

# Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, 8:00 a.m.  
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Dan Sloan, Joe Shaw, Jackie Ostrowicki, Rhonda Seacrest, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler.  
Absent: Lisa Hale, Nichole Bogen. 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. Seacrest so moved. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** – Gerteisen, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

## APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Sloan noted that the February meeting minutes had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Seacrest so moved. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Gerteisen – AYE. Sloan abstained. Motion carried 5-0 with one abstention.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committee on Administration

Did not meet. No report

### Committee on Finance

The committee met and reviewed the budget with Accountant, Paul Jones. Several possible outcomes were planned for and discussed. Another meeting will be called in the upcoming weeks to review the ongoing budget process.

### Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for February 2024

Treasurer Ostrowicki shared that the Total Operational Expenditures for February were \$816,746.52. Total Expenditures of Other Funds were \$178,537.39 for a total of \$995,283.91. Ostrowicki moved

approval of the report. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

### Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet. No report.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail McNair noted that the list of nominees for the Foundation Board had been included in the packets, and per IRS regulations it will need to be voted on and approved by the Library Board. McNair shared they were pleased with the slate of nominees. Beutler asked had there been interviews, McNair affirmed. Wieber asked when they would begin their duties, McNair responded, April. Sloan noted the vote would be taken shortly, under New Business.

McNair shared the newly printed invitations to the Wine and Dine on April 25. She announced that longtime One Book One Lincoln Committee Chair, David Smith, is to be honored at the event with a Library Star Award. The award comes with a financial gift of \$5,000 that he can direct to the library program of his choosing. The two past recipients of this honor are Kathie Putensen, for her many volunteer hours sorting books for book sales and Ed Tricker for his 17 years of service to the LCL Foundation Board.

Tomorrow is the regular NLHA meeting, and Thursday is the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Writer's Write program – one of the most valued and popular NLHA programs. LPS will send 60 eighth grade students here to work with six of Nebraska's authors to create, workshop and share original work. Their completed works will be bound and will become part of the permanent collection of the Heritage Room. Twila Hansen, Nebraska's State Poet from 2013-2019, will also be honored for her 30 years of leadership and participation in the program.

McNair offered thanks to Kim Shelley and Anderson's staff for their preparation and help for the Saturday, March 23 Book Nook Blast at Anderson. The last one was so well received there were lines to get in. Finally, McNair noted that on Monday, the Foundation office will move from Bennett Martin to Walt Branch.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Approval of a Contract Renewal with Frye, Frazey & Assoc. For Security Services

Director Wieber reviewed the process, reminding all this was the first of three allowed annual renewals for the contract, which went out to bid and was won by Frye, Frazey in 2023. He reported that we remain satisfied with the company and their team's excellent work and that the contract will be up for review and renewal again next spring. Wieber recommended approving this year's contract renewal. Seacrest moved approval. Ostrowicki seconded. Discussion: Sloan asked for confirmation there would be no increase in cost this year. Wieber confirmed no increase, but some additional hours have been budgeted for. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

## 2023 Volunteer Report – *Kim Shelley*

Northeast Service Unit Manager, Kim Shelley noted that the report was sent out with the packets, and passed out an invitation to the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on April 21<sup>st</sup>. This year's report highlighted, among other statistics, the age range of LCL volunteers -- ranging from age 10 to 88 as well as the names of the 5, 10, and 15-year milestone honorees. Director Wieber asked how the total number of hours volunteered in 2023 (9,565) compared with 2022. Shelley noted that it was higher this year due to the inclusion of the Heritage room, Foundation for LCL, and One Book One Lincoln committee volunteers. President Sloan inquired about the location for the Volunteer Appreciation event, Shelley provided details: College View Church at 4801 Prescott Avenue. Enter through Door 1 (east side) or Door 2 (south side, with elevator access). Wieber recalled his impressions from last year's event, noting how happy staff were to provide the annual celebration, how pleased the volunteers were to be there and how much joy was evident in the room.

## Adoption of the Annual Volunteer Proclamation

President Sloan read aloud the following 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

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**April 21-27, 2024**

**Volunteer Appreciation Week**

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at Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln, NE.

Sloan asked for a motion to approve the proclamation. Ostrowicki so moved. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

## Approval of the Roster of Foundation for LCL Board Candidates

President Sloan noted that the roster had been included in the Agenda packet, and asked for a motion to approve. Beutler so moved. Gerteisen seconded. Director Wieber read the roster aloud: Marlo Bergen, Neelee Glasco, Ryan Klug, Anna Steele, and Nicole Battelle Van Hook. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sloan encouraged all members to attend the Volunteer Recognition event. He also recalled the joyful atmosphere from last year and what a fulfilling experience it is for the volunteers to be formally recognized and celebrated.

## ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glass was absent – no report.

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber introduced Ali Larson, LCL's new Accountant, hired to fill recently retired Paul Jones' place after his 32 years of excellent service. Ali started last week, and comes to LCL with great experience from Lincoln's Transportation and Utilities (LTU) department. Larson shared that she'd had a wonderful first day experience touring all the library branches, and seeing how it works in a larger city than her hometown. She was able to meet many of the staff and was delighted to see the packed parking lots and crowds present at each location for storytime morning. She is excited to begin. Sloan expressed his pleasure at having her on board.

Wieber noted one item from his Director's Report this month – Gere/South hosted a record-breaking 1,545 storytime attendees during the month of February. He noted that attendance is up across the system for in-person library events. He reminded the board that the new LCL website go-live date is April 10<sup>th</sup>. He shared another staff resignation, Librarian Cait Lombardo from Bennett Martin resigned to take a position at Altoona in her home state of Iowa. She will be missed – her work with One Book One Lincoln and our library teens was excellent. Brief discussion about the remainder of the 2024 One Book One Lincoln program duties followed.

Wieber shared that the Strategic Plan process continues. The latest draft was reviewed and wordsmithed by members of the team in preparation for a larger upcoming committee meeting for review prior to bringing it to the Board next month for a presentation and approval. There was no discussion.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 a.m.