

LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2019
LINCOLN LIBRARY BICENTENNIAL ROOM

Board Present: Annie Brooks; Helen Cox, Vice-President; Cristina Cray; Larry Harvell;.Andre Jordan; Mary Mucciante; Marty Ryan, Secretary.

Board Absent: Arden Lang, President.

Staff Present: Jeff Blazis, Fiscal Officer; Hillary Rains, Youth Services Manager; Emily Stone, Technical Services Manager.

Public Present: Tiffany Roe & Litina Carnes, Founders of the Land of Lincoln Book Share; and Mary Frances.

Vice President Cox called the meeting to order at 4:48 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: New Lincoln Library Director, Rochelle Hartman, was introduced to the members of the Library Board.

MINUTES: Mr Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2019 Board meeting with the correction of the DAR Chapter name (Springfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution). Ms. Cray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: June and July 2019 financial reports and bill lists were reviewed. Fiscal Officer Blazis noted that spending is on track for the year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Hartman's first day with the library was August 15, 2019. She reported she has been getting to know staff, meeting community members and that she has been interviewed by various media outlets. Her ideas for the library include a new website and a possible re-branding.

Vacancies – Interviews are being scheduled for the three manager vacancies.

Summer Reading Program – Hillary Rains, Youth Services Manager, reported on the summer reading program. Compared to previous years, the total number of participants was down, but program attendance remained steady. Check-ins were up and likely the result of having offered an online logging system. Changes for 2020, include a more refined logging system, additional marketing and a community theme with local non-profit partnerships.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None.

FRIEND'S REPORT: None.

CONSTITUTION WEEK: Ms. Muccianti distributed copies of the U.S. Constitution and reminded the Board that Constitution Week is September 17-23. Members of the Springfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Sergeant Caleb Hopkins Chapter

of the DAR will have an informational table in the library's lobby on September 17, 2019, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC FORUM: Referencing a TED Talk, American Library Association (ALA) policy and library statistics, Mary Frances encouraged the Library Board to eliminate fines. Sharing her conclusion that fines contribute little revenue (1-2% of the annual budget) and adversely affect the poor. Alternatives to fines could include email reminders following the due date, library card suspension for non-returns and replacement material fees. In addition, Ms. Frances suggested staff time currently spent collecting fines could be used to apply for grants. She would also like to see the library work towards the elimination of book desert – areas of the city that have little to no access to books.

Tiffany Roe and Litina Carnes, founders of the Land of Lincoln Bookshare, shared with the Board their love of reading and their passion to get books into the hands of all community members. They collect used books and pass them out – free of charge - to people who cannot easily access the library. Regularly distributing/donating, at such places as the breadline, foodbank, Farmers' Market, shelters, schools and the Department of Corrections library. They also are working towards the elimination of book deserts by putting Little Free Libraries in underserved areas of Springfield.

Prior to his departure, former library Director, Will O'Hearn was working on an ordinance that would allow the discarded library books to be donated to the Land of Lincoln Book Share. Ms. Roe and Ms. Carnes asked Director Hartman to check the status of the ordinance.

Ms. Cray, liaison to the Friends of Lincoln Library, will speak with the Friends' Board about the possibility of helping the Land of Lincoln Bookshare.

The library board tabled any decision on eliminating fines until the facts and ramifications could be examined more closely.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by Kim Hergett

The next meeting of the Lincoln Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for September 25, 2019.