

LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



September 27, 2023

Board Present: Helen Cox, Vice-President; Cristina Cray, Secretary; Geoff Pettys; Ann Mares; Mary Mucciante; Jessica Rubinkowski; Marty Ryan (via Zoom)

Board Absent: Andre Jordan, President

Staff Present: Kathryn Harris, Interim Director; Denise Fisher, Operations Coordinator; Jeff Blazis, Interim Fiscal Officer

The meeting was called to order at 4:46pm.

The Board voted to allow Marty Ryan to attend the meeting remotely.

The Board approved the minutes for the August 23rd, 2023 meeting.

Financial Reports: August Financial Reports were presented with no anomalies.

Director's Report:

Interim Director Harris welcomed newest Board member Ann Mares.

General Updates

- The mural on the 2nd floor is completed (the artist, Lindsay Patterson, will come back at a later time to clear-coat it)
- Local artist Jeff Williams will be starting on the mural outside of the CoLab soon.
- Emily and Denise met with the companies that will be handling the elevator projects. We anticipate the projects beginning in November or December. It

was discovered that neither Kone nor FabCab are responsible for the new elevators' flooring. A separate company, O'Shea Builders, will need to complete a quote for the work. There should be enough wiggle room in the initial total taken to City Council that we should not need to go again for the flooring project.

Staff and Hiring

- Our CoLab Manager, Pat Howk, started yesterday.
- The Librarian I for the Sangamon Valley Collection, Anna Sielaff, will start on October 2nd.
- Library Assistant II interviews have concluded and a hiring recommendation has been made.
- The Library Assistant IV position for Outreach has closed and we will be setting up interviews soon.
- Incoming Director Gwen Harrison's arrival has been delayed by paperwork required to be submitted to the Illinois Inspector General's office.
- Interim Director Kathryn Harris's contract has been extended for up to 90 more days.

Programming

- Story times have resumed on Mondays and Thursdays.
- The Stephen King's birthday celebration on September 21st went well. WTAX came in to interview the staff.
- The fairy tale themed Murder Mystery "Once Upon a Murder..." is scheduled for November 4th. Registration will begin mid-October.
- Once again, the library will be celebrating Space Week from October 4th – 10th. There are various events for all age groups that week. Also, there will be eclipse viewing on October 14th on the top level of the garage next door.
- Kathryn Harris, Gwen Harrison and Britainy Montague are doing outreach at a Delta Sigma Theta event held at Union Baptist Church on September 30th.
- It was stated that although the Colson Whitehead Illinois Libraries Presents event was very good, it was not as well attended as we would have liked. It is the hope of the library staff that once the new PR position is in place that the library can promote these events more widely.
- It was asked if there would be any upcoming CoLab open hours. It was explained that open hours would come eventually and that the new CoLab manager would be working to bring that to fruition.
- It was reported that Assistant Director Emily Stone and Outreach Manager Deanna Jones will be presenting at this year's ILA Conference.

President's Report:

With the absence of President Jordan, there was not an official President's report. However, Vice-President Cox thanked Kathryn Harris for her service to the library.

Alliance Report:

- The Lincoln Library Alliance is hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser on September 30th, 2023. It is sold out!
- The Alliance presented an engraved watch to former SVC Manager Curt Mann for his dedication and service.
- There will be a Holiday Book Sale on the weekend of December 8th and a book giveaway with Santa in December.
- Kathryn asked if the Alliance might help with a donation of books for a Compass for Kids Event with Dubois Elementary School. Christina Cray said that she would make the request to the Alliance Board.
- Helen Cox stated that she believed that the Foundation would help with securing books. Christina Cray stated that she would also bring it up to her Rotary group.

New Business: None

Unfinished Business:

- Geoff Pettys stated that he responded to an email from a member of the public who had questions about the process of the Board of Trustees endorsing Gwen Harrison for library directorship. Ann Mares said that she had spoken with the individual, as well. Mr. Pettys and Ms. Mares both encouraged him to attend any future Board meetings.

Public Forum:

- Becky Whitlow from the League of Women Voters stated that their group had hosted an event in the library on National Voters Registration Day. She said that their group had worked with some of the homeless on offering information on how to vote if you do not have a permanent address. She also invited anyone with any ideas on how to reach disgruntled or homeless audiences to let her know. Denise Fisher asked for permission from Becky Whitlow to forward her contact information to Shannon Allen the Social Worker through Community Relations, so that they might be able to work together to reach that population.

- Becky Whitlow also noted that if the Government shut-down occurs, Social Security's services will be quite restricted.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.

**ROLL CALL FOR
THE LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING
Date 09.27.23**

Meeting called to order 4:46pm Meeting adjourned 5:34pm

(Mark Y for yea and N for nay) First Motion Second Motion

Attendance		Vote Results		
		Vote to allow M. Ryan to join meeting remotely	Minutes	Adjournment
<u>✓</u>	Cox, Helen	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>
<u>✓</u>	Cray, Cristina	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>
<u>✓</u>	Pettys, Geoff	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>
<u>∅</u>	Jordan, Andre	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
<u>✓</u>	Mares, Ann	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>
<u>✓</u>	Mucciante, Mary	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>
<u>✓</u>	Rubinkowski, Jessica	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>
<u>✓</u>	Ryan, Marty	<u>--</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>

Staff in Attendance:

Kathryn Harris, Interim Director; Denise Fisher, Operations Coordinator