

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska

January 17, 2014

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on January 17, 2014, at the Library Commission office, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Patricia (Pat) Gross, Sherry Crow, Michael LaCroix, and Steve Batty; Molly Fisher via telephone. Staff present: Rod Wagner, JoAnn McManus, and Jennifer Wrampe.

Sherry Crow, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting is in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Steve Batty and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (October 25, 2013) a motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Patricia (Pat) Gross to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Steve Batty reported that the McCook public library renovation project did not get finished last year. There were problems finding brick that would match on the inside and outside and with the weather, they had to wait to lay the brick on the outside; Steve said the project should be completed in four to five weeks. Steve attended a strategic planning workshop in Hastings on January 4. He suggested to Jody Crocker, McCook public director, that the library should market programs for senior citizens to help with cognitive functions.

Pat Gross reported that Jan Brett, author of the book *Cinders*, visited the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library in November. Pat visited the Mitchell Public Library and met with director Maryruth Reed. The Mitchell library was supposed to start a remodeling project but the \$300,000 raised thus far is not sufficient to begin. Gering Public Library will start a Lego Club on February 11. Children in grades K-6 will be invited to the library after school to construct their creations. The Club will meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. In Bushnell, two sisters have opened a bookstore in a renovated barn. April 23rd is World Book Night, which highlights literacy for children; an event is being planned at the Kimball Public Library.

Michael LaCroix reported on the water damage at the Wahoo Public Library. A water pipe burst due to the cold temperature. The library was flooded and significant damage was done to parts of the structure. Temporary space is being sought. It is expected that a major portion of the

collection will be recovered. Michael said that many community volunteers have been helping out. Oakland Public Library is one of nine Nebraska libraries named a star library by *Library Journal*. Sump Memorial Library in Papillion had an author fair on January 11. There were 30 local authors and publishers and over 150 people in attendance. LaVista Public Library will host an intellectual freedom program in March. Tekamah Public Library reopened in December after being closed for five months for renovations. Snyder Public Library has a new director, Caley Carnahan.

Molly Fisher reported that Lincoln City Libraries will host the 30th Annual Spelling Bee in March, a fundraiser for the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors. The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries will host Wine & E, an event including an auction with proceeds going to the foundation in support of Lincoln City Libraries. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Love Library will add a coffee shop as part of library re-design and renovation work. Molly said that she has been working with the One Book One Nebraska project; there has been a lot of interest especially for book discussions.

Sherry Crow reported that she just returned from Uganda where she delivered about 500 children's books. Sherry said that state legislation requires that anyone getting an endorsement in the state must take the Praxis II test. In order to work in a school library an endorsement is required along with a teaching certificate. She is working with a group of people to assure the test is an adequate and fair test for students. The Meridian Library System held a winter workshop on January 6 at the University of Nebraska Kearney. January 20 is the Cowgirl Peg Sundberg author tour at Meridian Library System. April is the month for the Meridian system's "Week of Weeding" project. Thomas County Library in Thedford has received sufficient donations to pay off their remodeling project expenses. Ainsworth Public Library is switching automation systems from Follett to Book Systems.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that Sue Biltoft, Commission business manager, has retired. Her replacement is Jerry Breazile, who was most recently served in a business manager position with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Diagnostic and Evaluation Center.

Library Broadband Technology Project – JoAnn McManus reported on the BTOP project. JoAnn distributed a draft of the final report and reviewed project highlights. The grant project officially ended on September 30. An additional three months was available for project closeout and completion of reports.

21st Century Librarian Grant Project – Wagner reported that 16 undergraduate students were awarded scholarships. This is the final year for this grant project.

Public Library Accreditation – Richard Miller and Laura Johnson are co-presenting workshops across the state. The workshop is intended to help libraries coming up for accreditation renewal this year and for those seeking to qualify for accreditation. The workshops have also attracted representatives from libraries with accreditation renewal coming up next year.

Regional Library Systems – Wagner reported that a Regional Library Systems Task Force meeting was held on November 7 in Grand Island. The Task Force discussed county configurations to make up regions with the option of either keeping the six regions or changing to five or four regions. The current contracts with the regional systems go back ten years and have been revised annually. With new regions, the contracts will need to be rewritten. Wagner said that it is likely the current contracts will be extended for a partial year until changes have been decided and can be implemented. The Task Force will next meet in February.

One Book One Nebraska – Wagner reported that Governor Dave Heineman signed a proclamation on January 16 for the 2014 One Book One Nebraska: *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by Bob Greene. One of the attendees at the proclamation signing ceremony was Rosalie Lippincott, who was a volunteer at the North Platte Canteen.

Facility Issues – Wagner reported on office space changes. Innerspace Design is providing space planning assistance. The architects have made several visits to assess space and meet with staff in order to prepare floor plans for the move from the lower level to the west ground floor space.

Nebraska Legislative Session – Wagner reported the state legislative session is underway; there are no library specific legislative issues this session.

Library Advocacy Day – Nebraska Library Advocacy Day will be held February 5.

Big Talk from Small Libraries – Michael Sauers, Laura Johnson and Christa Burns are planning and arranging this online event scheduled for February 28. Sessions and presenters have been confirmed. A detailed schedule will be available soon.

Financial Report

November and December Financial Report – Wagner reported that halfway through the state fiscal year expenditures are in line with budgeted expenditures. Though, the budget includes federal funds as an estimate. Wagner said the Library Commission's LSTA state program grant maintenance of effort appeal was not successful. About one-third of the Commission's funding comes from the annual federal LSTA state programs grant allotment. Federal funds have been allocated under a Congressional continuing resolution for partial year funding. Nebraska's LSTA allotment has not yet been determined for the remainder of the federal fiscal year.

New Business

State Advisory Council on Libraries – Rod Wagner presented recommendations for re-appointments (second term) and appointment (first term) to the State Advisory Council on Libraries:

For appointment of the following individual to a three-year term (January 2014 – December 2016):

- Abigail (Abby) Yellman, Director, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

For re-appointment for second three-year terms (January 2014 – December 2016) for the following individuals:

- Francine Canfield, Director, Baright Memorial Library (Ralston)
- Beth Falla, Director, Lied Imperial Public Library (Imperial)
- Denise Harders, Director, Republican Valley Library System (Hastings)
- Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library Director (Hyannis)
- Kara Welch, Media Specialist, Ainsworth Community Schools
- Janet Wilke, Dean of the Library, University of Nebraska Kearney

A motion was made by Steve Batty and seconded by Patricia (Pat) Gross to approve the recommended re-appointments and the appointment of Abbigail Yellman to the State Advisory Council on Libraries. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye. Motion approved.

Out-of-State Travel Request – Rod Wagner requested approval for travel to attend the American Library Association Conference in Philadelphia, PA on January 23-28. This trip also includes a one day meeting of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies on January 24. A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Steve Batty to approve Wagner’s travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye. Motion approved.

Director’s Annual Performance Review – (Executive Session) – a motion was made by Patricia (Pat) Gross and seconded by Michael LaCroix to recess as a Commission meeting and reconvene in executive session for the Director’s annual performance review. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meeting will be held on Friday, March 14. This will be a joint meeting with the State Advisory Council on Libraries.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 11:33 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe