

**LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016; 8:00 A.M.
BOARD ROOM, BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

PRESENT: Herb Schimek, Lowell Berg, Kathy McKillip, Herb Friedman, Carol Speicher, Marcy Baker, County Liaison.

ABSENT: Martha Florence, Donna Marvin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Leach, Library Director; Julee Hector, Assistance Library Director; Barbara Hansen, Administrative Aide; Paul Jones, Accountant; Rod Cummings, Virtual Services Coordinator; Peter Jorgensen, Virtual Services Manager; Julie Beno, Bennett Martin Public Library and South Branch Coordinator; Brenda Ealey, Gere Branch Manager; Gail McNair, Foundation Executive Director; Jeff Kirkpatrick, City Attorney; Ryan Sothan, Ed Tricker, Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Board members; Janet Wickersham, Janet Mauseth, members of the public.

Meeting called to order by President Friedman at 8:02 a.m. It was announced that the Open Meetings Law of the State of Nebraska was posted and available for inspection.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Law of the State of Nebraska. Speicher moved to approve the agenda as posted. Second by Berg. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Friedman, McKillip, Schimek, Speicher - aye; Florence, Marvin - absent. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 16, 2016, MEETING MINUTES: Berg moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2016, Library Board meeting as distributed. Second by Speicher. Roll Call Vote: Friedman, McKillip, Schimek, Speicher, Berg - aye; Florence, Marvin - absent. Motion carried 5-0.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION: Leach outlined the process for requesting that an item be removed from the collection or reassigned to a different location. This summer two requests for reconsideration were received regarding the book *10,000 Dresses* by Marcus Ewert. Staff committees reviewed the requests for reconsideration, read the book, and read reviews of the book. The committees recommended that the book remain in the library's collection. Library Director Pat Leach reviewed the staff committee reports and agreed to retain the book in the library's collection. The process allows for an opportunity to appeal the Director's decision to the Board. Robin Mauseth and Janet Wickersham are attending to speak to the Board regarding this decision and requesting that the book be removed from the collections of Lincoln City Libraries.

Wickersham stated that Lincoln City Libraries is a valuable and vital resource to the community and she is aware of the programs for adults and children. She especially likes the One Book - One Lincoln and summer reading program, stating she uses Bennett Martin Public Library often as she works downtown. Wickersham noted that she would love to see the old Pershing Center become the new downtown library.

Mauseth read the following statement into the record.

I recently submitted a request for reconsideration regarding the book *10,000 Dress* by Marcus Ewert. It is a children's picture book referred to as a "modern day fairy tale for people of all ages." It is available at four different library branches and has a very eye catching cover to attract children. However, the book is not simply about dresses as it may first appear; it has a transgender agenda. I would be interested to know how this book was acquired by the Lincoln Libraries and if it was recommended by a particular group of people. The topic of transgender is a very sensitive and controversial issue. I know that it is the parents' responsibility to guide and monitor their children's selection of reading materials, but unfortunately that does not always happen. Children at the age of reading picture books are very impressionable. I believe this book presents the parents and older brother of the main character in a negative way. The gender of the main character suddenly changes from "he" to "she" after it has been established that he is a boy. I believe this could be confusing to children. In reading reviews of this book, I found one written by a teacher of young children. She commented that she would not make it available to her class as a whole. I am not nor have I ever been in favor of book banning. This book is available online and at local book stores for parents who wish to purchase it for their child. I do not believe it should be available in the children's section of our public libraries for the reasons I have given. Therefore, I would recommend that you consider removing it from the shelves.

Wickersham provided the following statement.

In June, I took my preschool great-granddaughter to the library and allowed her to select books. *10,000 Dress* was displayed on top of the stacks, and the cover picture caught her eye - a rather plain-looking little girl with hair sticking up and wearing a beautiful dress.

Later, during our quiet time, we sat in a recliner to enjoy her library books. We opened *10,000 Dresses* and began to read. Several pages into the book, it is revealed that the child in the story is a boy. The book's focus is not clothing, but the very controversial social issue of "transgender."

I have always encouraged the young children in our family to select their own books by looking carefully at cover illustrations, and, perhaps the first few pages in the book. Nothing on the cover of *10,000 Dresses* indicates that the book is anything other than a girls' clothing story. This is the first time that a child in my family has checked out a picture book whose cover conflicted so much with the book's main topic.

I entered a Request for Reconsidered of Library Material along with my detailed objections to shelving this book in the children's picture book section. On July 28 I received a letter stating that the book would remain in the library's collection as it currently is. Please reconsider this decision.

Friedman thanked both for coming and sharing their concerns. The reconsideration will be taken under advisement by the Committee on Administration.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee on Administration -

Security Cameras: Staff has requested that the library consider installation of security cameras and monitoring systems. The Library Board has discussed this in the past. The Committee on Administration met and discussed the request. The committee comes forward with no recommendation, asking the Board to discuss and take action. It is fair to say that there has been a philosophical issue regarding cameras in public libraries, in light of privacy concerns.

Leach reported that there is a sense among staff that cameras can act as a deterrent to crime. A policy will be developed that will likely include that information gathered by the cameras would be held by the library and require a court order to access the information. Only designated staff would have access to the information. The purchase and installation timeline would depend on funding. It is the case with the City Council action on budget; we may be encouraged to delay expenditures. We are asking at this time to move forward as the budget allows.

Friedman stated that this feels like Big Brother. Have there been problems? Can this be delayed until the budget is settled?

Berg indicated that he would like to proceed to see what the actual costs are.

Speicher also indicated that we need to move forward as fast as we can. Security is important and the Board should not have that on their conscience if a serious incident occurs.

McKillip agreed noting that we are not tracking a customers every move within the building.

Speicher moved to move forward with the purchase and installation of security cameras and monitoring systems as allowed by the budget. If considerably higher than the \$22,000 estimate, the library director is to report back to the Board. Second by McKillip. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Schimek, Speicher, McKillip - aye; Friedman - nay; Marvin, Florence - absent. Motion carried 4-1.

Fines and Fees Discussion: The committee reviewed and recommends no changes be made to the current fines and fees schedule. Leach also stated that the ConnectED cards allow students to check out up to five items with no overdue fines assessed. Students would be responsible for loss or damage fees.

Speicher asked how much discretion library staff has to waive fines. Leach reported that staff is authorized to waive fines in the case of library error, bad weather, or family emergency. A one-time fresh start waiver is available for fines accumulated by minors.

Leach noted that a recent webinar reported that many libraries are eliminating fines, as fines are seen as a barrier to use. If we discontinued assessing and collecting fines, we would need to make up over \$300,000 in the budget.

Baker explained that in her experience with claims returned or damages, she has always been treated fairly and has paid her fines and fees.

Buildings & Grounds:

Approval of Contract for South Branch Parking Lot and Entrance Repair:

South Branch Library has recurring problems with water in the building due to grading problems. Bids came in well under budget at \$69,000. The repair will require that the branch be closed for two weeks. Once we have a vendor under contract and a timeline, we will work on a plan to notify and serve customers. Berg moved to contract with Pavers, Inc. for completion of the South Branch parking lot drainage project in an amount not to exceed \$69,423.60. Second by Schimek. Roll Call Vote: McKillip, Schimek, Speicher, Berg, Friedman - aye; Florence, Marvin - absent. Motion carried 5-0.

Security Guard Contract: Berg moved to approve a contract with Securitas, Inc. for security guard services at Bennett Martin Public Library and Eiseley Branch at an annual amount not to exceed \$65,000. This contract is for one year with the option for three renewals. Second by Schimek. Roll Call Vote: McKillip, Schimek, Speicher, Berg, Friedman - aye; Florence, Marvin - absent. Motion carried 5-0.

Finance Committee:

Recap of Expenditures - Speicher reported on the Recap of Expenditures for August 2016 listing claims in the amount of \$840,158.10 from all funds. Speicher moved approval of the report and payment of all claims. Second by Schimek. Roll Call Vote: Schimek, Speicher, Berg, Friedman, McKillip - aye; Florence, Marvin - absent. Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Central Library Committee -

Friedman reported that he had met with the Mayor. It was concluded that the RFP for the Building Program is something that he will take a look at. Asked for input, he would like a month to share his thoughts. By then he will have a better sense of other city projects that have been discussed. Regarding the previously proposed City Council visit on October 17, in light of the current political situation, we need to delay that. The open mic is twice a month so that is easy to reschedule.

Central Library Initiative - No report

Central Library Marketing - No report

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries:

McNair reported that she is pleased that the library allows the Foundation to issue coupons to discount library fines. The Foundation does reimburse the library for the coupons that are used. McNair reported that she has just received word from the Dilion Foundation that \$10,000 has been approved for the purchase of new LCD projectors for the quadrant library meeting rooms.

The annual book sale is about six weeks away. Fifty-seven tickets for the presale have been sold representing five different states. The Wednesday night preview sale is the only night that we charge an admission fee. Thursday through Sunday is open without an admission fee. The

sales on the Book Nooks are increasing. Since last November they have brought in over \$14,000. Not only do Book Nooks bring in money, but they are a real community service.

Lincoln Cares: No Report.

One Book - One Lincoln: Events are continuing in support of One Book - One Lincoln. The 2016 program will be coming to an end in late September.

Technology Report: None

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Friedman reported he met with Coby Mach, LIBA. Friedman joined LIBA and encourages other Board members to do so. It is vital that we build a dialogue with this group. Mach did tell Friedman that he would arrange a meeting with the LIBA Executive Committee where he can make some points and also meet with the luncheon group again. Mach is adamant that block 63 should be redeveloped. It is important that we make an effort with that group despite the fact that we may never agree. They are a local group with an enormous amount of power. They are opposed to a new library at Pershing but are not necessarily opposed to a new library.

Committee Appointments - The list of committee appointments was distributed. Most are the same as last year.

NEW BUSINESS: McKillip reported that it is Mr. Schimek's birthday. He was congratulated.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Leach reported that due to new fiber connection, one of the things we are able to do is switch to a new phone system. Voice Over Internet Phones (VOIP) are being installed. The other City departments are already using VOIP. Keno money is funding this project. Technology is important but we have a goal that if the phone rings at the library it is answered by a human being.

The 2015-2016 annual loss rate was 0.33% of the items circulate. This rate is in line with previous years.

Leach reported that she visited with the Hallam Village Board. Leach visits the County towns on a rotating basis, trying to visit two or so a year. Leach also attended conversations at Malone Center focusing on race. Last week she was honored to win an InSprire award in Excellence in Education. It was good to see the group recognize that libraries are about education. Leach will be speaking at TEDx on Friday, September 23. The community needs to see the Library Director as passionate about what the library does and offers. All of these things are part of a strategy to assure we are positioning ourselves for success.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

CLOSED SESSION: Schimek moved to go into closed session at 9:04 a.m. for the purpose of discussing Central Library real estate. Second by Speicher. Roll Call Vote: Speicher, Berg, Friedman, McKillop, Schimek - aye; Florence, Marvin - absent. Motion carried 5-0.

Friedman announced that the Board is going into closed session for the purpose of discussing Central Library related real estate. As members of the Central Library Committee Leach, Tricker, Southan, McNair, Beno, Hector were invited to attend the closed session.

At 9:43 a.m. Speicher moved to return to open session. Second by Schimek. Roll Call Vote: Friedman, McKillip, Schimek, Speicher, Berg - aye; Florence, Marvin - absent. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.