

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

June 30, 2017

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met June 30, 2017, 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, Molly Fisher, and Susan Warneke; Sandy White and Charles Peek via GoToMeeting. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter and Jennifer Wrampe.

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

Approval of the Minutes: (May 12, 2017) a motion was made by Susan Warneke and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White- aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Molly Fisher reported that the Nebraska Book Festival will be held in Lincoln on July 14-15. Molly attended the World War I and the Legacy of Propaganda program at Seward Memorial Library on June 22. Summer reading programs are being held at many libraries throughout the Southeast Library System. The Youth Services Retreat, sponsored by the regional library systems, will be held September 7-8 at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland.

Susan Warneke No Report

Debby Bloom visited with the Omaha Public Library Millard branch teen librarian. The library hosted "Millard's Got Talent." A panel of judges rated the variety of acts from 0-100 and awards were given for first, second and third places. This teen group won second place in the Heartland Region Robotics Competition; four high school students coached thirteen middle school students as the only non-school based team in the competition that was held at the Mid America Center. The Student Government developed a constitution that's a framework for their operations. Debby also visited with Jodi Norton, Assistant Director, LaVista Public Library. LaVista Public Library recently hired a teen coordinator, Elizabeth Brown. New interns were hired using the NLC Internship Grant. The library reaches out to daycares and kids' clubs; the girls' book club at the Mercy low income housing area chose the book *I Am Malala: How One*

Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World. The Lions Club provided the books. In the fall, the adult program will host two book clubs and expand the Read-Aloud program at the community center for seniors. Those living outside of LaVista pay \$7 per month, \$35 for 6 months, or \$60 annual fee to receive a library card. The Bennington Library had author Betty Akin speak about her books, *Sandhills Dreamer* and *Native Love*. Another speaker was Janet Syas Nitsick who spoke about her book, *The Bride List*. Charlotte Endorff was the speaker in April and spoke about her book *Nebraska Spirit: The North Platte Canteen*. In May, the library had a stuffed animal sleepover. Debby also talked with Krissy Reed at the Gretna Public Library. The library is split into two buildings – the children’s library and adult library. The staff must rotate between the two facilities. The facilities are not open at the same time. The Summer Reading Club is involved in make, build and create activities. The Gretna Public Library staff appreciates the continuing education classes and online webinars the Commission provides. The library hopes to have its budget approved by the city with a slight increase to use towards paint and furnishings. The library doesn’t have room for equipment or programs so they use the basement of the city building. The building also houses a senior center. The Friends of the Library group sponsors book sales which bring in approximately \$200 a month.

Sandy White participated at the Sidney Public Library via GoToMeeting. Pat Gross, former Western Library System Interim Director; Jan Jolliffe, new WLS Director; Andrew Sherman, Sidney Public Library Director, and Stephanie Mika, Sidney Public Library Office Manager joined her. Sandy said that libraries in the Western Library System are busy with summer reading programs. The WLS Annual meeting will be held July 18 in Lewellen. There are many activities planned for the solar eclipse in August. Sidney Public Library received a grant from the STAR_Net program for 1000 pairs of viewing glasses and has invited all elementary schools for a viewing party at the library; there will be 600 students and teachers in attendance. The public is also invited. Chadron Public Library will host Lakota story time July 6-9.

Charles Peek complimented the Central Plains Library System (CPLS) for its newsletter which reports many events and activities that are going on throughout the region and the state. The CPLS annual meeting will be held July 7 in Ravenna; Dan Holtz is the keynote speaker.

Michael LaCroix recently completed a three year term as a board member of United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. ALA and United for Libraries have established Book Club Central. Sarah Jessica Parker has been named Honorary Chair. Michael attended the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago June 23-27. The Three Rivers Library System annual meeting will be held August 3 in Weeping Water. Columbus Public Library is hosting an Author Fair. The Kreutz Bennet Donor Advised Fund has given grants to three libraries in the TRLS region: Albion Public Library received \$1,000 toward a maker space; Pierce Public library received \$2,000 for purchase of movies, books and games; the Walthill Public Library received \$15,000 towards construction of a meeting room and reading space.

Director’s Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that Jan Jolliffe started in her new position as Western Library System Director.

LSTA National Leadership Grant Project Update – Wagner reported that the Library Innovations Studios project (LSTA National Leadership Grant) officially starts July. The three year project

will end June 30, 2020. Libraries are being recruited to participate in the project. Thirty rural libraries will be selected. Recruitment is underway to fill a project staff assistant position. The position will be funded by the grant. Grant funds will also support a position that will be located at the Nebraska Innovation Campus – Nebraska Innovation Studio.

Wagner also reported that the Library Commission is a sub-award recipient of a project submitted by Nebraska Extension for a National Science Foundation grant. The project is maker space and research related.

American Library Association Conference – Wagner attended the conference July 23-27.

NLA/NSLA Conference - The NLA/NSLA conference will be held in Kearney October 11-13.

Celebration of Nebraska Books – Wagner reported the Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held October 21 at the Nebraska History Museum. The program will follow the Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting.

Christa Porter reported that First Book, a nonprofit organization that provides new books and learning materials to schools and libraries, reached out to the Library Commission to offer funds for Nebraska libraries that meet support criteria. Funds for purchase of books come from Pizza Hut's share of sales contributions that yielded \$7,000 for Nebraska. That amount allowed for items to be purchased from First Book's marketplace. Sally Snyder purchased many different books and games that will be distributed to libraries around Nebraska. Eligibility to receive these items is based on community economic data.

Financial Report

May Financial Report – Wagner commented that this is the last day of the state fiscal year. The new fiscal year will start with a significant reduction in the Commission's operating budget, which will be managed largely by extending position vacancies and a few staff positions that are 100% state funded will now be partially supported with federal funds. The LSTA state grant award for the remainder of the current federal fiscal was received; the total annual grant is \$1,384,479.

2017-2019 Biennium Budget Request Update – Wagner reported that the main line appropriations bill was passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor on May 9.

Unfinished Business

LSTA Five-Year Plan – A copy of the five-year plan was sent to Commissioners prior to the meeting and discussion was held. A motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Susan Warneke to approve the LSTA Five-Year Plan. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Office Space Lease – Rod Wagner and Jerry Breazile met with Ann Tanner, Commercial Lease Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, and Kerin Peterson, Atrium Building Manager, to discuss office space lease renewal. The owners have proposed

improvements including repainting, new carpeting, upgrading restrooms and the heating and cooling systems. The proposal includes retaining current annual lease rates at current rates for the first two years of the renewal with percentage increases each year after.

New Business

Regional Library Systems' Funding Allocations – A proposal was presented for the distribution of funds for the four regional library systems for Fiscal Year 2018. Wagner stated the proposed allocations are based on the same amount of funds for the current fiscal year in total. However, adjustments are included that result in allocation changes among the four regions. A motion was made by Debby Bloom and seconded by Sandy White to approve the proposed distribution of funds to the Nebraska Regional Library Systems. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Chair – Molly Fisher nominated Michael LaCroix to continue as Commission Chair, seconded by Debby Bloom. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Vice-Chair – Susan Warneke nominated Debby Bloom to continue as Commission Vice-Chair, seconded by Charles Peek. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

2017-2018 State Employee Pay Policies – Wagner reported that most state employees received an automatic 1% pay increase on July 1. Agency directors and other non-classified personnel are not included in the automatic pay change; their pay is determined by their governing bodies. Wagner requested that he receive a 1% pay raise effective July 1. A motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the salary request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meetings will be held September 15 and November 16 (Thursday).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Michael LaCroix.

Jennifer Wrampe