

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska
May 17, 2013

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on May 17, 2013, at the Library Commission office, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Steve Batty, Patricia (Pat) Gross, Charles Gordon, Sherry Crow, Diane Boyd, Molly Fisher. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, John Felton, JoAnn McManus, Laura Johnson, Sue Bilstoft.

Steve Batty, chair, 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 Molly Fisher to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Steve Batty - aye; Sherry Crow - aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Molly Fisher - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (March 8, 2013) a motion was made by Sherry Crow and seconded by Diane Boyd to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Steve Batty attended the Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) Conference in May at the LaVista Embassy Suites & Conference Center. There were over 2000 attendees. Steve noted the excellence of the programs. Steve said that in two years the conference will move to the CenturyLink Center in Omaha due to the conference's growing attendance. Steve also attended National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C. on May 7 & 8.

Molly Fisher attended the Nebraska Book Festival on April 5 & 6. Molly noted that the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association (NLHA) will hold its annual meeting on May 19. She said that Southeast region libraries are busy preparing for summer reading programs. The Southeast Library System will hold its annual training extravaganza at Union College on May 23.

Diane Boyd reported that Northeast region public libraries in Hartington, Central City, and Atkinson have received 5 star ratings (*Library Journal* Index) each of the past five years. Diane commented that the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries raised \$168,000 for the Lincoln City Libraries.

Charles Gordon reported that the Fremont public library friends' book sale exceeded \$12,000 in sales. Charles said that the Fremont public library has begun work on a strategic plan.

Sherry Crow reported on the storm damage to the UNK Library. The storm resulted in damage to 6,500 books. Janet Wilke, Library Dean, and her staff responded quickly and arranged for library materials to be stored in freezers to prevent mold from starting and allow time to inspect books in order to decide whether to replace them. The Learning Commons and College of Education books were not affected. Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System director, and Denise Harders, Republican Valley Library System director, led a library personnel policy workshop. The Nebraska Library Leadership Institute is scheduled for August 5-9 at the St. Benedict Center near Schuyler. Buffalo County is dissolving townships and Shelton Township Library will hold meetings to determine the library's future (alternative funding and governance). The Maltman Library in Wood River received a grant for three new laptop computers. The Meridian Library System annual business meeting is set for July 31.

Patricia Gross attended a workshop at Scottsbluff Public Library using the laptop computers received from the Commission's library BTOP grant. Both Scottsbluff and Gering public libraries are providing technology workshops using the BTOP grant provided laptop computers. Panhandle region libraries are also busy getting ready for summer reading programs.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that Holly Woldt, BTOP IT Support Manager, will begin a permanent position at NLC when the Broadband project finishes in July. A significant part of her work will involve providing technology advice and support to libraries. Holly's position will be moved to the Commission's computer services team. Evelyn Kubert, who was a member of the reference and interlibrary loan services team, has retired; Lynda Clause has replaced her. Lynda comes to the Commission from the Lincoln City Libraries.

Library Broadband Technology Project – JoAnn McManus reported on the BTOP project. JoAnn distributed a project summary report and noted highlights. The grant expires at the end of July. However, a two month extension will be requested to allow additional time to complete project activities. Additional time is also allowed for completing final grant project reports.

State Aid to Public Libraries – John Felton distributed a report detailing state aid requirements and payment details. John said that 174 libraries received state aid payments; 80 of these libraries also received an incentive payment for funds received from another government entity. In addition, 40 libraries received Dollars for Data grants (unaccredited libraries that submit annual library statistical reports). John noted that state aid to public libraries payments totaled \$363,618.

National Library Legislative Day – Rod Wagner reported that he attended, along with other state librarians, a meeting on the White House grounds in the Executive Office Building, while in Washington for National Library Legislative Day activities. The meeting was held with the staff of the President's Domestic Policy Council. The meeting was facilitated by Susan Hildreth, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Presentations were given on major presidential initiatives – Early Childhood Literacy; STEM – educational emphasis on Science

Technology, Engineering, Math; Immigration; and Health Insurance (Affordable Healthcare Act). Emphasized was the fact that libraries provide public services and are key partners for each of these major policy initiatives. Wagner commented that when making visits to the Nebraska Congressional offices as part of National Library Legislative Day it is important to not only meet with Senators and Representatives but to also meet staff who work with the policies and legislation related to library programs. Wagner noted that Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, representing Nebraska's first congressional district, received the American Library Association's Public Service Award presented as part of National Library Legislative Day activities. The award is presented annually by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, to a Senator or Representative who has demonstrated leadership and support for libraries.

