

# Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025, 8:00 a.m.

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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

President Shaw 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

Shaw noted that the Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Ostrowicki motioned for approval of the Agenda. Sloan seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

## APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Beutler motioned approval of the minutes. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committee on Administration

President Shaw reported that the committee met and discussed library plans and the Bennett Martin elevator.

### Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Director Wieber reported that the committee met to review recent and upcoming projects.

### Committee on Finance

#### Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for December, 2024

Treasurer Hale shared that the total Operational expenditures were \$867,503.69. Expenditures from other funds totaled \$238,543.42 for Total Expenditures of \$1,106,047.11. Hale moved approval of the report. Dunlap seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion carried.

### Committee on Technology

No report.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail McNair noted that it is required by the IRS that the Library Board vote on nominees for the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Board. She shared that they have a great group of nominees, and have met with each. One nominee is new to Lincoln, some are lifelong Lincolniters and one is a former Library Board member. McNair read the following list of nominees: Kathy Hall Asboe, Ginna Claussen, Melinda Henson, Cory Kibler Haberfeld, Rhonda Seacrest and Jim Schiefelbein.

Membership information and a packet of information about the upcoming Wine and Dine event were distributed. McNair encouraged attendees to share the information and invite friends. Brief discussion followed.

## NEW BUSINESS

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

President Shaw asked for a motion to approve the Roster of Foundation Board Candidates. Dunlap so moved. Beutler seconded. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried.

### Approval of Resolution in Honor of Gail McNair

President Shaw was honored to read the following Resolution:

**Whereas**, The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries is the organization established to raise additional support, awareness, and advocacy for the activities and services of Lincoln City Libraries; and

**Whereas**, Gail McNair began her service to the Foundation on June 22, 2009; and

**Whereas**, Over the course of nearly sixteen years she successfully planned and coordinated fundraising events such as the Wine and Dine, Coffee at the Mill, and the NLHA Annual Spelling Bee; and

**Whereas**, Gail facilitated the great work of the NLHA by providing the administration and support needed for Lunch at the Library author visits and for reaching countless students through the "Writers Write" program; and

**Whereas**, Through collaboration and skillful directing of Book Sales and Book Nooks, her leadership provided to the Friends of the Library through the years has given the community the joy of discovering quality used books at affordable prices, which has created positive publicity and additional revenue for the Library; and

**Whereas**, Since 2014, and directly because of her efforts through fundraising, grant writing, book sales, and special events the Library has been the beneficiary of \$1.8 million, which has provided books, programs, equipment, technology, and staff development opportunities—all to improve the Library for residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County; and

**Whereas**, Gail has worked tirelessly to represent the Foundation and demonstrate its support for facility improvements through advocacy, community engagement, and connecting new supporters to the needs of the Library; and

**Whereas**, She has led with her heart in all that she has accomplished for the benefit of the Library; and now The Lincoln City Libraries Board of Trustees hereby recognizes the tremendous contributions provided by Gail McNair to the Library, its employees and volunteers, city and county residents, and to the Board, itself;

and expresses its sincere appreciation for her longtime commitment of service and love for the Library. The Board wishes her the best upon her retirement.

Applause, many thanks, and brief discussion followed.

### **E-content Overview Report: Rebecca Aracena, Support Services Coordinator**

Wieber introduced Aracena, noting that her report reflects LCL's work to keep up with demand while staying within budget. Libraries across the US are facing the same challenges.

Aracena shared that this is one of LCL's greatest current challenges. While physical checkouts are still rebounding, E-content circulation increases as much as the budget allows. E-checkouts have tripled since Fiscal Year 2017-2018. She explained the differences between LCL's two main suppliers, Overdrive, which uses the Libby app, and Hoopla.

Overdrive is curatable – LCL chooses specific titles to purchase or rent, and pays for each individual use. Prices and license restrictions widely. Some titles can be purchased in perpetuity, others by checkout or by a period of time. The costs can range from just a few dollars per use to over \$130. The biggest challenge is cost and the number of requests per week LCL receives for new titles. Over 1,000 titles are requested weekly, of which LCL is buying 20-30 titles weekly, depending on cost and demand. There were 60,000 titles requested in the last two years that LCL was unable to purchase due to cost. 43% of requests made by patrons have been purchased. Popular titles like *Onyx Storm* get hundreds of requests. Metered access to popular titles, for example the Harry Potter series, expire and have to be repurchased. The goal is to keep the holds lists short – so patrons don't have to wait long for their materials, but it's not always possible while staying within budget.

Hoopla is not curated by LCL. The vendor chooses the material they offer, which is highly dependent on publishers. LCL monitors the budget by limiting the number of checkouts per customer per month. Hoopla charges per checkout for some items, per checkout period for some items. Price caps can be reduced or increased to balance with the available funds. The last time they were raised to allow for more titles, usage jumped enormously (2,000 new users in two months.) If LCL offers the best titles, more people check them out. E-audio downloads comprise 60% of the monthly Hoopla activity.

Discussion followed. Hale asked how much of a budget increase would be required to meet demand? Aracena replied, it's unknown, since we don't know how big the demand might grow. Any time LCL has increased availability, customers have increased their demands to meet it. Not having the materials available deters patrons from using the library. There are currently no limits on what publishers can charge. The American Library Association is working to create workable limits. Cases in two other states have proven that the publishers effectively have a monopoly. Educating customers about best uses like promptly returning e-items and the fact that placing holds on multiple item types (print, large type, e-print, e-audio) increases the strain of trying to keep the holds ratios low, and thus increases spending.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Shaw had no report.

## **ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Assistant Director Glaesemann shared that interviews for a new Heritage Room curator are ongoing and names for the Read Aloud Librarian position and the Bennett Martin Librarian position have been received, interviews will be upcoming. There are only two 20-hour LSA vacancies in the system.

The hearing loops discussed at the last meeting have been installed at every location except Williams. Glaesemann brought one to demonstrate. Patrons have to be within four feet of the desktop unit before it will engage with a patron's hearing aid. If they don't use hearing aids, headphones are available instead.

The accessibility audit was completed at South Branch. Some furniture was moved to create easier access, along with the trash can near the door. A new table was ordered for the print release station – the old one had a solid base, so wheelchairs couldn't roll up close enough to pay for and receive print jobs. Further audits will be completed by staff at the Building and Safety department.

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber reviewed Legislative Bill 390 that would impact school libraries. He also shared City plans for street improvements via the "Corridors Project" which will include S. 14<sup>th</sup> St. in front of Bennett Martin. The new handicap parking stalls will not be moved, the bike lane will be removed and 2-way traffic will return on S. 14<sup>th</sup>. The work is projected to start sometime next year. The City also received a grant for Electric Vehicle charging stations, one of which may be installed at Eiseley Branch Library.

The celebration for the installation of the Eddie Dominguez torso on loan from the Museum of Nebraska Art at Kearney is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on January 28 at Eiseley branch – all are encouraged to attend.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.