

LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



September 24, 2025

Board Present: Andre Jordan, President; Helen Cox, Vice-President; Chris Terry, Secretary; Robert Banks; Kathryn Harris; Mary Mucciante

Board Absent: Ann Mares; Marty Ryan

Staff Present: Gwen Harrison, Director; Denise Fisher, Operations Coordinator

President Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

The Board approved the minutes for August 2025.

Financial Report: August 2025 Financial Reports were presented by Director Harrison. She stated that the library had spent 52% of the appropriated budget which was right on par with where we should be. Upcoming travel expenses for various conferences have been approved.

Preparations for Budget FY27 will begin soon.

Director's Report:

GENERAL UPDATES

- Director Harrison reviewed *Illinois Public Library Standards – Building and Grounds*.
- **Statistics (August 2025)**
 - Physical Item Checkouts: 29,029
 - eBook/Streaming Checkouts: 13,828
 - Uses of Public Computers: 1,959
 - Times Lincoln Library App Was Launched: 4,063
 - Print jobs: 2,266 (down 52% from August 2024)
- An All-Staff Meeting was held on September 11th, 2025. David Munroe from the Springfield Center for Independent Living was the guest speaker. Dave shared information about service animals and general disability awareness.

- Director Harrison attended the IL Library Association Board Meeting on September 18th.
- 2025 Lincoln Library Sunday Hours resume in October.
- The American Library Association (ALA) is operating at an \$8M deficit but is in the process of streamlining and reducing costs. Hopefully, efficiencies will soon be realized.
- IMLS, Institute of Museum and Library Services - Update
Recent Federal Court ruling that IMLS must remain open pending resolution of the government's appeal to this case.
- The next meeting regarding the Youth Services Renovation will be held Tuesday, September 23, 2025, including architect Dave Leonatti, Molly Burns and Director Harrison.
- The Grand Opening for the Mobile Branch will be Thursday, October 2, 2025, 2 PM – 4 PM at the Capital Street Plaza. The Mobile Branch schedule can be found at

<https://www.lincolnlibrary.info/services/mobile-branch>

Director Harrison presented a video promo for the bookmobile created in partnership with the City's Communications Department.

- Lincoln Library will be participating in the Illinois Heartland Library System Library Crawl. This is a fun way to introduce public library patrons to other libraries in the Heartland Library system.
- Director Harrison stated that she and the Sangamon Valley Collection Manager Stephanie Martin attended the Illinois Network Freedom Collective meeting held via Zoom on September 9th.
- Strategic Planning Update: with Fast Forward Libraries, LLC – The Community Survey is now available. The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LincolnLibraryCommunity> and physical copies are available at library public service desks. Trustees will be asked to come in on a Saturday to contribute ideas and feedback to the Community Survey.
- Lana Shovlin will be taking individual Trustee photos for the library website at October's Board of Trustees meeting.
- The Sangamon Valley Collection reports that the Sangamon Experience exhibit "Radio that Listens to You: 50 Years of NPR Illinois" exhibit is now on display on the 1st floor. This exhibit will run through May of 2026.

SVC has a related display of Lincoln Library staff's involvement with local public radio over the years.

- Stephanie Martin put together a display called "Made in Sangamon County" that will be in the 2nd floor lobby of the county building in October. It will feature photos, maps, newsletters, news articles, and artifacts from SVC.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

- The BUILD Springfield Program (Beautification, Unity, Innovation, Leadership and Development) will be held Saturday, October 4, 2025. Four team members will represent Lincoln Library at this event.
- The 2025 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference: You Belong Here will be held October 14 – 16 in Rosemont, IL
- Lincoln Library will be participating in the Halloween Parade in Downtown Springfield, October 25, 2025, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.
- The SOS Mobile DMV Event for the community will be held at Lincoln Library November 14, 2025, 10 AM – 2 PM.
- An ILA Library Legislative Meetup will be held in Normal, IL on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 8 AM – 10 AM. Director Harrison will be attending and would like a Trustee to accompany her.

President's Report: President Jordan thanked Director Harrison for such a comprehensive report. He stated that he was excited about the various upcoming events and opportunities.

Alliance Report: The Lincoln Library Alliance will host their Annual Trivia Night on Saturday, September 27th.

Foundation Business: The van purchased by the Foundation is not quite complete but should be done shortly.

New Business: None

Unfinished Business: None

Building Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda for October 2025: N/A

Public Forum: None

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.