860.61	3,913.30
Services & Charges	474,019.00	237,009.50	213,120.91	260,898.09	13,289.37
Other	955,000.00	477,500.00	664,923.22	290,076.78	63,683.22
Total	\$ 2,714,571.00	\$ 1,357,285.50	\$ 1,504,215.39	\$ 1,210,355.61	\$ 171,074.54
Percent Expended		50.00%	55.41%		
Total Library Operational					
Personnel	\$ 8,079,662.00	\$ 4,039,831.00	\$ 3,834,018.77	\$ 4,245,643.23	\$ 604,187.34
Supplies	187,000.00	93,500.00	85,280.63	101,719.37	19,350.00
Services & Charges	1,641,163.00	820,581.50	882,737.36	758,425.64	98,475.71
Other	1,045,900.00	522,950.00	710,339.04	335,560.96	63,683.22
Total	\$ 10,953,725.00	\$ 5,476,862.50	\$ 5,512,375.80	\$ 5,441,349.20	\$ 785,696.27
Percent Expended		50.00%	50.32%		
Other Library Fund Appropriations					
	Amount Appropriated		Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
FY 2022-23 Reappropriated	\$ 898,514.20		\$ 255,175.53	\$ 643,338.67	\$ 19,991.25

**LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES - FUND BALANCES
FEBRUARY 2024**

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expended	Ending Balance
<u>GRANT FUNDS</u>				
Net Lender Fund	\$ 391.80	\$ 303.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 676.80
NLC NE eReads Grant 2023	47,242.00	-	-	47,242.00
NLC Youth Grant 2023	789.35	-	-	789.35
State Aid 2022	16,843.09	-	7,364.11	9,478.98
State Aid 2023	52,321.00	-	-	52,321.00

DONATED FUNDS

Heritage Room	\$ 119,301.59	\$ 52,128.00	\$ 2,404.56	\$ 169,025.03
Polley Music Library	315,268.71	1,136.35	8,654.44	307,750.62
Joseph J. Hompes	122,932.72	412.75	-	123,345.47
Misc. Library Donations	605,700.07	144,308.34	2,270.63	747,737.78
Alice Nielsen	82,657.31	289.70	-	82,947.01
Dorothy Holland	118,898.64	416.72	-	119,315.36
Glennis Leapley	63,245.13	221.67	-	63,466.80
Lincoln Cares	26,043.57	459.88	-	26,503.45

APPROPRIATED FUNDS

	Budget	Expended		Balance
		Feb 2024	Exp-to-Date	
Heritage Room FY 2023-24	\$ 41,073.00	\$ 2,404.56	\$ 15,580.11	\$ 25,492.89
Polley Music Library FY 2023-24	99,169.00	8,654.44	56,498.13	42,670.87
Keno FY 2022-23	157,648.00	-	26,508.00	131,140.00
Keno FY 2023-24	1,010,930.00	101,753.65	228,902.49	782,027.51
Capital Improvement Projects				
FY 2020-21 Williams	945,455.34	-	928,401.64	17,053.70
FY 2021-22 Bookmobile	450,000.00	-	-	450,000.00
FY 2022-23 Bennett Martin Elevator 1-4	200,000.00	-	-	200,000.00
FY 2023-24 Bennett Martin Carpet	75,000.00	67,131.00	67,131.00	7,869.00

Lincoln City Libraries

2023 Volunteer Report



Report prepared and submitted 03/12/2024
by Volunteer Coordinator Kimberly Shelley
on behalf of the Lincoln City Libraries Volunteer Committee



136 S. 14th Street Lincoln, Nebraska

Lincoln City Libraries Volunteers 2023

Total Volunteers: 231
Volunteers NEW in 2023: 108
Total hours donated: 9,565
Valuation of donated hours: \$304,167

(Estimated value of volunteer hours as determined by Independent Sector and the University of Maryland's Do Good Institute: \$31.80/hour)

Volunteers by Age		
Youth	Ages	# Volunteers
		10-18
Adult	19	18
	20-29	5
	30-39	12
	40-49	7
	50-59	8
	60-69	15
	70-79	36
	80-88	9

Volunteers by Location		
Library Branches	# Volunteers	Hours Donated
Bennett Martin Public Library	14	511:10
Anderson Branch Library	22	603:20
Bethany Branch Library	1	28:45
Eiseley Branch Library	23	212:10
Gere Branch	66	2783:30
South Branch Library	3	18:30
Walt Branch Library	74	2,150:15
Departments, Committees, Foundation, Etc.		
Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors	1	48:00
Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries	20	3060:00
One Book – One Lincoln Committee	15	150:00 *

* Does not include hours spent reading nominated titles.

