

## NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

January 26, 2018

### MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met January 26, 2018, 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, Debby Bloom, Charles Peek and Susan Warneke; Molly Fisher and Sandy White (via phone). Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe, Holly Woldt, JoAnn McManus. Public: Tom Rolfes

Michael LaCroix 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 Charles Peek and seconded by Susan Warneke to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke - aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Minutes:** (November 16, 2017) a motion was made by Debby Bloom and seconded by Susan Warneke to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke- aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

**Charles Peek** reported that Broken Bow Public Library will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 27 to celebrate completion of the library's renovation and expansion project. Kearney Public Library has many classes and events going on. One of the Kearney library's services is Book a Librarian where a patron can reserve a time with a librarian to sit down at a computer and the librarian will offer personal technical assistance. Peek said that there has been a lot of newsletter advertising in the Central Plains Library System region about the Library Innovation Studios project.

**Susan Warneke** reported on the Norfolk Public Library expansion. The new addition space is now being used while renovation work continues in remainder of the building.

**Debby Bloom** reported that Omaha Public Library has a Virginia Frank Memorial Writing Contest underway. Contestants create a work of fiction from a book character. Winners receive a cash prize and certificate. Dinosaur is visiting the Omaha library branch locations. Papillion Public Library offered a superhero party for children. University of Nebraska at Omaha Criss Library is presenting "Meditation Demystified: Awakening Our Full Potential" workshop on February 1-2. The UNO library also has several technology workshops planned in the spring. Bellevue Public Library held a winter café for young adults with beverages, games, painting, study, and chat. The Bellevue library also had a Slimetacular where children made fluffy slime.

Bellevue library is holding Seed Starter classes. Plattsmouth Public Library has several events planned including Bingo, a Harry Potter interactive movie night, Free Book February for kids to receive a free book every time they come in to visit.

**Molly Fisher** reported that Southeast Library System has several workshops scheduled. Lincoln City Libraries is competing in a national reading challenge in hopes to receive \$10,000 to benefit a community reading program. The challenge is being sponsored by Mark Cuban. Cuban selected 100 libraries to read 55,000 books and has pledged to donate \$25,000 to First Book. If Lincoln wins, the library will initiate a Begin with Books program to provide books to low income children. Lincoln City Libraries has a program called Writers Write for middle school students. The program involves writing under the guidance of several writers. The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries will hold its annual fundraiser, Wine & E, on April 21. The annual spelling bee fundraiser will be held in the fall.

**Sandy White** sent a report via e-mail. Broadwater Public Library started an after school club. Lied Scottsbluff Public Library moved its children's Christmas Party "Merry Christmas, Splat the Cat" to a larger venue due to the high number of attendees. Mitchell Public Library had a local children's book author book signing for "Mable Grace Says..." Sidney Public Library kicked off its Library Innovation Studio makerspace with a well-attended open house on December 5. Training on makerspace equipment started on January 8. Teachers and students in the community are excited to have the makerspace available. Alliance Public Library Foundation opened a bookstore within the library that looks very inviting.

**Michael LaCroix** reported that Three Rivers Library System (TRaiLS) has promoted the Library Innovation Studios project in its newsletter. Youth Library Services grants have been awarded to seven TRaiLS libraries. Eleven Nebraska public libraries are recognized as Star Libraries by *Library Journal*; six of those libraries are in the TRaiLS region. Eric Jones has been appointed as the new Executive Director for the Three Rivers Library System.

## **Director's Report**

*Personnel* – Rod Wagner reported that Amanda Sweet moved from the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service to the Technology & Access Services team. Amanda served as a Reader's Advisor in TBBS. Amanda fills the Technology Innovation Librarian position. Recruitment is underway to fill the TBBS Reader's Advisor position; the application deadline is February 2.

*IMLS Sparks Grant Application* – Holly Woldt (NLC Technology Support Specialist) and Tom Rolfes (Nebraska Information Technology Commission Education Information Technology Manager) reported on the IMLS Sparks Grant Application. The Nebraska Library Commission, in collaboration with the State Office of the Chief Information Officer, plans to use the SPARKS Grant of \$25,000 to partner with and incentivize five rural public school districts and five rural public libraries to create a mini-consortium E-rate application model that will dramatically increase the frequency of applications and funding to rural public libraries in Nebraska and to work together to increase the internet speeds at the public library. The grant application was submitted January 16; if the grant application is approved the time frame for this project will be from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019.

*Library Innovation Studios Grant Project Update* – JoAnn McManus reported the first cycle is underway and the project team is preparing for cycle two. Sample books have been made to be given to the library director and extension coordinator for the upcoming cycles. JoAnn presented slides showing the equipment provided to libraries and the activities and projects the libraries have been doing.

*State Legislative Outlook* - Wagner reported there are no state legislative bills that were introduced or carried over from last session that are specific to libraries. There are a couple of freedom of speech related bills that were introduced this session: LB718 regarding free speech policies at Nebraska's public funded postsecondary colleges and universities and LB886 regarding student journalism at the higher education level.

*Museum and Library Services Act of 2017* – Wagner reported the bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate recently with bi-partisan sponsorship to make minor changes to the Museum and Library Services Act. The intent is to reauthorize the MSLA which has expired but has continued through the annual appropriations process.

*One Book One Nebraska Proclamation Ceremony* – Wagner attended the OBON proclamation ceremony at the State Capitol on January 22. Tessa Terry also attended to take photographs. The OBON proclamation was one of only two presented that morning as weather caused many organizations to miss the governor's proclamation signing ceremony. Mary K. Stillwell, co-editor of the 2018 OBON selection, Nebraska Presence, also participated in the ceremony.

*Nebraska Library Advocacy Day* – Wagner reported that Library Advocacy Day will be held March 6. There will be a 10:00 briefing at the Capitol followed by a noon luncheon at the Cornhusker Hotel. The State Advisory Council will hold its meeting at the Cornhusker Hotel following the luncheon.

*2018 Nebraska Book Festival* – Wagner reported the Nebraska Book Festival will be held at the UNL City Campus Union on August 25. Wagner and Mary Jo Ryan are on the festival committee.

## **Financial Report**

*December Financial Report* – Wagner commented that tax revenues continue to fall below expectation. The Library Commission's expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts.

*LSTA FY 2018 Appropriation Status* – Wagner reported the governor's budget recommendation for the Library Commission and the appropriations committee's preliminary budget recommendation are the same with a 2% reduction in state funds for the current fiscal year and 4% next fiscal year. The Library Commission's budget hearing is scheduled to be held on February 6.

## **New Business**

*State Advisory Council on Libraries Appointments* - Rod Wagner presented recommendations for appointments (first term) and re-appointments (second term) to the State Advisory Council on Libraries for three-year terms beginning in January 2018 and continuing until December 31, 2020.

New appointment recommendations:

- Jessica Chamberlain (Library Director, Norfolk Public Library)
- Pat Gross (Bayard resident)

Re-appointment recommendation:

- Susan Franklin (Library Director, Hastings College)
- Joann Jackson (Fairmont resident)
- Julie Pinnell (University Librarian, Nebraska Wesleyan University)

A motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Susan Warneke to approve recommended appointments to the State Advisory Council on Libraries. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Motion approved.

*Out-of-State Travel Request* – Wagner requested approval to attend the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting on February 9 and the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting February 9-12 in Denver.

A motion was made by Debby Bloom and seconded by Charles Peek to approve the travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

*Next Meeting Dates* – The next Commission meetings will be held March 9 and May 11. The March meeting may be changed in coordination with Nebraska Library Advocacy Day scheduled for March 6.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Michael LaCroix.

Jennifer Wrampe