LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022; 8:00 AM
BENNETT MARTIN LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Joe Shaw, Lisa Hale, Rhonda Seacrest, Dan Sloan, Lowell Berg, County Liaison Nichole Bogen.
A quorum was present. Absent: Jackie Ostrowicki, Donna Marvin

OTHERS PRESENT
Pat Leach, Library Director; Traci Glass, Assistant Library Director; Paul Jones, Accountant; Gail McNair, Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Executive Director; Jocelyn Golden, Assistant City Attorney; Riley Slezak, Consultant (NOMOS Public Affairs); Brandon Bayer Consultant (NOMOS Public Affairs); Vicki Wood, Library Youth Services Coordinator; Paul Jones, Accountant; Sarah Dale, Administrative Aide; Tina Queen, Office Specialist

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT
President Dan Sloan 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
The Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Berg moved approval of the agenda as posted. Second by Hale. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Hale, Marvin, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
No public comment.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2022, MEETING MINUTES
Berg moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2022; aq1meeting as distributed. Second by Seacrest. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Request for Reconsideration:
Sloan noted that one of our patrons requested a book to be removed from our collection. Vicki Wood chairs the staff committee that reads/reviews item, looks at reviews of the item, and reviews our policy. They then discuss the item considering our policy and make a recommendation to Leach. In this case, committee recommended the item, “Irreversible Damage” by Shrier, be retained by the Library. Leach concurred. The person who submitted the Request for Reconsideration asked for decision to be appealed to Library Board. Once appealed – the item goes to Committee on Administration to read/review the book and the policy. As noted in Memo to Library Board, that Committee is bringing forward a motion to uphold decision by Leach to retain the book. Sloan weighed the considerations that the item is in the adult collection, does not advocate violence or coercion. It reflects a point of view shared by a lot of people.
Berg moved approval of the motion to uphold the decision to retain the item "Irreversible Damage" by Shrier in the collection. Second by Seacrest.

Discussion: Shaw shared information from his experience as a member of the LGBTQ community. Members reviewed the balance of opinion pieces in the library's collection and believe this book should remain to maintain full range of opinions. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Committee on Buildings & Grounds: No Report

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for April 2022:
Shaw moved to approve Recap of Expenditures from April 2022 listing claims in the amount of $944,551.16 from all funds. Second by Berg. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Library Biennial Budget
Shaw moved to accept three modifications that have been accepted by the Mayor’s Office and City Finance: 1. Elimination of late fees on adult materials. 2. Addition of a part time Library Service Associate (LSA) to provide programming/outreach to Eiseley and Williams. 3. Addition of part time LSA to provide programming/outreach to the Bookmobile. Hale Seconded. Leach noted that directions from mayor’s office this year included 3% increase first biennial year and 4% the second year. Fines on youth materials have already been eliminated, so eliminating fines from adult materials finishes that project. Some discussion of details. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Central Library
Sloan reported the committee is meeting with Foundation/Consultants from Nomos in person tomorrow to discuss path forward.

Foundation Liaison & Executive Director Reports
Gail McNair reported on Central library process: Nomos consultants Brandon and Riley were hired to work May-August to continue creating/gathering information to support what was learned in the survey. All present wish to have strong information ready to push forward with bond issue. At the end of August NOMOS will provide report on forward plan. The process will be run through Central Library Committee, so it’s a joint process Board/Foundation/LCL Staff.

Wine and Dine was successful: $30k net, compared to $23k in 2019. $1,800 will be credited to sponsorship of the Spelling Bee, $28,227.08 net. All items in auction sold. Give To Lincoln Day will be 5/26/2022, any unspecified donations will go to LCL Children’s services. Coffee on the Patio: Thanks to Dan/Tamera Sloan & staff, Monday 5/30/22 9-11:30. One Book One Lincoln (OBOL) finalists will be announced at 10:30. Nebraska Library Heritage Association (NLHA): Celebrating 40th Anniversary. Thursday 7/7/22 reception at The Hub to support the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors. The Foundation is conducting an NHLA endowment campaign. Each year,
anything over $10k in the NLHA fund is donated to the NLHA endowment held by the Foundation. Book Sale 2022 has been cancelled due to a combination of factors, including the dates available and Covid concerns. The Spelling Bee will be held in October at Wilderness Ridge, a specific date is not yet decided. Gail sponsored the first speller: Riley Slezak.

One Book One Lincoln
Three finalists to be announced at the Telegraph Mill on 5/30/22. “Coffee on the Patio” Hale asked when the top 10 list is coming out. Leach will check.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Reading Program
Vicki Wood noted, this is the 85th annual Summer Reading Program. Thanks to Amy, Tina and Peter for their good work on the booklet. We’ve achieved goal of adding new sponsors this year, thanks to Traci. Three new sponsors are Mana Games in the Haymarket, Scoops Ice Cream and The Mill for teens, and Lincoln Yoga for adults. We are giving away gift cards as prizes. The Saltdogs will provide free tickets to one special game. There is a difference in registration prizes, we’re no longer giving every youth a plastic bag. One reusable bag will go to each adult registrant. Also there’s a change with pool parties, we’re now giving a coupon good any day from 8/1-8/14. New performers include Edgerton Explore It Center from Aurora, Wildlife Rescue/Rehab from Omaha, Dance studio, Karate studio and we’re celebrating Pollinator Week (wk. of 6/20). We are back to our pre-Covid number of Library Learning Times in June/July. Our Read Aloud Lincoln advocate, Ali, put together Around Town Storytimes – outdoors at places like: Museum of Speed, Sheldon Art Gallery sculpture garden. Ali will be at the College View Farmers Market representing LCL. City/County Outreach has 4 staff/1intern visiting 7 county and 18 city sites. They focus on underserved areas: Summer school wrap-around programs, rec centers daycares, camps, City Mission, Salvation Army, Malone Center, Lincoln Literacy. The Health Dept. wants to distribute environmentally friendly all-purpose cleaner, so we’re giving those away to adults. In place of school visits, staff created a video to share with all public and parochial schools in town. The Teen volunteer program has been streamlined.

Annual Renewal of OCLC Services
Leach sought motion to approve renewal of contract for annual services up to $67K to Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). OCLC provides global infrastructure for keeping track of which libraries own which items, translates into cataloging and Interlibrary loan services. Hale moved to accept. Seconded by Berg. Discussion: Yearly past years cost comparison and OCLC being sole source provider. Roll Call Vote: Berg, Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Sloan reminded members of recent personal losses, Donna’s son, Pat’s mother, keep them in your thoughts.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Traci Glass reported the Request for Proposal (RFP) for website update is going live this week. It will be released through newspaper and via City website. It asks for a lot of information; people will have 30 days to put it together and respond to us. We’re dealing with a few staff vacancies –
one longtime member of Virtual Services Dept retired, we are working to replace him. We are part of Mayor’s office’s city-wide intern program, hoping to have that person at Eiseley to work with intern and staff. Glass attended the Planning Commission meeting, there was only one question about our CIP projects. Berg asked, when Williams Branch is projected to be open. Glass responded; we’re planning for May 2023. That contract was awarded to BIC construction.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Major project this month has been filling Barbara Hansen’s position after her retirement. We have hired Sarah Dale – introduction. Dale noted that she started at Gere branch 2002 and worked with teens. Moved to Admin office as Account Clerk to Paul Jones for past 8 years.

Leach reported on money and budget related things, through the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) we’ve received some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds via Congress designated for technology-related items in response to pandemic related issues. We’d hoped to use those funds for website, but the timing was prohibitive. We’re using instead for downloadable materials to meet that growing need as a result of the pandemic. Switch was approved by NLC, funds planned for downloadables are now switched to website.

Regarding the budget, Leach is pleased to note that each budget modification moves LCL forward. We’ve known for some time that fines were more a barrier than a motivation to return items. Two outreach positions on the NW part of town focus on the potential there for when we have new bookmobile and new rec center. She’d previously reported to B&G committee about CIP; some things they chose not to include will keep the focus on new Central Library and improvements of existing branches.

Lowell Berg will complete his 7-year term in August. UNL class – Architecture 411 has for the second time used the design of a new branch library as a project. Berg, Leach and Glass listened to their presentations, very fun/interesting/enlightening.

Regarding records purged from LCL database, this month was unusual, 61k records were purged. Our old software was unable to purge records, so all were migrated to new system 7 years ago. Now we can demonstrate their disuse and they can be removed. 98 of 61k records had charges, totaling $729 in uncollectable fees. This will give a more accurate picture of library cards in use.

Leach spoke at the recent NLHA meeting and is eager to work with new members.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.