

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

March 12, 2019

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met March 12, 2019, 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, Charles Peek, Debby Bloom, Arun Pondicherry, and Lois Todd-Meyer. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe. Michael LaCroix called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Debby Bloom and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (January 11, 2019) a motion was made by Arun Pondicherry and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Arun Pondicherry – said he visited Lincoln's Gere and Walt branch libraries and met with staff. The libraries have a program called "2019 Winter Reading Challenge" where patrons are asked to read 2.5 million minutes during the month of January. Another current program is "Dad Up and Read", encouraging fathers to read 15 minutes a day with their children. The Lincoln libraries also have a "Teens and Tweens" program for children fifth grade and up held every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:00.

Debby Bloom – no report.

Lois Todd-Meyer – said that in her teaching at Southeast Community College – Milford campus she had students do research and engaged the librarians in helping. The librarians were excited about the interactions with the students.

Charles Peek – said Kearney Public Library is hosting Nature Night @ the Library, a partnership with the Audubon Center at the Rose Sanctuary. The *Plains Speaking* newsletter has an article promoting "Full Steam Ahead" workshops. The Kearney Public Library newsletter included information promoting makerspaces and several local history programs.

Michael LaCroix – spoke with Eric Jones, Three Rivers Library System director. The System is gearing up for summer reading programs. Eric is continuing to promote scholarships. TRLS is providing for continuing education. Michael offered his compliments to Christa Porter and

other NLC staff that worked on the Big Talk from Small Libraries online conference. The TRLS newsletter has been promoting Basic Skills classes and encouraging libraries to work toward certification and accreditation. The TRLS Peer Coordinators have formed a group – DISPEL (Directors Sharing Practice Experience and Learning).

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that Holli Duggan, Continuing Education Coordinator, is currently away from the office on family leave. Shoshana Patocka was recently hired to fill the cataloger position. Shoshana will begin work at the Commission on April 8.

Library Commission Budget Hearing and State Legislative Issues – Wagner reported that the Legislature's Appropriations Committee recently issued preliminary biennium budget recommendations. The recommendations for the Library Commission are comparable to the Governor's recommendations. The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Board will next meet on April 25, which is shortly before the Appropriations Committee submits its budget recommendations to the Legislature. Wagner said that the Library Commission's annual LSTA state program report, submitted in December, included state expenditures that fell 4.8% below the state maintenance of effort requirement. Unless a waiver is requested and approved, a reduction of funds from the LSTA Grants to States program of as much as \$70,000 could be expected next federal fiscal year.

Library Innovation Studios Project – Wagner said that the *Lincoln Journal Star* recently published a front page article about library makerspaces and featured the Commission's Library Innovation Studios project. Wagner said that as a result of the article, Jim and Rhonda Seacrest donated \$25,000 to the North Platte Public Library to purchase the remaining equipment needed for the library's makerspace. The project libraries that currently have makerspace equipment include Wayne, Central City, Geneva and Kimball. There are five library openings available for the remainder of the project. Applications for the remaining openings are due by March 29.

Big Talk from Small Libraries Conference – Wagner reported the conference was held on February 22. Christa Porter organized and hosted the event. There were 458 pre-registrations and 324 logins that day. The number of registrations doesn't include everyone that participated, some locations had multiple viewers. The presentations were recorded and will be available for access.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported entries have been coming in for the Nebraska Book Awards competition; submission forms and payments can now be submitted online. Wagner said that nominations will be invited for the 2020 One Book One Nebraska program. A date has not yet been set for the annual Celebration of Nebraska Books event.

Financial Report

February Financial Report – Wagner noted that two-thirds of the fiscal year has been completed. The Commission’s overall expenditures are in line with the budget.

LSTA Appropriation and Legislative Status – Wagner said that the Museum and Library Services Act, enacted in December, includes a provision that increases the base amount for the Grants to States program from \$680,000 to \$1 million. However, the appropriation for the Grants to States program will need to increase in order for the base grant amount to increase. There is a hold harmless provision to prevent any state from having its allocation reduced due to the base amount increase. The Institute of Museum and Library Services staff has calculated that an increase of \$17 million in the Grants to States program appropriation would allow full implementation of the base amount increase.

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meeting will be held Friday, May 10.

Adjournment

Michael LaCroix adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe