

## NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

March 5, 2020

### MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met March 5, 2020, 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: Debby Bloom, Arun Pondicherry, Lois Todd-Meyer, Julia Tye, Kristin Wiebe. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe. Debby Bloom called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** (January 10, 2020) a motion was made by Arun Pondicherry and seconded by Julia Tye to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe - aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioner's Comments

**Debby Bloom** – reported the Omaha Public Library has partnered with Millard Public Schools to allow students to access the school's wireless network at the OPL Millard Branch. Friends of the Omaha Public Library book sale was held March 5 at the Swanson Branch. The Omaha Public Library and the Nebraska Writers Collective are hosting Show & Tell Story Slam. The Saddlebrook Branch will celebrate Pi Day March 14. The Florence Branch will hold an escape room program for grades 2-6 on March 14. There are month long celebrations going on for Dr. Seuss's birthday.

**Arun Pondicherry** – reported Lincoln's Bennett Martin Library is hosting a Lunch @ the Library series with different speakers. The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at the Bennett Martin Library provides tours for patrons. Taking Care of Business classes are held every Wednesday from March 4 through April 22 from 12:00-1:30 and at different library locations. The Gere Branch Library is hosting a Teens & Tweens Art Lab on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:00. The Walt Branch Library held the Lincoln Bird Encounter on February 15. The Lincoln City Libraries Bookmobile will be out every Wednesday from December 2019 – February 2020.

**Lois Todd-Meyer** – reported Lincoln City Libraries Heritage Room has an annual event where teachers can nominate eighth grade students for a writing workshop. Poets and authors come in to work with the students. This year 58 students were in attendance.

**Kristin Wiebe** – reported that Erin Aschenbrenner is the new Scottsbluff Public Library Director. The Scottsbluff library’s adult reading program had 250 participants and the library’s summer reading program had 2500 children participating. The Scottsbluff library’s makerspace has seen steady use since the grand opening in October. The Scottsbluff Friends of the Library annual meeting had 69 in attendance.

**Julia Tye** – reported the Nebraska State Literary Association banquet was held February 19 in Kearney with 270 in attendance.

## **Director’s Report**

*Library Innovation Studios Project* – Rod Wagner reported training for Cycle 7 libraries was held in Lincoln February 26 & 27. Included were the public libraries from La Vista, McCook, Pierce, and Superior. Installations and on-site training are now underway for these libraries. Open houses will be scheduled soon to introduce the project. Libraries selected for Cycle 8 are Bellevue, Cambridge, Randolph, and St. Paul. Trainings and installations for these libraries will come up in August and September. There are four remaining openings for libraries to participate. Next year there will be a concluding event at the Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln to bring together representatives from the LIS project libraries to share experiences, information and ideas.

*Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force* – Wagner reported that the Nebraska legislature’s transportation and telecommunication committee introduced a bill that follows the recommendations the broadband task force presented last October. The recommendations include employment by the Library Commission of four regional technical support positions to work with libraries to help with technical issues and assist in upgrading broadband services. It appears that there is not support from the committee for funding the positions. Even without the regional positions, Commission staff will be involved in providing support for libraries in upgrading broadband services. The Public Service Commission initiated an action in December to create a special fund to be used as an incentive and matching source for federal E-rate monies. The fund would serve as an extra incentive and source of support for fiber installation for rural public libraries.

*One Book One Nebraska 2020 Program* – Governor Ricketts presented the One Book One Nebraska proclamation on January 13 recognizing this year’s selection, *All the Gallant Men* by Donald Stratton. An NCompass Live webinar was held on February 19 to promote the book.

*National Library Legislative Day* – Wagner reported National Library Legislative Day will be held May 4-5 in Washington D.C. The House of Representatives will not be in session at that time, but the Senate is scheduled to be in session. With the current concern of the spreading coronavirus it is possible that legislative day will be cancelled.

## **Financial Report**

*February Budget and Financial Report* – Wagner reported the Commission is in line with budgeted expenditures thus far in the fiscal year. Personnel costs are the Commission’s major

operating expense. Expenditures for that category are under budgeted amounts. Personnel cost savings can be used for other budget categories. Confirmation was received for Nebraska's allocation under the LSTA Grants to States program. The FY 2020 grant is \$33,000 over last year's amount.

### **New Business**

*State Aid to Public Libraries Payments FY 2020* – Sam Shaw, Planning and Data Services Coordinator, prepared a state aid to public libraries proposal comparable to payments distributed last year. The aid payment formula includes a base amount that libraries receive and an amount based on the library's service population. There is also an incentive payment to libraries that receive county funding. Libraries that are not accredited, but submit a statistical report, are receive a \$200 payment. The proposed payments this year are \$367,000 compared to \$354,863 last year.

A motion was made by Julia Tye and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the state aid to public libraries payments. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe - aye. Motion approved.

*Out-of-State Travel Request* – Wagner requested approval to attend National Library Legislative Day followed by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting, May 4-6

A motion was made by Debby Bloom and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe - aye. Motion approved.

*Next Meeting Dates* – The next Commission meetings will be held May 8, July 10, September 11 and November 13.

### **Adjournment**

Debby Bloom adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe