

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

January 9, 2015

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on January 9, 2015, at the Atrium Building, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

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

Sherry Crow 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: Michael LaCroix – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Sherry Crow - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (November 7, 2014) a motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Steve Batty to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Steve Batty reported that Linda Kay Broge, a former North Platte teacher, donated \$1 million to the North Platte Public Library. McCook Public Library has received five new computers. The McCook library is working with the Art Guild to develop programs for the library's summer reading program. The McCook library also wants to bring in a genealogy group for a workshop on using Ancestry.com. The workshop would be for grades 6-8 and allow them to do research on their families. Steve said that the first meeting of the Central Plains Library System board will be held on January 21. Holdrege Public Library will hold a strategic planning workshop on January 15. Cozad Public Library will host a summer reading workshop on January 23; Grand Island Public Library will hold a summer reading program workshop on March 23.

Sherry Crow reported that both Republican Valley Library System and Meridian Library System memberships approved the merger. All legal papers have been filed and the new regional library system will be named the Central Plains Library System (CPLS) as, effective as of January 1. Sherry said that Sharon Osenga, CPLS Co-Director, spent a week at Central Valley Schools, the new school district comprised of Greeley, Wolbach, North Loup Scotia school districts, moving the libraries. Shelton Township Library is now Shelton Public Library and is under the City of Shelton as of January 1. Valentine Public Library is working towards

reaccreditation. Valentine Public schools libraries are weeding their collections. The Hooker County Library Board is addressing library accreditation.

Michael LaCroix reported Eastern Library System and Northeast Library System have merged to become Three Rivers Library System as of January 1. The office will be temporarily located in Omaha until a director is hired. Gary Wasdin, Omaha Public Library director, has resigned to become the director of the King County Library System in Seattle, Washington. Lupe Mier will be the Interim Library Director until the director position is re-filled. Wendy Anderson, Supervisor at the Elkhorn Branch of the Omaha Public Library, has retired. Marie Reidelbach, Associate Director of University of Nebraska Medical Center McGoogan Library of Medicine, has retired. The Bennington City Council has approved a \$1.1 million public library expansion. Steve Shorb has retired as director of the University of Nebraska Omaha Criss Library. Gail Formanack, Eastern Library System Director, met with a group of secondary school librarians called SNAPS (sharing, networking, and providing support); these are librarians from schools in the Omaha area that meet on a regular basis.

Pat Gross reported that the Western Library System Board will next meet on January 13. Pat attended the Gering Public Library holiday open house put on by the library friends group. On December 11 she volunteered at the children's story time celebration.

Molly Fisher reported that Lincoln City Libraries favors the Pershing Auditorium location as a site for a new main library facility to replace the current building at 14th and N Streets. Pershing is being torn down and LCL continues to promote a new location and facility in the downtown area. The Lincoln City Library Foundation will host a Sock Hop and Silent Auction in March at Pla Mor Ballroom to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The event will replace the Foundation's Wine and E fundraising event held the past several years. The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association will host its annual spelling bee event on April 23. The Southeast Library System has announced several accreditation and summer reading program workshops to be held in the region.

Diane Boyd reported that *Library Journal* published its annual recognition of Star Libraries. Diane said that nationally there are 258 Star Libraries; 7 of which are in Nebraska, including several in the northeast region. Diane reported that the Three Rivers Library System will soon conduct interviews for a new regional system director.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that Kathryn Brockmeier will be out of the office on maternity leave after today. Kathryn has done a great job completing the final report for the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant project and the report is expected to be sent off today.

Wagner said that with Gabe Kramer's internal promotion to studio manager (following Bill Ainsley's retirement) recruitment to fill Gabe's position is underway. The position was posted internally.

Lisa Kelly, Information Services Director, compiled end of the year statistical data. The Library Commission's total patron count (interlibrary loans, chats, phone calls, walk-ins, etc.) has

increased by about 1,500 in 2014. Interlibrary loans, on the other hand, have dropped yet again this year from 7,184 in 2013 total loans last year to 5,862 this year. Book club circulation went from 7,767 last year to 9,069 this year.

Regional Library Systems Reconfiguration Update – Wagner commented on the good efforts and dedication of those involved in the regional library system reconfiguration project. With that in mind it was agreed that a commendation letter be sent to those most directly involved. Sherry Crow will write a letter to express the appreciation of the Commission.

2015 State Legislative Session/Nebraska Library Advocacy Day – Wagner reported that the legislative session has begun and there are 18 new senators. The Nebraska Library Association has scheduled Nebraska Library Advocacy Day to be held on Tuesday, March 10.

First floor Space Renovation and Relocation – Wagner reported that the renovation has gone well despite a number of bumps along the way. Much of the Commission’s lower level operations have been relocated to the ground floor space (referred to by staff as the west wing). Some work remains with the studios (soundproofing, connections, heating/cooling).

Atrium Building Issues and Actions - The state Department of Administrative Services/Building Division has sent a letter to the property management regarding things that need to be addressed that the owner is not meeting in compliance to the lease agreement.

Wagner reported that the annual LSTA State Program Report was completed and sent on December 24. The One Book One Nebraska Governor’s Proclamation Ceremony will be held on January 14 at the State Capitol.

Financial Report

November/December Financial Report – Wagner reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts.

New Business

State Advisory Council on Libraries Appointments – Rod Wagner presented recommendations for appointments (first term) and one re-appointment (second term) to the State Advisory Council on Libraries for three-year terms beginning in January 2015 and continuing until December 31, 2017.

New appointment recommendations:

- Susan Franklin (Library Director, Hastings College)
- Joann Jackson (Library Director, Youth Rehab & Treatment Center – Geneva)
- Julie Pinnell (Library Director, Doane College)
- Norma Pountney (Senior Manager, Omaha Public Library)
- Matt Williams (Director, Kearney Public Library)

Re-appointment recommendation:

- Sherry Houston (Papillion resident)

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

National Library Legislative Day – Wagner reported that National Library Legislative day will be held May 4-5 in Washington D.C.

Out of State Travel – Wagner requested approval for travel to attend the American Library Association Midwinter meeting and the Chief Officers of State Libraries Agencies meeting in Chicago from January 31 through February 3. A motion was made by Steve Batty and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve Wagner’s travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Sherry Crow - aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meetings will be held March 11, 2015 and May 15, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 11:30 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe