

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jackie Ostrowicki, Lisa Hale, Dan Sloan, Terri Dunlap, Morgan Gerteisen, present. A quorum was present. Patty Beutler and Joe Shaw were absent. Nichole Bogen arrived late.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Vice President Ostrowicki called the meeting to order in President Shaw's absence at 8:00 a.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law was posted and available for review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ostrowicki noted that the Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Ostrowicki asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as posted. Hale so moved. Sloan seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 15, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Two needed corrections were noted, the date on the Minutes should be corrected to October 15, 2024 instead of today's date, and to note that Gerteisen was present. Ostrowicki asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Gerteisen so moved. Dunlap seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

No report

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

No report

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for July, 2024

Treasurer Hale shared that the total Operational expenditures were \$1,405,388.51. Expenditures from other funds totaled \$47,398.58 for Total Expenditures of \$1,452,787.09. Hale moved approval of the report. Sloan seconded. Bogen arrived at this time. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail McNair thanked all who attended and participated in the Spelling Bee – special thanks to Joe Shaw for being a speller, and Ryan Wieber for acting as judge. The Foundation has observed that while the Spelling Bee and the Wine and Dine are popular events, the funds from those events are less than past years due to increased costs of holding the events. Discussions are being held on how to keep those costs low.

New membership materials are being completed at the printer and will be sent out to all Board Members to be shared with handwritten notes. The goal is for everyone to share with five people. Lunch at the Library is December 4 from 12:10–1:00 p.m. Alan J. Bartels is the featured local author this month, sharing his book “100 Things to Do in the Nebraska Sandhills Before You Die.” Holiday sales at the Book Nooks will last from November 25 to December 31. They’re great opportunities for gift giving.

The Foundation has secured a \$3,000 grant from the Viking Foundation to support the Begin with Books program. An estate gift was received from long-time library supporter Mark Tallman, and a brochure on how to contact the Foundation for LCL to set up an estate gift has been handed out. Another gift has been received from the estate of April Lau, which will be made into an endowment and will pay out annual to benefit Gere Branch, where April was a regular patron.

Gail announced her retirement at the end of the Foundation’s fiscal year, January 31st, 2025. A search committee has been established to identify a new Director. Brief discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Bennett Martin Elevator Replacement Agreement

Director Wieber shared that the next needed improvement at Bennet Martin, partly accounted for in the last CIP, is the replacement of the elevator up to 4th floor. The cost exceeds the \$200,000 that was initially reserved, so the amount being requested for approval today is for the project not to exceed \$317,000.00. Once the agreements are in place, the work will be scheduled for late winter, and plans are laid for working around the lack of meeting room space for programming and events during the repairs which will keep the elevator out of service for around a month. Discussion on the CIP process and the increased costs followed. Hale moved approval. Sloan seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

Polley Music Library Annual Report

Vice President Ostrowicki introduced Polley Librarian Scott Scholz, who indicated that Board members had all received a copy of the report. He noted that the Polley Music Library’s goal, like last year, was to increase programming, keep the collection culturally relevant and bring folks in to inspire collaboration and creativity. This year’s programming included Polley’s first foray into children’s programming, along with programs aimed at teaching skills instead of simply performances. Sloan asked about the existing program to check out ukuleles and guitars, and Scholz noted they’re both still very popular and circulation is well balanced to the existing collection of instruments. He gave an update on opening “The Music Box” mixed use (rehearsal/performance) space across the street from Bennett Martin. Anticipated opening is within the next few months. The Downtown Lincoln Association is working with the City to make it happen. Sloan moved approval of the report. Hale seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Dunlap, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

Schedule of 2025 Board Meeting Dates and Locations

Vice President Ostrowicki shared the new schedule and reminded the Board of the summer evening meetings that will be scheduled at branches. Dunlap moved approval. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Ostrowicki commended regarding LCL's role in providing out-of-school learning experiences. Recent Masters coursework has provided her the opportunity to discuss the library's role in accessing information, technology, ideas, makerspaces and programming.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann was absent.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber shared that the new annual report should be completed and distributed in December. Staffing vacancies continue to be filled. Bennett Martin is mostly full, kudos to LeeAnn Sergeant and her team for going through the hiring process and conducting the interviews. The Heritage Room Curator position is currently open, as well as a couple of aide positions coming open soon. Bennett Martin's new Library Service Supervisor is Chrystal Dunworth, and new librarian Jonathan Lucero is here from Nashville, TN. Gere's Adult Services Librarian Pat Sloan retired last month, and her position will be opening soon. The Library Service Supervisor position at Gere has been filled by Dustin Mosko.

Wyatt Packard, the new Walt Library Manager, will be reinstating the training calendar for staff which was altered during lockdown. To meet the Strategic Plan Priority of Strengthening our Potential by improving our communication with staff, new staff Town Halls are scheduled quarterly and the first was held two weeks ago. Staff scheduled on the day attend the Zoom meeting live, others view the recording later. The Staff innovation grant process we're starting is to encourage new ideas from staff about programming, collections and technology. \$7,500-10,000/year from the Foundation will be earmarked for these grants. First meetings of the grant committee will be held shortly.

The City has implemented a new Green Team. Megan Peda, Matt Norsworthy and Lauren Eastman will be the library's liaisons. The group will explore ways we can be more sustainable in our actions and purchases.

The Finance Committee met on October 30th, and discussed some projects including the new carpet on fourth floor, and the landscaping project at Eiseley is moving forward and fall plantings will go in this or next week, as well as the elevator bids. The Holiday breakfast is upcoming Friday, December 6, 8:00 a.m. at Gere, and Board members are welcome. Invitations will be forthcoming.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew McCann (no address) spoke in support of library programs and funding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.