CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by President Sloan. The posting of the Open Meetings Act was announced.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda/meeting notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Shaw moved approval of the agenda as posted, second by Hale. Roll Call Vote: Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye; Berg, Marvin, Ostrowicki – absent. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: No public comment. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 21, 2021, MEETING MINUTES: Hale moved to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021, Library Board meeting as distributed, second by Seacrest. Roll Call Vote: Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye; Marvin, Ostrowicki, Berg – absent. Motion carried 4-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Committee on Administration - No report. (Ostrowicki arrived at this time.)

Committee on Buildings and Grounds:
Approval of Capital Improvements Plan - Hale moved to approve the plan as presented by staff, second by Seacrest. After the December Library Board meeting, staff reviewed and updated the costs and information related to proposed projects. The committee met to review the updated Capital Improvement Program information and recommends approval. Roll Call Vote: Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Hale – aye; Marvin, Berg – absent. Motion carried 5-0.

Committee on Finance: Shaw presented the Recap of Expenditures Report for December 2021 listing claims in the amount of $1,253,567.28 from all funds. Shaw moved approval of the report and payment of all claims. Second by Hale. It was noted that the December expenditures were higher than normal due to there being three pay periods in December. Roll Call Vote: Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Hale – aye; Berg, Marvin – absent. Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Central Library Committee: COVID-19 is affecting the timing of the Central Library project. Discussions are being held with City administration as we recalibrate what the best timing is.

Foundation Report: McNair reported that even though there was not a book sale event in 2021, at little over $29,000 was received through online sales and Book Nook sales. The Foundation is working with the library regarding the development of an informational campaign.
**One Book - One Lincoln** - Ostrowicki noted that the Steering Committee met earlier in the month to review last year’s program and plan the 2022 program. There are four outgoing Selection Committee members and applications are being taken for their replacements. A standard form has been developed for those interested. January 31 is the deadline for the nomination of titles. The Selection Committee will begin its work in early February and have the list narrowed down to three finalists by early April.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Renewal of Agreement Between Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) and Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries (FLCL)** – Leach presented the annual renewal of the contract between LCL and FLCL noting that there are no changes proposed. Seacrest moved to approval the renewal, second by Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Hale, Ostrowicki – aye; Berg, Marvin – absent. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Proposed Foundation Board Members** – FLCL bylaws require Library Board approval of new Foundation trustees. The Library Board is being asked to approve the appointment of Philipe Bruce, Tiffani Childress, Jake Havranek, and Tice Miller to the Foundation Board of Trustees. Approval moved by Hale, second by Ostrowicki. Roll Call Vote: Shaw, Sloan, Hale, Ostrowicki, Seacrest – aye; Berg, Marvin – absent. Motion carried 5-0.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**: No report.

**ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT**: Traci Glass provided an update on Williams Branch Library move to the new Air Park Recreation Center. The schematic design has been completed and groundwork has begun. Construction will be starting in the spring.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT**: Pat Leach noted that as staff vacancies occur, we are using the opportunity to review job descriptions and the application process to assure we receive strong candidates. Ostrowicki requested that at some point the organizational chart and job responsibilities be reviewed with the Board as an opportunity to better understand the operations of the library.

Leach noted that the library continues making COVID adjustments. With the increase in cases, no in-person programming or in-person outreach is taking place at least through February 12. Library has received a supply of KN95 masks for staff. At this point, we have no outbreaks at any location, but if staff illness requires the closing of libraries, we will take a system wide approach. Smaller branches would be closed first with staff being temporarily assigned to other locations. Closures would be done according to square footage, in the order of Williams, Bethany, South, Anderson, Walt, Gere, Eiseley and then Bennett Martin Public Library.

Hale reported she received a comment from an individual noting how the library is the only reason she survived the last two years.

Leach reviewed information about intellectual freedom issues around the country. The library provides access to a variety of material for a variety of people in the community. When selecting material, we keep a broad community in mind. People need to see themselves in our collection. The Materials Selection Policy is set up to address objections to items in the collection to allow for a clear process. If a customer has a conversation with staff and is not satisfied with that information, the person can
proceed with a Request for Reconsideration. A committee evaluates the request and makes a recommendation to the director. The director decides based on that recommendation. If the person does not agree with the director’s decision, they may appeal that decision to the Library Board. Last year we strengthened the procedure by creating an ongoing committee that includes staff of various levels and locations in the organization. They also discuss national issues related to intellectual freedom to be prepared for any local inquiries. Nationally there has been a recent change in the way individuals or groups handle their opposition to certain materials in a public library’s collection. For instance, charges are being brought against staff and boards for supplying pornography. These haven’t gone far, but it is troubling. In Texas there is a list of over 800 titles to review. In some cities the City Council is approached instead of the board. These actions reflect the political climate in the country. We are not aware of any local activity. Training is being developed to update staff on intellectual freedom and related issues. Shaw asked that the board be included in this training.

Leach reported that the City of Lincoln will be observing Juneteenth on June 19 of each year. The library’s holiday closing schedule will be adjusted to reflect this new holiday. In 2022 June 19 falls as a Sunday. Per city policy, the holiday will be observed on Monday, June 20. Libraries will be closed on Sunday and Monday, June 19 and 20.

Fifty-seven patron records were purged from the database along with $3,700 in uncollectable fees.

Faith to Forest events are being planned in cooperation with faith communities. On February 5, Parks Director Lynn Johnson and Senior Policy Advisor Miki Esposito will participate in a library sponsored panel discussion of the City’s response to climate change.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m. Board members were invited to tour the Polley Music Library with librarian Scott Scholz.