

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

July 10, 2015

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on July 10, 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, Susan Warneke, Molly Fisher and Sherry Crow. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan, Jennifer Wrampe and Tessa Terry.

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 Molly Fisher and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (May 15, 2015) a motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sherry Crow – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Molly Fisher reported that there is a new director at the Mead Public Library (Lori Moseman) and also at the Fairbury Public Library (Deborah Aden). Deshler is constructing a new library building. Molly also reported that the Southeast Library System has held workshops throughout the summer on library security, collection management, library policy, programming and outreach. Molly said library summer reading programs were going strong and that there is an opportunity for participants to win a scholarship of \$529 through the state's college savings plan administered by the Nebraska State Treasurer and managed by the National Bank of Omaha. Molly mentioned that the Lincoln City Libraries had a couple of events in addition to its summer reading activities. The Gere Branch Library re-established its "Reading to Dogs" program; also, two libraries in Lincoln are participating in the summer food program where they provide lunch to under-served populations, ages 2-18. In addition, The One Book One Lincoln book selection was announced during the Memorial Day weekend. The book chosen is "Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a novel. The book is a story about an exchange student who comes to study here and stays for a number of years, she then goes home and realizes that everybody calls her "Americanah". There were three finalists this year, "Americanah", a non-fiction book titled "Just Mercy" and a sci-fi book, "Station Eleven" and all are considered great reads. Molly also commented on the One Book One Nebraska selection "Death Zones and Darling Spies" and how much she enjoyed reading it.

Susan Warneke said that the Norfolk public library expansion project is currently in a waiting period. The half percent sales tax went into effect on April 1; the city is monitoring these funds to see if the pacing will keep on track for the project. Architects have been selected and final planning and drawings will take place around November of this year with construction to begin more seriously in 2017 while earth work will take place next year.

Sherry Crow reported that she had just returned from a research trip to India; intrinsic motivation for information seeking in elementary age children. Sherry said she received a report from Sharon Osenga about regional library system activities. All of the Meridian Library System accounts have been closed out, and the accountant is preparing the final federal tax forms. A Pioneer Consortium Automation System meeting was held in Holdrege. Golden Sower kits have been re-instituted. Denise Harders and Sharon Osenga worked with Holdrege Elementary School to weed their three library collections as they prepare to consolidate in a new super school. Judy Henning helped to weed the Kearney Senior High Library which is another collection moving this fall. Sherry stated that the annual Central Plains system meeting is scheduled to be held July 24 at Central Community College in Grand Island. Christa Burns will provide a presentation on “cool tools.” Sherry said the region anticipates a number of new school librarians this fall. Sherry commented that there had been lots of inquires this spring about the librarian program at UNK. Sherry also said the Central Plains system is co-sponsoring the Youth Services Retreat with the Southeast and Three Rivers library systems September 3 and 4 at Camp Carol Joy Holling (Ashland).

Michael LaCroix said that the Schuyler Public Library is partnering with the Center for Rural Affairs and Hispanic Business Group to offer computer classes in Spanish. The Omaha Public Library has two candidates for the directorship position coming to meet the public next week. The Friends of the Bennington Public Library received a \$25,000 grant towards renovation and expansion. The Genoa Public Library received a \$1,000 grant to cover additional staff hours while the library works towards accreditation. Neligh Public Library received a \$45,000 grant to digitize the past Neligh newspapers. Blair Public Library received a USDA rural development grant of \$49,000 towards its new building. The Norfolk Public Library’s 21st annual Literature Festival is coming up on July 25.

Director’s Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that Tan Ngo has filled the vacant accountant position and Tessa Terry has filled the staff assistant I position. Aimee Owen is back from family leave and is now working with the Reference team. Christa Burns has moved from her position with the Technology and Access Services team and will be working with the Library Development team to provide additional consulting support and training. The Commission has a new Reader’s Advisor, Cecilia Ramsey, who is filling Aimee’s former position. Interviews are taking place for the Technology Innovation Librarian position and recruitment is underway for the Cataloging Librarian position.

American Library Association Conference – Wagner reported that both he and Michael LaCroix attended the conference in San Francisco. There were 25,000 involved in this year’s conference. Rod and other state librarians were invited by Sara Jones, former Nevada State Librarian and

currently Director of Marin County Free Library, to visit the San Rafael Civic Center which was designed Frank Lloyd Wright. The Marin County headquarters library is located at the Civic Center. Rod said he spent the majority of his time at the conference in United for Libraries programs and meetings, including the Finance and Audit committee meeting and United board meeting. Other events included an author's tea sponsored by Reference USA. Wagner also serves on the ALA legislative committee subcommittee which is involved in recruiting advocates for federal library legislative issues.

Library Commission Grant Programs Update – Mary Jo Ryan said JoAnn McManus has been working on the final report to the FINRA Foundation. This is a grant to provide financial education to the public through libraries; they worked with 22 libraries where financial classes were offered as well as library staff training. The educational curriculum is available online and anyone in Nebraska has access to it, even though the grant is coming to an end. Mary Jo said she had contacted the state's Department of Administrative Services, which provides training for state employees including financial training, and told them about this curriculum and how to access it.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Mary Jo said Nebraska Center for the Book board One Book One Nebraska committee members have started to read the books nominated for 2016. There is a nomination period for the first half of the year. Any Nebraska resident may nominate a book. We ended up with 32 books from 49 nominations. Nominated books must have a Nebraska connection (author, publisher, subject, etc.) to be considered. The 2015 book choice was written by Beverly Deepe Keever. Keever was born in Nebraska and attended UNL Journalism School. The books are divided up among the committee members and then recommendations are made that will lead to 4-5 being selected for the final decision by board members. The announcement for the 2016 selection will be made at the Celebration of Nebraska Books event on November 14. There is a Library Commission meeting scheduled on November 13 which may make it easier for Commissioners to attend. Mary Jo said the Nebraska Book Awards competition entries closed at the end of June with 91 submissions. Mary Jo said that she will attend the National Book Festival over Labor Day weekend in Washington, DC. The Library Commission will have a booth there to promote Nebraska authors. Mary Jo said that every state is asked to select a children's book to represent the state. Nebraska's book selection is last year's children's book award winner. For this year the book is Bruce Arant's "Simpson's Sheep Won't Go to Sleep." Arant plans to attend the Festival.

State Legislative Issues – Wagner said there have been some issues that have come up over the past several years resulting from the changes in statutes that require public libraries to have their personnel policies approved by city councils, village boards, or county commissioners/boards of supervisors. Some of those boards and councils have taken that further and applied the statute to all library policies. Wagner said that this was not the intent of the statute change and has caused tension between some library boards and city/village boards and councils. Wagner said he hopes to meet with Nebraska League of Municipalities representatives to discuss the issue and seek a resolution. If a resolution cannot be made legislation may be sought to clarify the intent of the statute. Wagner stated there has also been concern about the Nebraska public records laws and the aspect that impacts the State Historical Society, libraries and museums. This aspect involves requests made for documents or records and the limits on how much agencies can charge to

cover expenses for finding records and responding to these requests. There may be state legislation sought to address this issue.

Financial Report

May/June Financial Report – Wagner requested that the commissioners look over the reports and if they have any questions he would refer them to Jerry Breazile. The fiscal year has been completed as well as the Biennium. Wagner said he had no news about the federal LSTA appropriation at this point. It is likely that the full year appropriation will not be decided until after the start of the new federal fiscal year beginning in October.

New Business

Pay Increase – Wagner requested approval for a 2.25% pay increase. Most state employees received this pay increase automatically on July 1, but agency heads' salaries must be approved by their appointing authorities. A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Susan Warneke to approve Wagner's pay increase request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher - aye. Motion approved.

New Commission Chair and Vice Chair – Rod Wagner stated that the July meeting brought about the election of the Commission Chair and Vice Chair for the current fiscal year. Sherry Crow called for nominations for Commission Chair. Sherry Crow nominated Patricia Gross. Michael LaCroix moved that nominations cease. A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Molly Fisher for Patricia Gross to serve as Commission Chair. Motion carried on roll call vote: Susan Warneke – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye. Motion approved.

Sherry Crow requested nominations for election of Commission Vice Chair. Molly Fisher nominated Michael LaCroix for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Sherry Crow. With no objections Sherry Crow called for a vote. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meetings will be held September 11 and November 13, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 10:40 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe