

**Nebraska Library Commission
Lincoln, Nebraska
June 11, 2012**

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on June 11, 2012, at the Nebraska Library Commission offices. Notice of the meeting was posted on the State Public Meeting Calendar and the Nebraska Library Commission website.

Commission members present: John Dale, Charles Gordon, Sheryl Crow, Patricia Gross; Steve Batty and Diane Boyd both via telephone. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, Sue Biltoft, Mary Jo Ryan and Kathryn Brockmeier. Public present: Kathleen Tooker.

Chair John Dale 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 Gordon and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve the agenda. Motion approved on roll call vote: John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (May 11, 2012) – A motion was made by Patricia Gross and seconded by Charles Gordon to approve the minutes as amended. Motion approved on roll call vote: John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye. Motion approved.

Public Forum – Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System director, commented that a Library Leadership Institute reunion will be held on July 13 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The reunion will include a morning program presented by Joan Giesecke and Nancy Busch followed by lunch with time for reports from the institute graduates. The Eastern Library System annual meeting was held on June 8 and Sally Snyder attended from the Commission. Jeff Barnes presented a program on the *Texture of the Royal Buffalo Hunt of 1872*. The Eastern Library System and Southeast Library System will hold a colloquium on June 28 at the LaVista Conference Center. Students from UNO will give a presentation with discussion to follow. Tooker commented on some library director changes within the Eastern Library System region: Linda Oyster, Waterloo Public Library, and Frankie Kirkwood, Valley Public Library, are both retiring.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

John Dale said that the summer reading program in Lincoln is a great success. John said that the Lincoln City Libraries also has a teen summer reading program and one for adults.

Charles Gordon commented on an article in the Fremont newspaper about the new North Bend public library opening with a dedication on June 23. The Fremont public library is preparing for John C. Fremont days, to be held July 13-15. Charles said that about 50,000 people participate in

this event. The Fremont public library sponsors “Lemonade on the Lawn” with a poet or speaker program.

Sherry Crow reported that the Meridian Library System annual meeting will be held on June 22. Sherry noted several librarians from the region who are retiring: Jeanne Bergsten and Sandy Mahalek, from the Kearney public schools libraries; Nancy Jack, Wood River Public Library, and Jan Weber from Ord Jr/Sr High School. Sherry said that Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System director, has been working with schools on weeding projects and also with the Overton Public Library on their remodeling project.

Patricia Gross reported that Abigail Yellman, the new Scottsbluff public library director, was previously the director of a combined school and public library. Pat assisted at the Scottsbluff public library with registering and guiding students for the summer reading program. There were over 1,000 children and young adults registered on the first day. The Panhandle Library System’s annual meeting will be held on July 20 in Chadron at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center. The speaker is Sarah Polak, director of the Mari Sandoz Center.

Steve Batty said that the McCook public library’s summer reading program has 209 children enrolled. Steve said the Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival was held in McCook and the library provided a program. The Republican Valley Library System annual meeting was held on June 1 at the Dancing Leaf Lodge near Wellfleet, Nebraska with over 35 in attendance.

Diane Boyd reported that the South Sioux City public library’s summer reading program is going well.

Director’s Report – Rod Wagner stated that the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries consortium now has 109 participating libraries with additional libraries indicating their intent to join. Wagner said that Commission staff members Christa Burns and Michael Sauers have been asked to contribute a chapter to a forthcoming book on *eLearning and Libraries*. They will contribute a chapter on the Library Commission’s [NCompass Live](#) program.

Wagner noted summer events and activities. A [Tech Rodeo](#) will be held July 26-28 at Doane College. The program is an outgrowth of the 21st Century Librarian scholarship program. The program can include up to 50 participants and near that number is expected.

Wagner mentioned the [Technology Planning Summer Camp 2](#). This program is part of the library broadband (BTOP) project. The tech planning camp will be held at three different locations and on three different sets of dates: August 21 & 22 in Grand Island; September 5 & 6 in Norfolk and September 11 & 12 in Ogallala. Wagner asked Richard Miller to comment on the program. Miller said that the program will emphasize planning for sustaining technology and services beyond the grant period.

Mary Jo Ryan reported on a meeting that she and some other Commission staff had with Brent Gaswick from the Nebraska Department of Education. The meeting involved discussion of Nebraska resources that can be used to produce electronic content. Gaswick’s main interest is fourth grade level Nebraska history. However, his project has a much larger audience. The

project involves partners from all over the state: state agencies, local organizations, businesses, and individuals. Gaswick is setting up a distribution center where materials can be distributed. There are currently two books on the project website, one is a book that tells about the project and the other is about the Homestead National Monument (near Beatrice). These books are iBooks that include video, animation, social networking links, Google maps, and interactive forums. They are created on a Macintosh computer and can only be viewed on an iPad.

Mary Jo Ryan also provided an update on the 21st Century Librarian scholarship program and application process.

Financial Report

May Financial Report – Rod Wagner commented that there are only a few weeks left until the end of the state fiscal year. There is no definite information on LSTA program funding for next fiscal year. Wagner said that it is expected that federal appropriations will not be made until after the November elections and possibly not until the new Congress convenes in 2013.

LSTA Maintenance of Effort Waiver Request Status – The Commission has not received a response yet in regard to the LSTA state maintenance of effort waiver request that was submitted in May.

Unfinished Business

Public Library Guidelines Revision Project Update – Richard Miller reported on the public library guidelines revision project and highlighted some of the program background and proposed changes. Miller said that the current guidelines are divided into three levels of attainment: Essential, Enhanced and Excellent. The guidelines committee recommendation for these levels is to change to Bronze, Silver and Gold. The guidelines will be combined on one list rather than three separate ones. The proposed sections are Governance/Planning, Resources, Services and Cooperation/Collaboration. This format will allow libraries to more easily focus on their unique accomplishments and individuality of their communities.

LSTA Five-Year Program Evaluation & LSTA Five-Year Plan 2013-2017 – Kathryn Brockmeier reported on progress toward completion of the LSTA five-year plan. Kathryn said that Commission management has a strong role in shepherding the process and staff has contributed to the activities, indicators and measures, processes and working with a strategic plan – some for the first time.

Kathryn reported on the LSTA plan with the results of surveys that sought responses from Commissioners, State Advisory Council and Library members, and Commission staff. An environmental scan was conducted taking into account information reported in the staff survey. A needs assessment is being composed and discussion was held on agency goals and objectives.

New Business

State Employee Pay Policies (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) – Rod Wagner reported on state employee pay policies for the coming fiscal year. The Governor’s state employee pay policy provides a 3% increase for non-labor contract personnel (administrative, supervisory, and managerial staff). For employees covered by the labor contract (a majority of the Commission staff), the contract provides a 2% salary increase on July 1. State employee salary changes are covered in a separate state appropriation that was made during the 2012 legislative session. The appropriation is allocated to state agencies and added to agency appropriations. Pay changes are automatic with the exception of agency heads and non-classified personnel. Pay changes for those employees are determined by their appointing authorities. Due to the state employee pay increase approved by the Governor, and in reference to a salary increase for Library Commission director Rod Wagner, a motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Pat Gross to go into executive session at 11:25 a.m. At 11:27 a.m. a motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Pat Gross to come out of executive session. A motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve a 3% salary increase for Rod Wagner effective 7/1/12. Motion approved on roll call vote: Charles Gordon – aye; Pat Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; John Dale – aye. Motion approved.

Next meeting: Date Scheduled (September 14); Date Recommended (September 7) – Rod Wagner proposed a date change for the September Commission meeting. Wagner suggested changing the meeting date from September 14 to September 7. The earlier meeting date requested is due to the date for biennium budget submission on September 15. The change to the earlier meeting date was approved by consensus.

John Dale adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Mary Geibel, Secretary