

LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



January 28, 2026

Board Present: Andre Jordan, President; Helen Cox, Vice-President; Robert Banks; Mary Mucciante

Board Absent: Kathryn Harris; Chris Terry, Secretary

Staff Present: Gwen Harrison, Director; Emily Stone, Assistant Director; Deanna Jones, Outreach Manager

President Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:48pm.

The Board approved the minutes for December 2025 with a correction to the attendance.

Financial Report: Director Harrison presented the December 2025 Financial Reports with no anomalies. She noted that the library's budget hearing in front of City Council went well and that the library is requesting a 0.66% increase to the budget for Fiscal Year 2027. The library recently received a \$10,000 donation from the Carnegie Corporation for being a legacy Carnegie Library. There were no limitations placed on the donation, but it will likely be used for America 250 programming.

Director's Report:

GENERAL UPDATES

- Marty Ryan resigned from the Board of Trustees. Candidates for the vacant trustee positions are being reviewed by the Mayor's office.
- Outreach Manager Deanna Jones reported that the Bookmobile is going well and that some new stops started this month, with adjustments being made based on usage.
- Director Harrison reviewed *Illinois Public Library Standards – Governance and Administration*.
- November and December Statistics were reviewed. Checkouts and computer usage held steady, but print jobs continue to be down by about 50% from this time last year.
- The Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Grant, used for the purchase of print materials, was submitted on January 20, 2026.

- The Strategic Planning Committee will reconvene Monday February 9th to discuss the strategic plan outline. Thank you to the Board for participating in the planning process.
- Recent legislation has been adopted by the State Senate highlighting the importance of trustee training. Trustees are encouraged to visit the iLEAD Trustee Learning Portal and take advantage of free training opportunities.
- Youth Services Renovation is scheduled to start September 1st 2026, after the Summer Reading Program. We estimate that it will take approximately a year to complete. The department will be closed to the public during renovations, with staff members relocated within the library. Programming will still be held and books may still be placed on hold.

NEW STAFF AND HIRING

- Madysen Hurley started as the Youth Services Library Page on January 5th.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

- February 1st is the library's 140th anniversary and has been proclaimed Lincoln Library Day by Mayor Buscher. Join us on Monday, February 2nd, 11 AM – 4 PM, in Carnegie Room North for cake and refreshments. We will open the 1976 time capsule and show a slideshow of the library's history.
- The IL Heartland Library System (IHLS) virtual Member Day 2026 will be held Thursday, February 19th.
- Illinois Libraries Present will host a different virtual author event every month through May.

President's Report: President Jordan noted that the Board was happy to be included in the Strategic Planning Process and is looking forward to the final product. He also noted that he continues to appreciate the upgraded patron elevators and the security welcome desk.

Alliance Report: The January book sale was a huge success.

New Business: None

Unfinished Business: None

Building Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda for February 2026: Bookmobile Policy

Public Forum: None

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:38pm.