Wagner reported that the Commission's lower level office space has had water problems over a number of years. A few months ago there was a major leak in one of the pipes located in the ceiling above an area that houses digital talking book cartridges. These materials are largely irreplaceable. The Department of Administrative Services/Building Division, the entity that leases the space, was asked to assist in addressing water problems. Building Division staff has gone over the lease and believes there is sufficient basis for vacating the lower level and relocating. Wagner said there is a substantial section of pipe that needs to be replaced and the building owner wants to have the opportunity to repair the plumbing. The building owner/manager has arranged to have the pipe replaced. There have also been recent plumbing problems in the lower level women's and men's restrooms.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported that the Nebraska Book Festival was well attended with excellent presentations. The festival was held at the alumni center at the University of Nebraska Omaha (Thompson Center). Wagner said that the Mildred Bennett Award is presented at the Festival and was awarded this year to Jane Renner Hood, former Director of the Nebraska Humanities Council. Wagner said that nominations are being accepted through mid-June for the 2014 One Book One Nebraska selection. The OBON 2014 selection will be announced at the Nebraska Center for the Book annual meeting and Celebration of Books this fall.

Financial Report

March/April Financial Report – Wagner reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts at this point in the fiscal year. The current biennium ends on June 30. Wagner said that the 2013-2015 biennium budget will be enacted soon with the legislature scheduled to adjourn in early June. Once the appropriations bills are enacted they will go to the governor's office for possible vetoes. Wagner said that there will be a 2.25 percent pay increase for state employees beginning on July 1. The Commission's appropriation, based on funds included in the 2013-2015 biennium budget, includes funding to cover scheduled office space lease cost increases. The appropriations committee included additional funds to cover expected online database subscriptions fee increases. The biennium budget also includes \$150,000 per fiscal year in state funds for the Nebraska eReads project, money to be used for purchase of e-books and digital audiobooks.

LSTA FY 2013 and FY 2014 Appropriation Status – Wagner stated that LSTA appropriations and allotments have been determined. As a result, Nebraska’s allotment was reduced by \$31,000 from last year’s funding level. Wagner said that Nebraska’s state expenditures were below the LSTA state programs maintenance of effort (MOE) level this past year. He said this should be the last year the Commission fails to meet the MOE requirement as state funding has stabilized and the Commission will meet the requirement this year. An MOE waiver request will be submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. A draft request was sent on May 15, 2013. The purpose of the draft is to provide a review with informal response by IMLS staff prior to the state’s submitting the final request. The final request is due by June 30, 2013.

Unfinished Business – Richard Miller reported on the Public Library Accreditation Guidelines Revision project. Miller explained that the primary basis for the revised guidelines is local planning. Miller, Laura Johnson and regional system administrators have been working together to produce informational videos about strategic planning. The videos address each section of the guidelines. The videos will be available online and for use in workshops to be held in locations across the state. Miller said that 51 public libraries are up for accreditation this year. Libraries are accredited over a three-year period. Miller requested that a thank you note to task force participants be sent on behalf of Commission members.

A motion to approve the revised Accreditation Guidelines and to send a thank you letter to the guidelines revision committee was made by Diane Boyd and seconded by Sherry Crow. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Diane Boyd – aye. Motion approved.

New Business

Acting Commission Chair for July Meeting – Steve Batty said that since he will not be in attendance at the July Commission meeting and Charles Gordon’s term ends in June, an acting chair is needed for the July meeting. If a replacement has not been appointed by the Governor for Charles prior to the July meeting, he will return to chair the meeting. Sherry Crow offered to chair the next meeting if Charles has not been replaced by that time. A motion was made by Patricia (Pat) Gross and seconded by Diane Boyd for Sherry Crow to serve as acting chair for the July Commission meeting. Motion carried on roll call vote: Steve Batty – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meeting date was confirmed to be held on July 12.

Rod Wagner expressed appreciation to Charles Gordon for serving on the Commission and presented him with a Nebraska Navy Admiralship, an engraved letter opener and a poetry book.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Steve Batty at 11:08 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe