

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

May 16, 2014

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on May 16, 2014, at the Atrium Building (Conference Room), 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Sherry Crow, Michael LaCroix, Molly Fisher, Diane Boyd, Patricia (Pat) Gross and Steve Batty. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller and Jennifer Wrampe.

Guests: Denise Harders, Francine Canfield, Scott Childers, Sarah Warneke, Sharon Osenga and Dorothy Willis.

Sherry Crow, 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 Diane Boyd and seconded by Steve Batty to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (March 14, 2014) a motion was made by Patricia (Pat) Gross and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Pat Gross reported that the Panhandle Library System held a Summer Reading Workshop on March 26 at Gering Public Library. Abby Yellman, Director of Scottsbluff Public Library, received the Young Careerist award. Pat attended the Panhandle Library System Board Meeting on May 13 and some new board members were elected - Ruth Walker, Mitchell Public Schools; Stephanie Mika, Scottsbluff Public Library; Mary Ruth Reed, Mitchell Public Library; and Kathy Terrell, Morrill Elementary School. Sue Shaver, Hemingford Public Schools, will be retiring, but she will continue to fulfill her commitment to the Panhandle Library System Board. The Panhandle Library System annual meeting will be held on July 22 at Bridgeport. Mary Henning and Judy Henning will be the speakers at the meeting.

Michael LaCroix reported that Valley Public Library held a reception for their volunteers during National Library Week. They also started a "Geek the Library" marketing campaign. LaVista Public Library has partnered with Project SEARCH, a program for high school students that are mentally challenged; one of the students is now volunteering at the library. The Eastern

Library System worked with the University of Nebraska at Omaha and held a school librarian training day on March 29. Almost 70 school librarians attended. Yutan Public Library has moved into a new building. Jamie LaRue spoke at the ELS/SELS Spring Colloquium on April 28. The Eastern Library System's Annual meeting will be held on June 6 at the Westside Community Center.

Molly Fisher attended several of the Regional Library Systems Configuration Task Force meetings and webinar. Southeast Library System had a Training Extravaganza on May 15. The Plum Creek Literary Festival has an opportunity to win \$25,000; May 16 was the last day to vote. Southeast Library System Friends group had a fundraiser at James Arthur Vineyard. William Bragg's last day as the SELS Administrative Assistant will be May 20. The community of Byron has raised \$1 million for a community center that includes a library.

Diane Boyd reported that South Sioux Public Library added 8 new computers.

Steve Batty attended the Nebraska Educational Technology Association conference in LaVista April 24-25. The Republican Valley Library System Summer Reading Program workshop was held at the Holdrege Area Public Library on March 17. Denise Harders, RVLS System Director, has developed "Workshops on Demand". They are two-hour workshops on various topics that she presents to librarians. Hastings Public Library has kicked off their final year of fundraising for the planned \$5 million renovation project. Hildreth Public Library opened its newly expanded and completely renovated library on May 11. The new space has double the square-footage of the previous library. The RVLS Annual Meeting will be held June 6 at the newly renovated McCook Public Library. A tour of the local Frank Lloyd Wright house will be part of the meeting. The Willa Cather Foundation will host the 7th annual Prairie Writers' Workshop May 14-18 in Red Cloud. Award winning author Paula Bosco Damon will conduct a non-fiction writing workshop May 20 at the Kearney Public Library. McCook Public Library will have an open house on June 9.

Sherry Crow invited Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System Director, to report on activities in the Meridian region. The Meridian system held its 4th annual Week of Weeding April 7-11. 4,005 items were weeded by libraries within the region. There are a couple of new library directors – Joyce Bauer at Farnam Public Library and Erica Teel at Rock County Public Library, Bassett. There are a few school consolidations – Spalding and Cedar Rapids are joining to form Riverside Schools; North Loup Scotia and Greely Wolbach are joining to form Central Valley Schools. The City of Shelton will be taking over the Shelton Township Library in January 2015. Sherry reported that she attended the Nebraska Educational Technology Association Conference in LaVista April 24-25. She also attended National Library Legislative Day May 5-7 in Washington D.C.

Unfinished Business

Regional Library System Configuration – Rod Wagner reported that there were a number of meetings held regarding Regional Library Systems Configuration following the March Commission and Advisory Council meetings. Richard Miller and Wagner attended regional library system board meetings to discuss the Task Force recommendations. A webinar was held

on April 22 to present information about the Regional Library Systems Configuration Task Force report and to provide an opportunity for questions and discussion. The Regional Library System Task Force offered two options - a four-region configuration and a five-region configuration. Wagner recommended the four-region configuration option with an alternate to move Thomas, Logan, Lincoln, Frontier, and Red Willow counties into the central region in order to reduce the coverage area. Wagner also offered an alternate to include Cass county in the southeast region and Saunders county in the eastern/northeast region. Sherry Crow referred to a letter received from Robin Clark, Nebraska Library Association President, and sent to Commission members expressing her concerns about regional system changes. It was suggested that a Commission member and a task force member write and send a letter in response to Robin's letter.

A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Molly Fisher to have Sherry Crow and Francine Canfield write a letter in response to Robin Clark's letter to the Commission board. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Steve Batty to approve the four-region configuration, leaving Cass and Saunders counties in the original four-region configuration option and moving Thomas, Logan, Lincoln, Frontier, and Red Willow counties from the western region to the central region. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates –Wagner reported that John Felton will be retiring at the end of June. Wagner acknowledged John for his many and outstanding contributions to the Library Commission.

National Library Legislative Day – Wagner, along with Commission Chair Sherry Crow, attended National Library Legislative Day May 5-7. Manya Shorr, representing the Nebraska Library Association, joined with Sherry and Rod for Legislative Day activities that included briefings and meetings with Congressional staff and senators. A document was distributed regarding library related legislative issues and policies.

Building Lease and Space Issues – Wagner reported that he and other Commission several other staff are continuing to work with the Department of Administrative Services Building Division on plans for re-locating lower level workspace to the ground floor. The building owner has received a bid from the contractor that will be renovating the ground floor space.

Nebraska Book Festival – The Book Festival was held April 25-26 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Thompson Alumni Center. The keynote speaker was Don Welch. The festival featured readings and remarks from authors who published books during the past year.

Financial Report

March/April Financial Report – Wagner reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts. Wagner reported that state auditors are at the Library Commission at this time. The audit should be completed within the next few weeks.

New Business

Out-of-State Travel Request – Rod Wagner requested approval for travel to attend the American Library Association Conference in Las Vegas, June 27-30. A motion was made by Patricia (Pat) Gross and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve Wagner’s travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meetings will be held July 18, 2014 and September 12, 2014.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 11:23 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe