

# Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024, 8:00 a.m.  
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Sloan 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

Sloan noted that the Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Sloan asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as posted. Shaw so moved. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

## APPROVAL OF JUNE 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Sloan noted that the June meeting minutes had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Beutler so moved. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committee on Administration

No report

### Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Wieber reported that the committee met and reviewed various projects, including elevator replacement and access controls at Bennett Martin, new signage at Anderson, and the mural being planned for South branch. He reported the possibility of new carpet for Bennett Martin’s fourth floor was discussed, he will continue to explore that plan with stakeholders and the City.

## Committee on Finance

### Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for

Treasurer Ostrowicki shared that expenditures from the Operational budget were \$749,449.05, from the Heritage Room fund were \$3,050.77 and from the Polley Music Library fund were \$8,961.78, totaling \$761,461.60. Expenditures from other funds included \$15,776.07 in grants, \$119,022.72 from Keno funds and \$2,019.68 in miscellaneous library donations, totaling \$136,818.47 for Total Expenditures of \$898,280.07. Ostrowicki moved approval of the report. Hale seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 7-0. Wieber noted the Committee on Finance had met and reviewed the year end line item adjustments and budget projections.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail reported that the Foundation Board is meeting two days hence, and checks to the library will be approved at that time. Memberships have brought in \$800 more this year so far than last, David Smith's \$5,000 gift has been designated to the One Book One Lincoln (OBOL) program, the Memorial Day OBOL announcement party at the Mill brought in \$2,000, and Give to Lincoln donations will provide the library with \$31,414.31 for children's programs and services. Additionally, donor directed moneys will provide \$778 to the book sale, memberships brought in \$4,300, a \$5,000 gift was given for a retired librarian's endowment, and the Heritage Room endowment fund was gifted \$800. A \$9,500 grant for purchasing foreign language materials for youth was written and received. A \$240 gift for Begin with Books was received. Anderson's pop-up book sale netted \$1,700, Walt's netted \$2,500. Book Nook sales and Book Nook Blast sales plus sales to Thriftbooks have brought in approximately \$25,000 so far this year. The next Book Nook Blast sale is August 24 at Eiseley. The final sale for 2024 will be in October at Gere. Spelling Bee plans are in the works for late October.

## NEW BUSINESS

Director Wieber introduced Jodene Glaesemann as the new Assistant Director – she officially starts this week. Glaesemann shared how excited she is to get started moving LCL forward.

**Year-end Budget Projection** – Wieber shared that this annual review examines where the library stands with the existing budget and an analysis of any changes or adjustments to be made. Accountant Allison Larson reported on the review. Considerations included staff vacancies, multiple retirements of long-term staff, deferred maintenance, branch improvements, finding ways to increase funds for increasingly popular electronic media, and carryover funds. Ostrowicki motioned approval of the adjustments. Hale seconded. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

**Policy Revision: Use of Common Areas** – The addition of Ballot Boxes at Gere, Walt, Eiseley and Anderson, and the newly revised statues governing permissible activities in the immediate vicinity of ballot boxes and polling places, require a change to the Library's "Use of Common Areas in and around Library Facilities" policy. Libraries worked with the Law Department to ensure that the Policy reflects the Law, and is as easily comprehensible as possible for staff and patrons. Petitioners are common at library locations, and it's been challenging for staff and customers to properly follow the new law.

Changes are specifically:

II. ON ELECTION DAY. The following activities are prohibited on election day:

- A. Electioneering, dissemination of information or materials advertising or advocating for or against any ballot measure, and petition signature gathering within two hundred feet (200') of library buildings used as polling places and set up for voters to cast ballots. The exceptions below do not apply.
- B. Petition signature gathering within two hundred feet (200') of secure ballot drop-boxes. The exceptions below do not apply.

Wieber noted, signature gathering will still be permitted on library property on non-election days, which is laid out clearly in the accompanying "Signature Gathering for Petitions" document.

City Senior Attorney, Jocelyn Golden noted, the language was taken directly from [Nebraska LB 32-1524](#). She said, the City Law Department worked directly with the Lancaster County Election Commissioner and the Lancaster County Attorney to ensure compliance.

Wieber noted, it's been a big ask for staff to understand the changes and be the first line of communication with petitioners to make sure everyone follows the law. Conversations will continue to answer any questions and make certain staff understand what to do. Brief discussion followed. Sloan asked for a motion to approve the policy change. Hale so moved. Seacrest seconded. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sloan welcomed Jodene Glaesemann to her new position and recognized Rhonda Seacrest's good work on the board, as next month is her last meeting.

## ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann gave a staffing update. She announced Wyatt Packard's move from Gere to Librarian at Bennett Martin, and that another 20-hour staff person is moving to 40. Second round interviews for the YS Coordinator position are upcoming and there are currently seven other vacancies in the system. She reported that over 15,000 people have signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge and then shared her experiences from the American Library Association Conference in San Diego.

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber introduced Eiseley Manager, Lisa Olivigni to speak about the annual summer intern program. Olivigni shared the interns have had training at Bennett Martin, visiting with Administrative staff, Heritage Room Curator, Coordinators and Support Services staff. They've also been busy at branches involved in customer service and program assistance. This year they launched a new program where each intern creates video content of their experiences that once complete, will be shared on the youth page of the website. Interns introduced themselves and brief discussion followed. Olivigni noted the intern program is made possible by a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission.

Wieber updated the Board on projects including the new calendaring software (LocalHop) that is being implemented which will allow patrons to sign up for community rooms and meeting rooms online. He reported that the City Council approved the 5-year contract with SirsiDynix and next week the choice for the next Board member, Terri Dunlap, is scheduled to seek approval. He shared that while circulation statistics appear flat, the reality is print circulation is down and digital circulation is up, a common trend in libraries. The exception is the new Williams branch, where print circulation is much higher. Visits, program attendance and room usage numbers are all up, showing that customers are increasingly using Lincoln City Libraries in many ways. Hale reported her great experience at a library storytime, and Wieber shared his participation in a *Splish Splash Storytime* at one of the local pools.

Wieber addressed the topic of Ballot Box video surveillance. While it was reported in the *Lincoln Journal Star* that the Election Commissioner added funds to their budget for placement, cameras are not included in the current agreement with libraries and discussion is underway with the Law Department and City/County Information Services to determine next steps. It's a bigger conversation than just the Library. Law Department is researching precedent. Any changes would have to be approved by all parties first. Discussion followed, touching on location of cameras and access to footage.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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