Lincoln City Libraries Honorees

Most hours donated in 2023

Francine Bash (Walt Branch) – 264 hours
 Melvia Herr (Gere Branch) – 264 hours

Special Recognition for Heritage Room Volunteer

Sonia Colberg
 (For numerous years maintaining newspaper clippings for the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors)

15 Years

Sandra Bauer (Anderson Branch)
 Marche' Cepure (Walt Branch)

10 Years

Blake Callahan (Walt Branch)

5 Years

June Andersen (Gere Branch)
 Ira Bryan (Eiseley Branch)
 Emma Codr (Eiseley Branch)
 Chloe Covalt (Bennett Martin Public Library)
 David Emery (Anderson Branch)
 Brielle Holland (Gere Branch)
 Nettie Lundquist (Eiseley Branch)
 Mueen Mahmood (Walt Branch)
 Zahraa Rida (Gere Branch)

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Honorees

Most hours donated in 2023

Katherine Putensen – 850 hours

5+ Years

Elaine Gelber
 Mary Holtmeier
 Lucy Lien
 Maggie McGowan
 Timothy Murtha
 Jean Pepin
 Katherine Putensen
 Glen Rosenthal
 Suzanne Schied
 Cheryl Svoboda

Outstanding Volunteer Award

(Honored during Nebraska Library Association Advocacy Day, 03/20/2024)
 Kailee Moorhead (Walt Branch)

PROCLAMATION



During National Volunteer Week, we acknowledge the many volunteers who generously give their time and talents to help improve the lives of others. Their acts of kindness help to build a better and brighter future for Lincoln City Libraries and the citizens it serves.

The Board of Trustees of Lincoln City Libraries hereby proclaims
April 21-27, 2024

Volunteer Appreciation Week

at Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln, Nebraska

Adopted this 19th day of March in the year 2024.

Dan Sloan, President
Library Board of Trustees

Foundation

for Lincoln City Libraries

For our Libraries. For our future.

To: Dan Sloan, LCL Library Board

FROM: Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Date: January 25, 2024

RE: FLCL Board Nominations

The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Nominating Committee is providing the names below for consideration by the Library Board for board trustees to serve their first three-year term from 2024-2026, as per the FLCL bylaws.

2024 -2026 Trustees Nominees

Marlo Bergen, Spreetail

Thank you for considering me to serve on the board for the Lincoln City Libraries. I am very excited to get involved! I am originally from St. Paul, MN and graduated from the University of Nebraska. I have been in Lincoln for over 16 years and love any chance I can to get involved in our community. Currently I am a Strategic Business Partner Manager at Spreetail where I oversee many aspects of HR, Training and Development, and Performance Management. I am passionate about reading, learning, and developing others which is thankfully a big part of my job today!

My husband, Jake Bergen, and I have 2 little ones - Goldie is 3 and Graham is almost 2. You can find me on my every night on my Libby app (using my Library card) reading or listening to audio books. Our kids also LOVE to read and can't wait to get more involved in our Lincoln Libraries. I am currently on the Community Crops board as well and get involved in many of our Spreetail community efforts.

Neelee Glasco, Stay-at-Home Mom

I grew up in a small town in southwest Nebraska, but fortunately we did have a library. I loved reading my way through the Nancy Drew series and checking out Shirley Temple videos with my sister. There was a definite sense of responsibility and freedom in choosing books to take home. I attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and have made Lincoln my home. As an undergraduate, I worked in the Interlibrary Loan office at the main UNL library and spent many hours in the stacks searching for obscure books.

In 2010, I went back to UNL as a graduate student in the Literature Master's program with the intention of teaching. Instead, I found my way to grant writing and management through several internships. I worked with grant writers at the University of Nebraska Press and the Nebraska Transportation Center. After earning my degree, I continued to work for UNL as an administrator and grant writer for a physics laboratory, the Extreme Light Laboratory.

My husband and I have three kids and I currently stay at home in this phase of our family life. From typing out my first resume at Gere Library and attending many story times with our kids, I've seen how many resources are offered beyond simply books. I welcome the opportunity to serve on the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries and do my part to ensure that the Lincoln Library system continues to play an important and vital role in our community.

Ryan Klug, Olsson

Libraries are one of the most important community anchor institutions. They bring communities together from young to old. I've always enjoyed libraries and the wealth of information they bring to a community. I have four kids and we have really enjoyed introducing them at young ages to the Lincoln Library community. I am an active community volunteer at Olsson and St. Marks United Methodist Church. I'm a Leadership Lincoln Alumni (Fellows 38). I'm looking forward to engaging in my community even more by becoming a board member for this organization.

I grew up on a farm in Columbus, NE. I always enjoyed science and engineering from an early age. My interests led me to pursue my engineering degree after high school. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 2010. I worked for a generation and transmission power company (KAMO Power) in Vinita, Oklahoma as a transport system engineer. I moved back to Nebraska and worked for a telecommunications provider (NebraskaLink) as a network engineer. I joined Olsson in June of 2013 and have been serving in project management and leadership positions. I'm currently a Senior Team Leader and Vice President for Olsson.

I'm really excited for this board member opportunity and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Anna Steele, Morgan Stanley

I am a native of Indianapolis Indiana and made Lincoln Nebraska my home in 1994 when I moved to attend the University of Nebraska. I have a BA in Psychology from Marian University and a Masters in Legal Studies from UNL- Law School.

I have been married to my husband, Rich, for 27 years. I have 2 step-children and 2 grandchildren that all live in Utah, so we have a quiet house, with only our cat Allie to keep us company. My husband, Rich, and I are avid readers and make it a point to set aside time to read every day.

I have worked at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management for 25 years in the Downtown Lincoln area. I enjoy traveling, reading, knitting and spending time with my family and friends.

The library systems have served a very important role in my life, from my earliest memories to now. Keeping the library system open to all and providing the many services, both in person and online, is a priority to me. I have been volunteering as a donation sorter at the Gere Library for the Foundation for the last year and look forward to expanding my involvement to continue to support the Lincoln Libraries.

Nicole Battelle Van Hook, Omnify powered by UBT

Thank you for considering me to serve the Lincoln community through the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries. I consider it a great honor and responsibility to protect and serve public libraries.

I was raised in Lincoln and trips to Gere Library will always remain a fond memory from my childhood. In grade school I could hardly wait for our librarian to wheel the television cart into our classroom. I would try to sit in the first row on the carpet with my best friends and from the moment the opening credits rolled for Nebraska PBS's *Once Upon a Time* my imagination was fully engaged. I believed Linda K. Peterson was Marian the Librarian and Gloria Armstrong was the witch Kerfumbly. Joslyn Castle will always seem magical to me all because a librarian would stir the cauldron and create a storybook to appease the witch. Stories matter. Libraries matter and librarians hold the key to knowledge and unlock the imagination.

I have never forgotten the stories, or the lessons and I have tried to infuse my homelife, professional life, and volunteering with the same level of enthusiasm as Marian the Librarian sharing her stories. In addition to my career with Omnify, a division of Union Bank and Trust, I am the artistic director of The Paper Ballet, a museum artist, and I have served on many boards in Lincoln. I have 25 years of experience in business development, sales planning, fundraising, and large event coordination. Gallup says that I am an over-achiever, a strategic thinker, a futuristic planner, an effective communicator, and above all empathetic. I hope to use these skills to serve as a board volunteer ensuring the future growth and stability of the libraries.

I am a dedicated mother to my son, Britton, and I adore my family and friends. When I am not surrounded by the people I love, cheerleading and supporting others, or volunteering somewhere you can find me curled up with a good book.