

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

January 15, 2016

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on January 15, 2016, 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, Susan Warneke, Patricia Gross, Debby Whitehill Bloom and Sherry Crow. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Lisa Kelly, JoAnn McManus and Jennifer Wrampe.

Pat Gross 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 Michael LaCroix and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sherry Crow - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (November 13, 2015) a motion was made by Sherry Crow and seconded by Debby Whitehill Bloom to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Patricia Gross reported that she attended the Nebraska Center for the Book Celebration of Books on November 14. There was an article written in her local paper, the Scottsbluff Star Herald, on OverDrive. The article was written by Maunette Loeks, Digital News Editor. The Morrill Public Library was given a donation to purchase Wi-Fi capable HD TV to use with their children's programming. The donation was given by the local rotary club. The Gering Public Library had their annual open house for the community and Pat met the two new library board members, Dr. Alan Johnson and Suzanne Myers.

Debby Whitehill Bloom reported that the Columbus Public Library is building a library and cultural arts center. They have raised \$2 million of the \$17 million it will cost to build. The Sorensen Branch of Omaha Public Libraries received a \$1 million gift from Virginia Schmidt. Omaha Trinity Lutheran has a program where they go to six different elementary schools and read to the 2nd graders once a month and each child receives a book. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Love Library is undergoing a \$10 million renovation. Debby read an article that there was a resurgence of used book stores and sales are rising. Laura Marlane, Director of Omaha Public Libraries, has a column in the Omaha World Herald where she promotes libraries

and talks about new information tools. Debby read an article on library usage at all library branches in Omaha. W. Dale Clark branch had the most usage with almost 500,000 visitors from September 2014 to August 2015.

Michael LaCroix passed around the Three Rivers Library System newsletter showing an article about new Commissioner, Susan Warneke. Keene Memorial Library has a new director, Noelle Neff. Bancroft Public Library also has a new director, Lesa Bargman. The Three Rivers System will be implementing a new service model. They will be hiring four System Peer Coordinators. This service model seeks to foster a team approach through collaboration and shared learning to deliver system services to public libraries. University of Nebraska at Omaha has hired Dave Richards as the new library Dean. Hank Bounds, University System president has pledged \$500,000 to libraries to buy system wide access to databases.

Susan Warneke spoke at a faculty meeting at Norfolk Lutheran School on accessing databases in December; three teachers from Norfolk Public School also sat in on the discussion. Norfolk Public Library has a garage that they use to store the many donated books they receive; a few years ago a first edition Tarzan book was found in one of the boxes. This past fall the Foundation decided to get it appraised and sell it. The book was appraised at around \$200-\$250, placed on EBay and sold for \$1200. She attended the Norfolk Library Foundation meeting where they discussed the Norfolk Public Library expansion project. The sales tax increase went into effect in April 2015 and has accrued about \$1.9 million; to reach their goal of \$7.4 million in a 36 month period they need \$205,000 or more monthly in revenue from the ½ cent sales tax and they have met that and exceeded it. Plainview Public Library is working on the interior of their building.

Sherry Crow reported that the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival will be held January 19-23. The featured storytellers are Kate Campbell and Ed Stivender. She has been working on an article from research in Uganda and Colorado Springs on the information seeking behavior of students who are intrinsically motivated for information seeking.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that Allison Badger has started the Cataloging Librarian position on 1/11/15. Interviews will be held for the CE Coordinator will be held at the end of the month.

Information Services – Lisa Kelly reported on the activities of Information Services. She passed around a handout introducing the Information Services team; Bonnie Henzel, Lynda Clause, Mary Geibel and Mary Sauers. Her team is the first presence with walk-ins and phone calls. They do chat, email, phone and walk-in and try to answer questions within 24 hours. This past year they had over 29,000 contacts with librarians and customers. In 2006 they started doing book club kits. Lisa said they have over 1,054 kits, including fiction, non-fiction, young adult to adult. Her team is also responsible for the Library Science collection held at the Commission; these items are checked out to libraries and library science students in the state with no overdue fines. Aimee Owen coordinates the Friday Reads blog, every Friday a staff member will post a

review on a book they have read. State and Federal documents are also part of Lisa's team. The Library Commission is a depository for State Documents. Inter-library loan is something the team does on behalf of all small libraries that can't do it themselves. Lynda Clause takes care of ILL. Mary Geibel takes care of the Job Line; jobs are posted for the state of Nebraska and surrounding states. Aimee Owen also updates the Omnibase, an in-house database that populates several pages for library catalog sites, directors' names, emails etc.

Grant Proposals Update – JoAnn McManus reported on the Internship Grant Program. She received 47 applications from 36 libraries, this includes the Lincoln and Omaha branch libraries. She passed out a hand out showing numbers from the past eight years of the grant program. Grants were not given in 2015, the previous three years the money came from the Laura Bush 21st Century program. Now the funds are being allocated from LSTA funds. JoAnn stated that 25 libraries would be receiving a grant. It was originally stated that the Commission would grant up to \$25,000, but will now grant up to \$31,000. Each library is granted up to \$1,000. Libraries can use those funds to pay for a single intern or multiple interns. Interns must be high school or college students. One of the goals is to expose students to the work of librarians and hopefully switch their career path to librarianship.

Grant Proposals Update – JoAnn McManus reported on some grant opportunities she is working on. IMLS has leadership grants available. There is \$12 million to grant in two different cycles. The grant money would go to developing 4 circulating innovation ____ kits. The kits would include laser and vinyl cutters, computers, tablets loaded with productivity and advance software, proto type kits, textile kits, micro controller devices, 3-D printers and basic tools. The kits would circulate to public libraries for up to 2-4 months at a time. The Commission is working in partnership with Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska Innovation Campus, Regional Library Systems on this grant proposal. Do Space has also been asked to be a partner. A two page proposal needs to be submitted by February 2. On March 15 we will find out if it has been accepted and invited to submit a full proposal which is due June 1. If IMLS wants to fund the project a notification will be sent September 1 and if funded the project will start on December 1. This could be up to a three year project.

State Advisory Council on Libraries – Rod Wagner reported that the State Advisory Council held their meeting on November 20, 2015. A topic of discussion was “The Future of Nebraska Libraries.” That topic came about in consideration of some national studies and reports related to libraries and also the American Library Association's new Libraries Transform campaign. Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Radio aired some stories about the future of Nebraska libraries. The library stories involve interviews with a number of Nebraska librarians. The Library Commission assisted NET producers in developing their library story series. The Council's next meeting will be March 8. Kate Borchman Hassebrook completed her term. She had served on the Council for six years.

State and Federal Legislative Outlook – Wagner reported on LB969 which was introduced by Senator Larson on January 14 giving city councils, mayors or village boards more control over the operation of the library. Previously, all public libraries were required to have personnel policies and administrative matters subject to approval of their city councils and village board. This would give the city councils and village boards more say in how libraries actually spend the

money that is approved for their use. Currently when the city sets their budget for the year, an amount is set for the library and the library board or staff would spend as they choose for operations, materials etc. There is a provision that allows cities and villages to reform and make the library board advisory rather than administrative or governing. Legislative committees will conduct hearings January 19 – March 3.

Andy Pollack is the new Nebraska Library Association Lobbyist. Andy is an attorney in Lincoln. He has also been the Executive Director of the Public Service Commission.

Nebraska Library Advocacy Day will be held on March 8. National Library Legislative day will be held on May 2-3. Big Talk from Small Libraries webinar will be held February 26. Christa Burns will be coordinating this event. The Proclamation ceremony for One Book One Nebraska 2016 was held on January 13. *The Meaning of Names* is the selection for this year and author Karen Shoemaker was in attendance.

Financial Report

November-December Financial Report – Wagner reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts. Governor Ricketts presented budget adjustments during his state of the state presentation. The Commission was not on the list for adjustments.

Library Services and Technology Act Appropriations FY 2016 – Wagner reported the federal government approved a budget for the full fiscal year, October-September. The Commission has not received actual dollar amounts. Funding for LSTA went up slightly. Last year the amount was \$154.8 million and went up this year to \$155.8 million.

New Business

State Advisory Council on Libraries Appointment – Rod Wagner presented a recommendation for appointment (first term) to the State Advisory Council on Libraries: Charlene Rasmussen from Wayne, NE.

A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Susan Warneke to approve the recommended appoint to the State Advisory Council on Libraries. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sherry Crow - aye. Motion approved.

Director's Annual Performance Review – (Executive Session) – a motion was made by Sherry Crow 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; Debby Whitehill Bloom; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Library Commission Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2016

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meetings will be held March 9, May 13, 2016 and July 8.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Patricia Gross at 12:30 p.m.

Jennifer Wrampe