LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022; 6:00 PM
ANDERSON LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

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

OTHERS PRESENT
Pat Leach, Library Director; Traci Glass, Assistant Library Director; Paul Jones, Accountant; Rod Cummings, System Supervisor; Gail McNair, Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Executive Director; Kim Shelley, Manager, Anderson Branch Library; Avery Usher, Intern; Nyamuoch Kuon, Intern; Sarah Dale, Administrative Aide

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT
President Dan Sloan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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. Shaw moved approval of the agenda as posted. Second by Hale. ROLL CALL VOTE: Berg, Hale, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – aye. Motion carried 5-0. Ostrowicki arrived at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2022, MEETING MINUTES
Berg noted a typo to be corrected in the minutes. Shaw moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting as corrected. Second by Hale. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hale, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Berg – aye. Motion carried 6-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration
Leach noted that the committee did not meet in June, and there is a meeting scheduled July 15 to review new Library Board applications.

Committee on Buildings & Grounds:
No Report
Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for April 2022:

Shaw moved to approve the Recap of Expenditures from May 2022 listing claims in the amount of $1,283,967.43 from all funds. Second by Berg. Discussion: Sloan asked if increase over last month was due to a 3-pay period month. Jones and Leach clarified that the increase was due to negotiated pay increase set retroactively for staff. Approximately six months of retroactive pay and associated benefits caused the increase. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Berg, Hale – aye. Motion carried 6-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Central Library

Leach noted that the Central Library Committee met with Brandon Bayer of NOMOS. Discussion was had about how to move forward with the project. Leach noted NOMOS has been meeting with other library staff for input. Sloan noted the goal was to provide NOMOS with the information needed to plan the move forward.

Foundation Liaison & Executive Director Reports

Gail McNair thanked all who have helped with Foundation events. Wine and Dine was a big success that brought in a net total of $28,227.08, an increase of $5k over last year, despite increased costs to hold the event. Kudos to the volunteers. The auction was a successful. Hale noted the technology used was very helpful. McNair agreed, despite some glitches, the company hired to provide the tech used was successful and will be used again for the Spelling Bee this fall. The tech also allowed bidders to pick up their purchases right away, and everyone left happy. More auctions are planned for 2023. Wilderness Ridge was a success as a venue. Give to Lincoln Day was successful again this year. $33,490 was donated. Once the checks are in hand, a report will be available on how the donations are to be allocated. Anything not donor-directed will go to children’s programs and services. Thanks again to Dan and Tamara Sloan for hosting Coffee on the Patio. The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association (NLHA) is having a 40th anniversary celebration combined with an endowment campaign at Jayne Snyder Trail Center on July 7th. Please RSVP. It’s a good opportunity to recognize the group’s fundraising work. The endowment needs to be increased to keep up with increasing costs. Still waiting on confirmation from the venue before sharing the October date for the Spelling Bee. McNair noted that the 2022 Book Sale has been cancelled. The Foundation is still accepting donations – currently awaiting confirmation of a change of acceptance policy for donations – still two boxes at a time, but every day, not just Saturday. Cancelling the sale means sending donations to Thriftbooks as soon as there’s a semi-full. McNair reported last year’s sales to Thriftbooks netted approximately $18,000 vs three years ago the Book Sale netted approximately $60,000. Expenses have increased greatly, so that net figure from the sale might no longer be comparable. The Book Nooks are currently providing enough funds to cover costs.

One Book One Lincoln

Ostrowicki thanked Dan and Tamera for the use of The Mill Telegraph for the event. She shared that at the event, the top three One Book One Lincoln (OBOL) books, “Sparks like Stars” by Nadia Hashimi, “Hell of a Book” by Jason Mott and “The Lincoln Highway” by Amor Towles were announced. There was a good crowd present. The OBOL staff committee: Cait, Jennifer, LeeAnn and Public Information Specialist, Amy, did wonderful work. Amy’s historical flyer about One Book One Lincoln was particularly well received. The deadline to vote is August 27. The winner will be announced on Labor Day, September 5, 2022. She noted that the library has tremendous programming scheduled all summer around the books.

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NEW BUSINESS

Approval to Purchase Computer Equipment from Riverside Technologies
Approval to Purchase Computer Equipment from Riverside Technologies. Library System Supervisor Rod Cummings provided the following information regarding this purchase of computer switches. These switches are critical to the library’s internet network and are at either Bennett Martin Library or Nebraska Hall on the UNL Campus. In answer to questions, Cummings provided the following information. The new switches have a life expectancy of 7-9 years, and the current switches did as well. The switches can be moved to a new location if necessary. The new switches represent an improvement in technology. Nebraska Hall houses network infrastructure for several governmental entities in Lincoln (LPS, City of Lincoln, etc.). Berg moved to approve the purchase of computer switches from Riverside Technologies at a cost up to $68,000 Ostrowicki seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Berg, Hale – aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Agreement for Lease Termination regarding Leased Space at Arnold Elementary
Leach reported that this agreement addresses the necessary termination of the City/Library lease agreement for space in Arnold Elementary School for the Williams Branch Library. Williams Branch will move to the Air Park Recreation Center when it is complete in 2023. Key information in the agreement includes $258,000 that Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) will pay to LCL for this space, and June 1, 2023, as the date when LCL will have the space vacated. LCL paid for the construction of these space when Arnold Elementary School was built. Leach noted that it is hoped that these funds can be applied to the new Williams Branch Library if needed, and Paul Jones noted that this will involve having the funds appropriated by the City Council. Were this the sale of actual City property, the funds would need to go into the City's Advance Land Acquisition fund. Jones reported that LCL provided approximately $300,000 to construct this space, and that our lease payments covered costs of utilities and maintenance. Leach noted that LPS has been an excellent partner in this process. LCL and LPS will be in regular communication as the Air Park Recreation Center is built, and LPS indicates willingness to negotiate the date for vacancy if necessary. Assistant City Attorney Jocelyn Golden negotiated the contract. Berg moved for approval. Hale seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Berg, Hale, Ostrowicki – aye. Motion carried 6-0. Leach added that because of the nature of the agreement, it does go to the City Council next.

Meet the Staff – Kim Shelley
Leach introduced Kim, Manager of the Anderson and Bethany libraries, known as the Northeast Service Unit (NESU). Kim put together a slide show with entertaining pictures spanning her early education from kindergarten in Grinnell, Iowa, to present. She showed her first shelving job at age 14 at the Stuart Public Library in Stuart, IA, and her undergraduate years at Grinnell College -- the first member of either side of her family to graduate college. She spent a year in China, teaching English and running the school’s very small English language library. Upon returning to the US, Kim attended The University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana for her MLS and then moved back to Lincoln. She first worked at the Omaha Public Library, then spent 18 months at the Nebraska Library Commission, Kim was hired in 1999 at LCL. She worked first at Bennett Martin, then opened the new Walt Branch in 2002, and has spent the last 20 years at NESU. Kim shared her love for public service and making the library accessible to all people in the best ways possible.

Meet the Interns -
Avery Usher, one of the six Nebraska Library Commission interns, is a Northstar High School student, working at Eiseley and Williams. Yamuoch Kuon, from the Mayor's Youth Employment Program, just graduated from Southwest High School, will be attending UNL in the fall, and is working at Eiseley branch

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library. Leach noted that we've had interns for several years and salutes the interns for bringing a lot to the summer experience at Lincoln City Libraries. Interns bring much to the library in terms their questions, observations, good work and energy. Thanks to both for joining our meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
Nothing to report.

**ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
Traci Glass reported that per her email to the Buildings and Grounds committee, an arborist inspected the trees at Gere and has slated seven red cedars for removal sometime the week of July 4th. Glass notified the residents bordering Gere and is working on a plan to replace the trees. Both the neighbors and the Community Crops folks appreciate that tree coverage. She reported disappointing news that the mural planned in conjunction with Palette and Lincoln Calling for Bennett Martin is no longer moving forward. The Palette Project did pay the artist a stipend for the planning work already completed. Glass shared that she'll be attending the upcoming American Library Association Conference, representing YALSA’s Board of Directors, the division of ALA that serves staff who serve Young Adults. She’ll also be representing YALSA and speaking at the Spectrum Scholars event. The Spectrum Scholarship actively recruits and provides scholarships to American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Middle Eastern and North African, and/or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students to assist them with obtaining a graduate degree and leadership positions within the profession and ALA. Additionally, Glass will be a panel speaker at the event, “Challenges among award-winning books”, geared towards graphic novels. Glass noted that Building Superintendent, Dan Miller is finishing installing the LED lights at all the library locations to take advantage of the LES savings plan.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
Leach reported that the City of Lincoln just celebrated its first Juneteenth holiday. Leach noted that for holidays that fall on Sundays, the library is closed that day in observance, and then the Monday following as the City’s paid holiday. She reported that she outlined our budget to the City Council earlier in the day and fielded no questions, so it's moving forward as-is. Leach participated in a Health Summit initiated by the Health Department looking at priorities for community health in upcoming years. She attended Parks Director Lynn Johnson’s retirement and noted that it was good to be able to gather in person. Leach also attended a Community Health Endowment (CHE) celebratory event last week celebrating the non-profits for whom they work. Leach reported that last week two Wilt employees were awarded the Mayor’s Award of Excellence for their work assisting a disabled patron organize his way home on a brutally cold evening and waited with him at the YMCA until his ride arrived. Leach spoke as a panel member along with Police Chief Teresa Ewins and a representative from Lancaster County, for a discussion on leadership organized by Leadership Link. Leach gave an interview to Dale Johnson of KFOR about her upcoming retirement that aired last week, and similar interview with LNK TV’s Live and Learn which will air soon and gave her usual “All About Books” talk on Nebraska Public Media radio.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
None

**ADJOURNMENT**
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.