

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, September 19, 2023
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Sloan, Lisa Hale, Rhonda Seacrest, Patty Beutler, Joe Shaw, Morgan Gerteisen, present. Jackie Ostrowicki and Nichole Bogen arrived late.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Dan Sloan noted that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He announced the Open Meetings Act was posted and available for review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Sloan noted that the Agenda and Meeting Notice were posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Shaw motioned approval. Hale seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Ostrowicki absent. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

President Sloan asked if there was any public comment on items on the Agenda. There was no comment.

APPROVAL OF August 15, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

President Sloan called for a motion to approve the minutes. Seacrest moved approval. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. Sloan asked for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Ostrowicki absent. Motion carried 6-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

No meeting. No report.

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for June 2023

President Sloan asked Vice President Shaw to read the Recap of Expenditures into the record in Treasurer Ostrowicki's absence. Shaw reported that the Total Operational Expenditures for August 2023 were \$716,075.38. The Total Expenditures of Other Funds was \$337,685.76 making Total Expenditures for August 2023 \$1,053,761.14. Shaw moved approval. Hale seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Ostrowicki absent. Motion carried 6-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail McNair shared that the Foundation secured a grant for a little over \$19,000 for Community Room Improvements, earmarked for easy-to-use Zoom technology. The grant monies came from the Lincoln

Foundation, the Dillon Foundation, and the Rotary Foundation. The first Book Nook Blast – Pop-up Book Sale was held September 9th at Walt Branch Library. Net totals will not be available until November, after the final pop-up sale, as some expenses were spread out over all four sales. Many customers attended and experienced the library and visited the Book Nook as well as attending the sale. Foundation volunteers were happy to once again be participating in the book sale. Thanks to Director Wieber and Board Member Hale for volunteering as well. Ostrowicki arrived at this time.

Gail reminded all to mark their calendars for November 1st for the Annual Spelling Bee at Screammers restaurant at 803 P St. Screammers servers/performers will provide entertainment during cocktail and dinner hours. The event will start at 7:00 p.m. with the awarding of the National Literary Heritage Award to Michael Forsberg and the Spelling Bee will follow. John Baylor will emcee. The cost is \$75 for Friends members, \$80 for non-members, or a Sponsorship covers the entry and meal. The goal is to have around 20 spellers. The event is on a Wednesday night from 6-9pm. Please encourage your friends to attend and spell!

The next pop-up Book Sale will happen on October 7th at Eiseley. Announcements have been limited, appearing only shortly before the sales to prevent overwhelming the smaller rooms. At the Walt sale, children’s programming happening within the library proper spilled over afterwards for a steady customer flow, and the Book Nooks were kept full for shoppers as well. The first sale was a learning experience. McNair anticipates the next sale going even more smoothly and may be advertised a little further in advance.

One Book One Lincoln Report

Librarian Cait Lombardo shared that the agreement with OBOL winning author Shelby Van Pelt, author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* is in process. The Zoom author event is scheduled to be held on October 15th. She reported, the team is excited to be able to begin sharing the news once the contract is complete. The OBOL Displays have been difficult to keep stocked this year, all copies are getting regularly checked out. At Memorial Day this year, all copies of the top three were checked out or on hold. Displays including the remaining eight of the top 11 titles were substituted until they too were all either checked out or on hold. Lombardo reported that an initial purchase for extra OBOL titles would be approximately 50 each, and Support Services staff have been keeping an eye on hold lists and adjusting as needed. The number of votes for the winner this year was nearly double last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Awarding of Snow Removal Contract with Vasa not to exceed \$55,000.00

Assistant Director Glass reported Vasa’s three renewals have been used, so this year a new contract bidding process was due. Two organizations bid the job, and Vasa’s bid was the only one within our price range based on research of past winters’ expenditures and expectations for this year. This contract is for all branches with the exception of Williams. President Sloan asked how many years we’ve contracted with Vasa, Glass replied the last four. Sloan asked if we’ve been pleased with their performance, Glass affirmed, and shared that they are also used by other City departments. Vice President Shaw moved approval. Hale seconded. There was no further discussion

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler– AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Announcement of Committee Appointments – President Sloan shared a handout of the new appointments. He provided an overview for the new Board members about the amount of work the various committees entail, and the process he used to make assignments. He encouraged members to review their appointments and see him with any questions or changes.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber introduced Valerie Calderon from Parlay Consulting, the company with whom LCL is finalizing a contract for the upcoming Strategic Planning process. She shared that prior to joining Parlay three years ago, she spent 15 years with Gallup in research and management consulting. Ms. Calderon gave an overview of the plans, including focusing on priorities, and making and implementing goals. Input will be sought from staff, board members, stakeholders and customers, and the resulting plan will address not only the plans for services, but also workplace culture and needs. Both in-depth interviews and a full-day workshop will be a part of the process. Information will be shared with the Board and any questions can be directed to Dale.

Director Wieber shared the annual Lost Items report, which reflects increased traffic and circulation, thus increasing the opportunity for items to be lost. More specific information reflecting the results of going fine free will be reported on later this fall. President Sloan asked if any trends were evident, Director Wieber responded, not yet. Hale asked about replacement costs for the lost items, Wieber will look into that and report back.

The first future libraries engagement sessions were held yesterday at Anderson. 55-60 folks were in attendance throughout the day. All the sessions sparked good conversation, and the public session was well attended. Much good feedback was received from patrons, and there was a considerable amount of dialogue. Personal phone calls to stakeholders resulted in the greatest number of attendees, please continue to talk to your contacts directly. The architects from BVH and MSR gave a great presentation, and have created a microsite for the process: <https://www.futurelibrarieslcl.org/>. Heat Mapping activities will be available at each branch to elicit community feedback and the surveys will be available online.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glass shared information about the Bookmobile RFP process. The team has been working on the project since 2021 and is using a consultant who is well regarded and knowledgeable in the field. Goals for new bookmobile(s) include best practices and fuel efficiencies learned from previous experience, resulting in the intent to purchase two vehicles, one gas and one electric. Bids have been received from two well-known suppliers, one of whom did not bid the electric vehicle. Oral interviews are scheduled for tomorrow and will help determine the path forward. There was no further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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