

**LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018; 8:00 AM  
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

**PRESENT**

Lowell Berg, Martha Florence, Herb Friedman, Lisa Hale, Donna Marvin, Rhonda Seacrest, Carol Speicher, County Liaison Walt Broer. Absent: None. Dan Sloan, incoming Board member was present as an observer.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Pat Leach, Library Directory; Barbara Hansen, Administrative Aide; Paul Jones, Accountant; Peter Jorgensen, Virtual Services Manager; Brenda Ealey, Gere Branch Manager; Julie Beno, Public Service Coordinator; Jodene Glaesemann, Walt Branch Manager; Jeff Kirkpatrick, City Attorney; Denise Pearce, Mayor's Office.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN MEETINGS LAW**

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. and it was announced that the Open Meetings Law of the State of Nebraska was posted and available for inspection.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Florence moved to approve the agenda as posted. Second by Berg. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Florence, Friedman, Hale, Seacrest, Speicher – aye; Marvin – absent. Motion carried 6.0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

(Marvin arrived at this time.)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Speicher moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2018, Library Board meeting as distributed. Second by Florence. Roll Call Vote: Florence, Friedman, Hale, Marvin, Seacrest, Speicher, Berg – aye. Motion carried 7-0.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Committee on Administration**

Leach introduced Dan Sloan and reported that his appointment is proceeding. The City Council placed the appointment of its August 20<sup>th</sup> agenda and will be on the August 27<sup>th</sup> agenda for public hearing and vote. We anticipate that Sloan will be officially a board member as of September 1<sup>st</sup>

**Committee on Buildings & Grounds**

No report. Leach announced that after several delays, the air conditioning at Gere Branch Library is fixed and operating normally.

**Committee on Finance**

Speicher reported on the recap of expenditures for July 2018 listing claims in the amount of \$796,891.38 from all funds. Speicher moved approval of the report and payment of all claims. Second by Florence. Roll Call Vote: Friedman, Hale, Marvin, Seacrest, Speicher, Berg, Florence – aye. Motion carried 7-0.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Central Library**

No report

### **Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries**

McNair reported that tickets for the preview of the annual book sale are on sale on the Foundation's website.

### **One Book - One Lincoln**

It was announced that the voting had closed July 31 and the title for the 2018 program has been selected. The announcement will take place on September 3<sup>rd</sup> along with scheduled events.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Adoption of Resolution for Retiring Board Member**

As incoming President of the Board, Marvin introduced the resolution.

Whereas, Herb Friedman has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Lincoln City Libraries for a period of seven years, from September 2011 through August 2018, and held the offices of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer; and

Whereas, Herb served energetically and confidently, giving thoughtful consideration to issues and sharing his expertise for the betterment of Lincoln City Libraries; and

Whereas, Herb increased awareness of the library through interaction with the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries as a representative on the Foundation Board; and

Whereas, Herb has served on and led development committees for a new downtown Central Library provoking thoughtful discussion and advocacy; and

Whereas, Herb's willingness to work on issues important to the Board kept the Board moving forward with particular emphasis on the value of an administrative board and the importance of intellectual freedom; and

Whereas, Herb has been a student of the library's history and a visionary for its future; and

Whereas, Herb has been an outspoken and passionate spokesman for the public library and its role in education; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln City Library Board of Trustees expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Herb Friedman and adopts this resolution in tribute to and appreciation of his contributions to and support of the Lincoln City Libraries.

It was moved by Marvin, second by Berg, to adopt the resolution in honor of retiring Board member Herb Friedman. Roll Call Vote: Hale, Marvin, Seacrest, Speicher, Berg, Florence – aye; Friedman – abstain. Motion carried 6-0.

Seacrest thanked Friedman for his service and expressed the Board's appreciation for his work on the Central Library project.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Friedman reported his last official duty as President of the Board was to try to persuade LIBA to support the Central Library project. There had been a series of newspaper articles on the issue and Friedman was invited to appear on Coby Mach's drive time radio program. Friedman then requested that he be allowed to address the LIBA board regarding the project. Friedman observed that it did not go well and reported that he was notified a few days later that the board took a vote and has not changed its position. Friedman expects that LIBA will not support the project, and we need to move on.

Friedman wished the Library Board good luck with its future endeavors, and knows the library is in good hands. He is convinced that Lincoln needs a new downtown library. Although he likes visiting Bennett Martin Public Library, "it is a dump. It is not the type of library this community should have. This community needs a new downtown library. Thank you for permitting me to be your president for the past four years."

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Leach thanked Friedman for his work and wished him well. Leach stated that she is looking forward to working with incoming president Donna Marvin and new Board member Dan Sloan.

Leach announced the Williams Branch public service hours have switched back to the school year schedule which as the library open weekdays after school 4 to 8 p.m., 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday's and 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Berg asked how sharing the facility has been working. Leach reported that Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) has been a great partner. LPS is very concerned about security and it means that full cooperation with a school-public library is very difficult. The Williams Branch is located on the north side of the school, near the gym, which will eventually be a Parks and Recreation center. Talks are beginning between LPS and Parks and Recreation about that. Creating the recreation center as part of the school will be really good for the library. Placement of the library on the north side of the building has been a challenge for visibility. You might go a long time before you realize there is a public library there if you are never on the north side. The neighborhood has been very welcoming of library staff. We do storytimes in the neighborhood, serve on boards, etc. We are making sure people are aware of the library.

Leach reported that she spent a lot of time on the fiscal year 2018-2020 budget over the past month. The City Council voted last night to go forward with the budget. The budget does allow for an additional keno allocation for the library. We are adding two full-time equivalents, one to support evening hours at Bennett Martin Public Library and one for a building superintendent. These are good outcomes that will really move our libraries forward.

Leach reported that Library Board Treasurer Carol Speicher did write a letter to submit to the Council regarding a potential change to keno allocation. That proposed change was not

brought forward by the City Council. The library has received keno funds for 25 years and it has aided in expanding collections and technology, and has been very important to us.

Leach reported on the impact of purging old customer records. Seven years ago when the library switched to a different Integrated Library System we were unable to purge records as recommended by the auditor. With the switch in systems a couple of years ago, we have been working with the vendor to develop a process that will allow us to provide a purge report on a monthly basis, per Library Board policy. The first purge allowed us to catch up and delete records that should have been deleted years ago. The total number of accounts purged was 52,000 along with \$1.3 million in uncollectable fines and fees.

Leach reported on the In-house development of the strategic plan. A community conversation was held recently with representatives from many nonprofits, the Chamber of Commerce YPG, Junior League, and many human service agencies. Carol Speicher also participated as a member of the Library Board. A common theme was that they want the library to be seen as creating great experiences. They love their Libraries and were all about messaging and what the library conveys to the community. We will be gathering together focus groups and will be doing one-on-one interviews with people throughout the city.

Leach also reported on the Central Library project as it relates to the IFRP (Invitation For Redevelopment Proposals) process for the development of the Pershing Center site. This has been in the news lately with some City Council members wanting the Mayor to sell the site. Discussions with the Mayor's office and Urban Development staff is ongoing. What role the library plays and how we can be proactive has yet to be developed. The Downtown Master Plan is also being revised and helps to leverage our thoughts about a library on the Pershing site.

Florence asked if proposals allow for a library to be part of the block. Leach explained that it is not guaranteed, but conversations with interested developers include the library's interest. It was also asked if the Mayoral term limits pass, what happens to the Central Library project. Leach stated that the project would not be dead, but there would be an impact. Even if a new mayor is interested in a library, they would have to be brought up to speed.

Seacrest asked what the deadline is for the IFRP. It was explained that there is no deadline, the invitation is open until an acceptable proposal is received. Once that acceptable proposal is received, a deadline is announced giving others an opportunity to submit proposals by a certain date. The Mayor then sets up a selection process.

Hale asked if there wasn't something the library can do to market itself while we are in this holding pattern. We need to educate the community with PSAs and Facebook to educate the community about all that the library does. We should do a positive push so that people who are not thinking about the library see that it is a meeting place, a maker place, a streaming of audio books place.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Berg moved the meeting go into closed session at 8:41 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the Library Director's annual evaluation. Second by Florence. Roll Call Vote: Marvin, Seacrest, Speicher, Berg, Florence, Friedman, Hale – aye. Motion carried 7-0.

Library Board Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2018

Page 5

Berg moved to return to open session at 8:51 a.m. Second by Seacrest. Roll Call Vote: Seacrest, Speicher, Berg, Florence, Friedman, Hale, Marvin – aye. Motion carried 7-0.

Friedman reported that the Board discussed the Library Director's annual evaluation and he will meet with the Library Director and share information with the Mayor's office.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further businesses, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 AM.