LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019; 8:00 AM
BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lowell Berg, Lisa Hale, Donna Marvin, Rhonda Seacrest, Joe Shaw, Dan Sloan. Absent: Martha Florence, County Liaison Walt Broer. A quorum was present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Leach, Library Director; Julee Hatton, Assistant Library Director; Barbara Hansen, Administrative Aide; Paul Jones, Accountant; Julie Beno, BMPL Public Services Coordinator; Scott Scholz, Polley Music Librarian; Brenda Ealey, Gere Branch Manager; Peter Jorgensen, Virtual Services Manager; Gail McNair, Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries; Jeff Kirkpatrick, Law Department; Barb Bartle, Lincoln Community Foundation.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by President Berg. Posting of Open Meetings Law was announced.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according the Open Meetings Law of the State of Nebraska. Sloan moved approval of the agenda as posted. Second by Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye; Florence, Marvin – absent. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

TRUSTEE DEVELOPMENT: Barb Bartle, President, Lincoln Community Foundation, provided information about Prosper Lincoln and Read Aloud Lincoln.

Prosper Lincoln - Lincoln Community Foundation provided leadership to launch Prosper Lincoln, which brings together leaders from across the community to make Lincoln even better. Representatives from businesses, nonprofits, neighborhoods, government, faith communities, philanthropies, and individuals have worked to gather input from all sectors of our community. Residents participated in a community-wide discussion to set priorities and establish a shared agenda for positive change to address the findings of Lincoln Vital Signs. A Summit held in 2016 presented the shared Prosper Lincoln Community Agenda, focusing on three areas - early childhood, employment skills, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

Details about Phase II of Proper Lincoln will be outlined at the Summit on December 17th. Phase II will address the additional priority of civic investment which includes imbedding Prosper Lincoln leaders into the community to continue working with poverty. Phase II continues by adding affordable housing, building neighborhood capacity, looking at civic investment for five years. Civic improvement includes physical improvements, for example a new library.

Read Aloud Lincoln is a two-year initiative that includes partners who spread the word to parents and caregivers that 15 minutes of reading aloud daily from birth to age 8 can profoundly impact success for all Lincoln's children, both in school and in life. Lincoln City Libraries is a key partner in this initiative.
Read Aloud Lincoln has been supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and has been championed by Mary Reiman and Nancy Larimer, both recently retired from Lincoln Public Schools. Their work will now be continued by Read Aloud Advocate Teagan Earhart, a temporary part-time employee of Lincoln City Libraries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Seacrest moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019, meeting. Second by Hale. Roll Call Vote: Hale, Marvin, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Berg – aye; Florence – absent. Motion carried 6-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Committee on Administration – No report.

Committee on Buildings & Grounds – Staff is working on the FY 2020-2026 Capital Improvements Plan. The committee will meet in early December to review the plan and will make a recommendation to the Board at the December 17 meeting.

Committee on Finance - Sloan reported on the Recap of Expenditures for October 2019 listing claims in the amount of $1,190,509.22 from all funds. Capital Improvement expenditures for energy saving projects increased expenditures. The energy savings projects should be completed soon. Sloan moved to approve the report and payment of all claims. Second by Marvin. Roll Call Vote: Hale, Marvin, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Berg – aye; Florence – absent. Motion carried 6-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Central Library – No report.

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries - McNair reported that the annual Friends mailing has gone out. If additional information is needed, let her know. A large donation from a book store in Hastings that went out of business has been sent to Thrift Books. Due to the size of the donation, there were not enough volunteers or space to evaluate and sort the donation. The 2020 Wine and E event will be held on April 23rd. Auction items are being collected.

One Book - One Lincoln – Lisa Hale reported that the author event, featuring Lauren Markham is being held on November 19th at Lincoln High. The book, The Far Away Brothers, is the story of identical twin brothers who immigrated from El Salvador to California and the challenges they overcame.

NEW BUSINESS:
Polley Music Library Service Report and Program Plan - Scott Scholz the new Polley Music Librarian, was introduced and provided follow up on some questions dealing with the report and program plan. Marvin noted that she is excited about the recording studio being developed and that it is great to highlight the different things that libraries do. Shaw expressed his appreciation for the excellent report and how much he enjoyed listening to the archives of the radio program after he read about it in the report. The Board was pleased with the report and the plans for getting out into the community. Shaw moved to approve the report, second by Seacrest. Roll Call Vote: Shaw, Sloan, Berg, Hale, Marvin, Seacrest – aye; Florence – absent. Motion carried 6-0.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Berg reported that the Library Neighborhood Homeless group met and will be meeting again in December. Long and short term solutions are being discussed.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
Leach thanked the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries and its volunteers for its work making the book sale a success. The Foundation doesn't just hold a book sale, it holds a GOOD book sale, one of the best in the region. Hale moved to adopt a letter of thanks to the Foundation. Second by Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Marvin, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Berg, Hale – aye; Florence – absent. Motion carried 6-0.

Leach reported that the Library has hired a Read Aloud Advocate to continue the work of Read Aloud Lincoln within the community. The Advocate, Teagan Earhart, is working with Vicki Wood, Youth Services Coordinator. Earhart has experience as a speech pathologist and knows the importance of working with parents where they are. One of our areas of focus may be to work through workplaces that typically employ parents of young children.

Julie Beno is retiring as of December 27th. It is hard to see her go as she has contributed much to the library system during her tenure.

The Library Neighborhood Homeless Coalition met on October 29th and includes service providers as well as neighbors. The short term objective of how to deal with the impact on our businesses continues to be discussed. Lulu’s is serving a free meal a day through her luncheonette which creates a lot of traffic in our neighborhood. We continue to monitor the impact. The second conversation is the lack of a downtown daytime space. The community of service providers sees the most effective approach is to provide housing and wrap services around that. The model is housing first. That is a long term project. CenterPointe volunteered to take the lead on that potential option as it is accustomed to doing large projects that would involve a number of funding sources, and connections for services. The next meeting is December 9th. There is positive momentum. At the library we are approaching how the library is arranged. The exterior ledge around the planters tends to be a gathering place. We are looking to improve the plantings and add attractive fencing that would help establish the plantings as well as act as a barrier to climbing into the planters and destroying the plantings.

Leach announced that six patron accounts were purged last month due to nonuse with a total of $70.44 in uncollectible fines.

Board members were reminded that the time of the December 17th board meeting has been moved to 11:30 a.m. in order to allow staff and Board members to attend the Prosper Lincoln Summit at Pinnacle Bank Arena at 7:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.