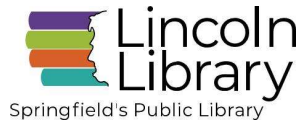


# LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



**January 24, 2024**

**Board Present:** Andre Jordan, President; Helen Cox, Vice-President; Ann Mares; Mary Mucciante; Marty Ryan

**Board Absent:** Cristina Cray, Secretary; Geoff Pettys; Jessica Rubinkowski

**Staff Present:** Gwen Harrison, Director; Emily Stone, Assistant Director; Denise Fisher, Operations Coordinator; Makenley Jones, Public Relations Manager; James Davis, Security Guard

President Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:46pm.

The Board approved the minutes for the December 27, 2023 meeting.

## **Director's Report:**

### **General Updates**

- Lincoln Library was open Monday, January 22, 2024 from 10AM – 2PM due to the inclement weather. Mayor Buscher closed all non-essential City offices at 2PM and library staff was able to go home before the weather got worse.
- January 1, 2024, Public Act 103-0100 became law. This landmark “*Right to Read*” legislation was initiated to protect the freedom of a library to acquire and circulate a collection of materials that addressed the needs of the entire community of readers it serves. This new law requires every Illinois library that applies for grant funding from the Secretary of State to establish an anti-censorship policy or statement.
- Illinois Public Library Per Capita Grant and the FY2022 Expenditure Report were submitted Saturday, January 20, 2024 to the Illinois State Library.

- There is a Library Directory and Learning Calendar available to all library Board members at <https://librarylearning.org/>. Board members are encouraged to create an account. Board members were also encouraged to sign up for the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) at <https://www.illinoisheartland.org/signup> and the IHLS Trustees Portal – iLead [www.illinoisheartland.org/members/trustees](http://www.illinoisheartland.org/members/trustees). Director Harrison offered to sign up any Board members that needed assistance with the process.  
IHLS will also be hosting the 2024 Member Day: Libraries – The Heart of the Community. This is a virtual event. You can register for this event at <https://ow.ly/uZw950QoQXV>. There is a February 7th deadline.
- Lincoln Library will be receiving 500 safe viewing glasses from SEAL – Solar Eclipses Activities for Libraries.
- The Book Vending Machine should arrive within the next couple of weeks.

### **Staff and Hiring**

- Makenley Jones, the new Public Relations Manager and James Davis, the library's new Security Guard, were introduced.
- Megan Freeman, former Library Assistant II, started in her new position as Librarian I in Outreach.
- Interviews for the Teen Librarian position have recently been completed.

### **Programming**

- The CoLab Grand Opening was very successful. Despite the cold weather, more than 45 individuals showed up. Media has also interviewed CoLab Manager Pat Howk.

### **FY25 Budget**

- The library's FY25 Budget Presentation went before the City Council on January 11, 2024. The total budget request was \$6,572,703. Director Harrison commented that everything went well. The City Council meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5kLQvAczTM>

The next dates to watch for regarding the FY2025 Budget Recommendations are:

February 6, 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

February 13, 2024 – Committee of the Whole

February 20, 2024 – Final Passage

### **President's Report:**

President Jordan thanked everyone for their hard work and was excited about all of the exciting things happening at the library.

### **Alliance Report:**

The Lincoln Library Alliance held a successful book sale on December 9<sup>th</sup> and a book giveaway hosted by Santa Claus on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Both events were well attended, with more than 200 kids participating in the book giveaway.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **Cards for Kids Act**

Assistant Director Emily Stone presented information about the expanded Cards for Kids act, which allows public library boards to adopt regulations waiving nonresident fees for everyone under the age of 18, regardless of their financial ability to pay for a nonresident card. The presentation outlined the major unserved areas within Springfield and presented estimates of the population of children living in those areas. The upper estimate was 2,874 children who would qualify for free non-resident cards. Assistant Director Stone also pointed out the benefits of waiving the non-resident fee for all children, which include leveling the educational playing field, helping families who do not qualify for the Cards for Kids act but may still have difficulty paying for a non-resident card, and eliminating shame and privacy concerns when staff need to ascertain whether a student meets the criteria for Cards for Kids.

Director Harrison stated that the Library will update the Circulation Policy with language about the adoption of the expanded Cards for Kids program, and present it to the Board for approval at the February meeting.

**New Business:** None

**Public Forum:**

Becky Whitlow, representing the League of Women Voters, pointed out that the Board Meeting minutes were not current on the Lincoln Library website. Operations Coordinator Denise Fisher stated that due to the lack of quorum for the October meeting and the lack of a scheduled meeting in November, September's minutes were not approved until December. Ms. Fisher stated that she would check the library website for any other irregularities and make any needed corrections.

Ms. Whitlow, speaking as a patron, asked that we increase promotion for the Illinois Libraries Present Programs. Director Harrison assured that she would work with Adult Services to do so.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.