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

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Leach, Library Director; Julee Hatton, Assistant Library Director; Barbara Hansen, Administrative Aide; Paul Jones, Accountant; Peter Jorgensen, Virtual Services Manager; Rebecca Aracena, Support Services Coordinator; Brenda Ealey, Gere and South Branch Manager; Gail McNair, Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Executive Director; Jeff Kirkpatrick, City Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS LAW: The meeting was called to order by President Berg at 8:00 a.m. It was announced the Open Meetings Law were 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. Seacrest moved to approve the agenda as posted. Second by Marvin. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Marvin, Seacrest, Shaw – aye; Florence, Hale, Sloan – absent. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December 16, 2019, meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. Shaw moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Second by Marvin. Roll Call Vote: Marvin, Seacrest, Shaw, Berg – aye; Florence, Hale, Sloan – absent. Motion carried 4-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Committee on Administration
No report.

Committee on Buildings & Grounds
Approval of Anderson Branch Library Parking Lot Contractor – Leach reported that the bid process for the replacement of the parking lot at Anderson Branch Library closed on December 20, 2019, with a total of eight bids being received. Hampton Construction submitted the low bid of $295,600.00. It is recommended that Hampton Construction be awarded the contract in the amount of $295,600.00. Approval to award the contract to Hampton Construction was moved by Marvin, second by Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Marvin, Seacrest, Shaw, Berg – aye; Hale, Sloan, Florence – absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Committee on Finance
Recap of Expenditures December 2019 – Marvin reported on the Recap of Expenditures for December 2019 listing claims in the amount of $863,969.57 from all funds. Marvin moved approval of the report and payment of all claims. Second by Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Marvin, Seacrest, Shaw, Berg – aye; Sloan, Florence, Hale – absent. Motion carried 4-0.
SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Central Library - No report.

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries – Executive Director Gail McNair shared 2019 financial reports noting the 2019/2020 Membership Campaign increased by $1,835 and 12 donors compared to the 2018/2019 campaign. The campaign brought in $36,673. The 2019 payout to Lincoln City Libraries totals $147,677.33. In 2019 the Book Nooks realized donations of $4,201.68 which is added to book sale receipts.

Approval of Foundation Board Nominees – McNair provided information about the 2020 Slate of Trustees nominated for election to the Foundation Board. Nominees include Carl Eskridge, Trixie Koch, Brian Morrow, and Samuel Settle. Marvin moved to approve the list of nominees. Second by Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Seacrest, Shaw, Berg, Marvin – aye; Sloan, Florence, Hale – absent. Motion carried 4-0.

McNair announced the dates of upcoming events including Wine & E on April 23; Coffee on the Dock May 25; Give to Lincoln Day May 28; and Lynn Roper is organizing an August 7 visit by Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*.

ONE BOOK – ONE LINCOLN

The Steering Committee met on January 13 to review the plans for the 2020 program and develop the invitation list for the Selection Committee. The title nomination period ends on January 31, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Book Sale Agreement – The agreement between Lincoln City Libraries and Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries regarding the book sale has been revised to update wording and content that is included in City contracts generally. Additional changes include adding wording that library programs for adults during the book sale and its preparation week will be at the mutual consent of both parties. The library will also continue to engage in promotion of the book sale. Approval of the agreement as revised moved by Shaw. Second by Marvin. Roll Call Vote: Shaw, Berg, Marvin, Seacrest – aye; Sloan, Florence, Hale – absent. Motion carried 4-0.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: None

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Leach reported that additional security cameras will be installed at staff entrances and bike racks. Cameras will also be placed in some unsecure staff work areas so that follow up can be done in the case of an incident.

Leach reported that Bennett Martin Public Library experienced vandalism on January 18th when an inebriated man kicked in the N Street door. A concerned citizen called the police and man was arrested. We are in the process of having the glass replaced in the door.

Leach reported that staff is working on a grant application to the Community Health Endowment to extend the Begin with Books program to include “Begin with Baby.” This would be a cooperative program with the Health Department’s WIC program to work with expectant mothers about the
The Capital Improvement Program was submitted to the Planning Department on January 8th with a few adjustments. The replacement of carpet at South Branch was removed and will be accomplished with current year operating funds. The refurbishing of Bennett Martin Public Library’s window elevator was added as a projects and the refurbishing of the lower level elevator was added to the deferred maintenance package.

Replacing the bookmobile was still submitted as a CIP project but we are looking at alternate funding and moving forward sooner due to number of days the vehicle is off the road. The bookmobile is our most visible service to Lancaster County and needs to be replaced sooner rather than later.

On February 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Eiseley Branch Library, the Mayor will host the first “Mayor’s Night Out.” This is an opportunity for Lincoln residents to sit down and have one-on-one conversations with local government leaders, including the Mayor, City Council members, and city government department directors.

Leach also reported that she and Lowell Berg have been working with a UNL design class that has the library as a project. They will be using library program information to design interiors.

Pat Leach and Support Services Coordinator Rebecca Aracena shared information about downloadable books and how they are used at the library.

Lincoln City Libraries uses two companies to provide downloadable materials to the public. Overdrive uses the purchasing model where we select the titles and purchase copies for our collection. One customer at a time can use a copy. Depending on the publisher, we may have to repurchase a title after a specific number of uses or length of time, known as metered access. Macmillan Publishers has been in the news recently because it is restricting the sales of its eBooks to libraries. For the first eight weeks after an eBook goes on the market, a library system can buy only one copy. So if you are used to getting your books from a library and you are an eBook fan you may have a long wait before a copy is available at the public library. When we purchase books in the printed form, we usually get about a 40% discount from publishers. With eBooks that same kind of discount and cooperative approach isn’t there. When a library purchases an eBook, it costs two or three times the amount a consumer would pay at Barnes & Noble or Amazon.

Hoopla is the second company that we work with. This is a subscription based model. Hoopla makes its catalog available to our customers and we pay per use. The advantage is that users have simultaneous use of an item. In additional to eBooks audiobooks, Hoopla also has music, TV shows, and movies. We restrict the number of items a customer can use each month in order to manage the budget. Hoopla has been a budgeting challenge.

Our annual budget to purchase materials is just over $1.6 million. Last year $ 645,000 (40%) was spent on eBooks. These downloadable materials represented 15% of our overall circulation. eBooks/downloadable audio books are more expensive than print. We continue to see large growth in the use of downloadable materials without any kind of marketing.
It is a difficult time for libraries in the world of downloadable materials. People are accustomed to immediate access. If we own an item that is not accessible, it does not meet our customers’ needs.

We are noticing that our users are migrating to audio books. and are seeing a huge growth in the use of downloadable audio books. Use of downloadable audio books has surpassed our eBook use. Amazon owns Audible which accounts for 41% of the audio book sales in this country. They are reserving some titles for themselves and we are not able to purchase. For example, one of those titles is Trevor Noah’s “Born a Crime.” Library users cannot download the title from the library, they must purchase it from Audible. We are seeing this more and more.

Upcoming challenges include continual changes in technology, publishing embargoes, and other trends. Our providers are also watching the trends. Hoopla will be adding metered access and the availability to turn simultaneous use off and on. There are new platforms that offer magazine packages. Digital magazine packages are expensive as they charge by population and number of card holders.

When asked about any possible legislation regarding downloadable access, Leach noted that she is not aware of any. Both the American Library Association and the Urban Libraries Council have been working with the publishers, but we have not seen anything in regard to legislating change.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.