

# LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



**July 26, 2023**

**Board Present:** Helen Cox, Vice-President; Cristina Cray, Secretary; Geoff Pettys; Mary Mucciante

**Board Absent:** Andre Jordan, President; Jessica Rubinkowski; Marty Ryan

**Staff Present:** Kathryn Harris, Interim Director; Emily Stone, Assistant Director; Denise Fisher, Office Coordinator

Helen Cox called the meeting to order at 4:46pm

Roll was called.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the June 14<sup>th</sup> special Board meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve the minutes unanimously carried.

## **Director's Report:**

### **General Updates**

- The new outdoor signs are up!!! They should be lit up by the end of the week.
- There is a new mural in progress on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, in the public computer area.
- We recently shifted the Graphic Novel section on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and it has been a great success! Checkouts in that area have nearly doubled!
- Lincoln Library staff was able to offer community support by livestreaming Emma Shafer's funeral in the Multipurpose and Bicentennial Rooms to accommodate people unable to get into the church.

## **Staff and Hiring**

- The Division Manager – Public Relations position (formerly the Community Engagement Manager) has been posted. The final date to apply is July 30<sup>th</sup>. The position title and description was altered to better define the boundaries between this position and the newly created Outreach Manager position.
- We are still waiting for the Mayor to sign off on our Library Assistant IV hiring recommendation.
- We have had 4 people apply for the Director position.
- The postings for the CoLab/IT position, the Librarian I – SVC position, and the Library Assistant II position have all closed and we are waiting for HR to compile the applicants so that we can schedule the interviews.

## **Programming**

- The Summer Reading Program has been well attended, although we have no hard numbers yet. Youth Services hosted many programs and events, including craft take and makes, Matinee Mondays, and a magician.
- The final Summer Reading event is on Friday. It is the Absolute Science Foam Blaster.
- The library Outreach team will be attending the ALPLM Back to School Bash on Saturday. We have temporary tattoos and pencil sharpeners to pass out.

## **President's Report:**

In the absence of President Jordan, Vice President Cox thanked Interim Director Kathryn Harris for stepping in and supporting the library and its Board.

## **Foundation Report:**

The new illuminated outdoor signs that the Foundation purchased are up and going!

## **Alliance Report:**

The Alliance has been inviting the public in to learn how to sort books. No new book sales have been scheduled yet.

## **Unfinished Business:**

### **Presentation of Board of Trustees Statement to the City Council**

- It was stated that it was disappointing that there was no feedback, questions, or acknowledgement from the City Council after the Board statement was read. It was also noted that there were articles written about the statement and its contents in both the Illinois Times and the SJR. The SJR stated that Interim Director Harris had been charged with assisting with the search for a permanent Director. However, resumes were going directly to the City's HR Department. Because it is an appointed position, the Director position is not posted to the City's job board. The position has been posted with the ILA, Illinois Heartland, RAILS, ALA Spectrum Division, UIUC and Dominican. There was a question about why the Director job description requires 3 years' experience rather than the 7 years it used to require. Assistant Director Stone stated that it was decreased to make it comparable to what is required for other libraries of our size.
- Interim Director Harris also informed the Board that she had sent a copy of the ordinance, Board Bylaws, and the Director's job description to City legal and requested that they work on fixing the discrepancies.
- It was asked if someone from the Mayor's Office and/or City legal will be attending the next meeting. Denise Fisher stated that the agenda will be shared with both offices and that she would also invite them to join.

### **Non-Resident Fee**

- Conversations about the Non-Resident Fee were taking place on the Next Door App and a lot of misinformation was being spread. It was requested that once the PR position is filled that the library be a bit more proactive in explaining why some individuals have to pay and why the amount changes annually. The newly created Non-Resident Fee informational card that is available to visitors was shared with the Board.

## **New Business:**

### **Possible ALA Boycott**

- Cristina Cray reported that some legislators are asking for libraries to leave the ALA due to the fact that the new ALA Director is a self-proclaimed "card-carrying Marxist." It was stated that Montana has already left the ALA because of this. It was suggested that we prepare for anything that may come from this.

## Illinois Library Association

- Outreach Manager DeAnna Jones and Assistant Director Emily Stone will be speaking at the ILA Conference this year. It was suggested that our library do some sort of reception or event at our library, since ILA is being hosted in Springfield.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm

