

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

May 13, 2016

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on May 13, 2016, 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, Patricia Gross, Debby Whitehill Bloom, Molly Fisher, Susan Warneke and Sherry Crow; Staff present: Rod Wagner, Sam Shaw, and Jennifer Wrampe.

Pat Gross 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 Michael LaCroix and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Susan Warneke - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (March 9, 2016) a motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Susan Warneke - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Debby Whitehill Bloom reported that she had talked with Roxanne Cox of the University of Nebraska Medical Center McGoogan Library. UNMC uses several websites and resources provided by the Library Commission and the Commission has been very supportive in providing these resources over the years. She also contacted the Dean of Instruction at Midland University who asked if the Library Commission had done any work with open source information literacy self-guided models. The Bennington Public Library is participating in Omaha Gives for its library expansion. The Bennington library has a social networking group and Legos at the Library. Omaha's Bess Johnson Elkhorn branch is offering free STD and HIV testing. Testing is sponsored by the Douglas County Health Department. There is a Library Strength Training Workshop scheduled for June 3 at the Club at Indian Creek; Michael Sauers, Do Space technology director, is one of the speakers and will talk about the 2016 International Consumer Electronics Show held in Las Vegas.

Susan Warneke reported that while working with Madison County's juvenile court it has become apparent that in a number of instances families are having difficulty finding information about court processes, and numerous families in the court system do not have access to a

computer at home nor do they have smartphones. This has prompted Susan and the juvenile attorney to explore what libraries have available to support these needs. The Norfolk Public Library expansion project is on hold right now due to some earth issues that arose in early spring. Norfolk Public Library will participate in the Big Give on May 24, 2016. The Plainview Public Library has opened its new library. Susan has started contacting libraries in northeast Nebraska, particularly the smaller libraries, to see what's going on in the library beyond what can be read in the regional newsletter.

Sherry Crow reported that she attended National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. She also commented on the article she wrote comparing cultures of the children in Colorado Springs and Uganda. The article was recently published in the *School Library Research* journal of the American Association of School Librarians, http://www.ala.org/search-results?as_q=sherry%20crow%20uganda.

Molly Fisher reported that Give to Lincoln Day is May 26. The Southeast Library System friends' organization held a fundraiser on May 12. Nebraska City Public Library is one of fifty public libraries selected for a "Thinking Money" traveling exhibit. David City's Hruska Library hosted a successful program on growing vegetables in a container with over 80 in attendance. The Auburn Public Library held a mother/daughter tea on April 30 with 44 queens and princesses attending. The Seward Public Library hosted a training extravaganza on May 13. Golden Sower Reading Day is set for May 27. Nebraska Literary Heritage Association held its annual spelling bee fundraiser and raised about \$5,000. Lincoln City Libraries Summer Reading Program will start May 20.

Michael LaCroix reported that the Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival will be held July 30. Michael said that one item highlighted in the Three Rivers Library System newsletter was coloring themes in many libraries. The Three Rivers Library System announced that Tammi Thiem, Genoa Public Library director, has been selected as a System Peer Coordinator. She will be serving the counties of Antelope, Madison, Boone, Nance, and Platte.

Pat Gross reported that the Western Library System continues recruitment for a new director. Gering Public Library had a successful Friends of the Library used book sale in April during National Library Week. Pat participated in a 6-week adult reading program at Scottsbluff Public Library, "Exercise Your Mind." Alliance Public Library has an annual silent auction. This year's theme is "Read Around the Posies" where you can decorate a terra cotta pot, fill it with flowers and it will be included in the auction. Proceeds go to the Alliance Public Library Foundation. Chadron Public Library has free yoga classes. Ogallala's Goodall City Library is hosting a youth literary craft class during the month of May. New York Times best-selling author Rinker Buck will be visiting the Scottsbluff Public Library on June 16. Scottsbluff Public Library has a "100 Best Books" wall for children. Each reader who completes the "100 Best Books" will receive a "100 Best Books Champion Reader" bumper sticker or yard sign.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that Cecelia Ramsey, TBBS Readers Advisor, will be leaving the Commission staff. Cecelia’s last work day at the Commission will be May 20. Wagner said that telephone interviews are scheduled with a few Western Library System director applicants.

Library Data and Planning – Sam Shaw, Planning and Data Services Coordinator, reported on library data services activities. Data is collected, cleaned, and published. The data is compiled for a variety of uses – research, analysis, planning, evaluation, peer comparisons, etc. The primary data collection method is the Annual Public Library Survey. Public library data is collected as part of a national program through the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Each state library agency collects data from that state’s public libraries and submits the data to IMLS. The Library Commission uses an online collection tool named Bibliostat. Once the survey launches in November, libraries can log in online and submit their data. Sam reviews the data to identify any inconsistencies or errors. He provides information, instruction, advice, and other support in helping libraries complete the survey. The data collection cycle ends in February. Once all the data is collected, it is submitted to IMLS. IMLS will then compile and publish the data. The data compilations can be accessed online via the IMLS website. The IMLS provides a tool that can be used to compare data between libraries. The data is also used by the Commission for library accreditation and state aid.

LSTA National Leadership Grant Proposal Update – Wagner reported that the Commission’s preliminary proposal for a National Library Leadership grant did not result in an invitation to submit a full application this round. Comments were received from those who reviewed the grant proposal. Work has not stopped on the proposal and a conference call has been arranged with the IMLS program officer to discuss the reviewers’ comments. The intent is to determine what changes in the proposal should be made in submitting a new or revised proposal for the next grant cycle. Wagner stated the staff project team is also considering other funding options for the project.

Wagner attended a meeting held at University of Nebraska Omaha that was called by the Omaha Public Library (OPL) and Omaha Public Schools (OPS). The OPL and OPS are working on a collaborative partnership project to include the public libraries and school libraries within Douglas County for cooperative collection development, processing, database licensing, and delivery services. An intent is better use of resources and cost savings. There is intent to include other Douglas county schools and libraries at a later time.

On May 17 there will be a presentation at Gere Branch Library to announce the NEST 529 College Savings plan scholarship drawings that are associated with the Summer Reading Program. The money will go to children who participate in the Summer Reading Program. Winners will be drawn later this summer. There will be winners from each of Nebraska’s three congressional districts. The scholarships are in partnership with the Nebraska State Treasurer. First National Bank of Omaha is the program manager.

National Library Legislative Day – Wagner reported that Sherry Crow, Michael LaCroix, Steve Fosselman, Julee Hector and he participated in National Library Legislative Day activities

including a briefing day on May 2 and Congressional office visits on May 3. Congress was not in session at the time. Senators and representatives were back in their home states. As such, the Nebraska library representatives met with the staff of the senators and representatives.

Nebraska Center for the Book - Wagner reported that Sherry Houston is the current president. The Celebration of Books will be held October 29 at the Nebraska History Museum. The Letters about Literature luncheon was held on April 6 at the Nebraska Club. A ceremony was held prior at the capitol where Governor Ricketts presented certificates to the winners and issued the proclamation for National Library Week.

Nebraska 150 Book List – Wagner reported on a project associated with the Nebraska Sesquicentennial. A committee selected by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association selected 150 Nebraska related books to represent the best of Nebraska related writing and publishing. Posters were made and sent to over 700 libraries, bookstores and museums. Erin Willis, Curator of the Lincoln City Libraries Heritage Room, headed up the committee that was involved in the book choices. Devra Dragos, from the Library Commission staff, serves on the committee.

Financial Report

March-April Financial Report – Wagner reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts. Being the first year of the biennium funds not spent by the end of the fiscal year are carried over to the second year of the biennium.

New Business

FY 2016-17 Regional Library System Budget Allocations – Wagner recommended that regional library system funding for the 2016-2017 fiscal year be allocated at the current fiscal year amounts. Funding for the current year and state appropriations are the same. Wagner said that an increase in LSTA funds is not expected for the coming federal fiscal year beginning October 1. Funding for regional library systems includes both state and federal LSTA funds.

A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the recommended Regional Library Systems budget allocations. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Susan Warneke - aye. Motion approved.

Out of State Travel – Wagner requested approval for travel to attend the Western Council of State Libraries meeting in Tacoma, WA June 12-14. Travel expenses will be reimbursed by the Western Council. A motion was made by Susan Warneke and seconded by Debby Whitehill Bloom to approve the travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Susan Warneke - aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meetings will be held July 8 and September 9.

Special Recognition – Rod Wagner thanked Pat Gross and Sherry Crow for their two terms of service. They were presented with Admiralships in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska (provided by Governor Ricketts) and Karen Shoemaker’s book *The Meaning of Names*.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Patricia Gross at 11:29 p.m.

Jennifer Wrampe