

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska

October 25, 2013

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on October 25, 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: Patricia (Pat) Gross, Sherry Crow, Michael LaCroix, Molly Fisher, Diane Boyd and Steve Batty. Staff present: Rod Wagner, JoAnn McManus, Mary Jo Ryan, Devra Dragos and Jennifer Wrampe. Public: Scott Childers (Southeast Library System).

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

Approval of the Minutes: (September 13, 2013) 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; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Steve Batty – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Steve Batty reported that he attended the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association Annual Conference October 9-11. Steve said the McCook Public Library renovation project is on schedule and should be completed by the end of November. The renovation includes a parking lot, a second entrance, a stairway to the lower level and an elevator. Almost \$900,000 was spent, most of which came from the McCook Library Foundation. The lower level will include the children's crafts center; the non-fiction and reference materials will be housed there; and additional computers were received through the BTOP grant will be located in the lower level.

Molly Fisher reported that One Book One Lincoln book discussions have been going on; other special programs are on the Lincoln City Libraries website. The Harvest of Books started in October; it is a program run by retired teachers. The program provides a book to every third grader in Lincoln. Molly said that she met with Scott Childers, Southeast Library System Director, on October 18. She suggested to him that the regional systems might want to have a grant writing workshop sponsored by Humanities Nebraska. Scott said that he has traveled around and made introductions at various libraries. Molly said that Seward Public Library recently opened up its lower level. The lower level includes a large meeting room with a full

kitchen, a die-cut room, a genealogy room and the entire adult collection. Deb Robertson, the new York Public Library director, will start work on October 28. The York library will be closed the first couple of weeks in November to begin renovations. Byron is looking to build a new community center/library building; they are starting the grant seeking process.

Diane Boyd reported that nine scholarships were given to librarians in the Northeast region to attend the Association of Small and Rural Libraries Conference in September. Sheila Cermak, Northeast Library System Assistant, has left the system for a dispatcher position with the Nebraska State Patrol. Cindy Simon, Tilden Public Library, has arranged for space in the library for artists to display and sell their artwork. Schuyler has purchased a new location for the public library. House Memorial Library in Pender will be renovating and adding on to the library. Central City Public Library will purchase 120 books through a memorial donation from the family of Lucy Hudgens. Hudgens was a library aide at the junior high school. The library wants to ensure that children start school with a love of books. The books will be housed in a special book case and area called Lucy's Garden. If children read all 120 books they will receive a certificate and a new book to keep.

Michael LaCroix mentioned the United for Libraries newsletter, *The Voice*, and observed that Rod Wagner is the current President of United for Libraries. Michael said that he will be the liaison to the ALA Education Committee for United for Libraries.

Pat Gross thanked the Commission for allowing her to attend the NLA/NSLA Conference. Pat said that the Dalton Public Library friends group had a fundraiser with wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. The Bridgeport Library is in the middle of a \$200,000 renovation project. Pat said that she visited the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering to give them information about the Library Commission's Nebraska Memories website and database. Sidney Public Library held a Job-a-Like on October 21. Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is hosting workshops every Tuesday, titled "Technology Tuesdays." The workshops continue an activity started during participation in the BTOP grant. Jan Brett, author of *Cinders*, is on tour to promote her book and will hold a program at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library on November 13. The Scottsbluff Library Foundation is having a book sale on November 2-3.

Sherry Crow reported that approximately 450 people attended the NLA/NSLA conference in Kearney. Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System director, sent a report about new school librarians in the area – Amy Pinney at Greeley-Wolbach, Jennifer Ramsey at Ord Schools and Alicia Lassen at Overton. Dib Pritchard is the new director at Spalding Public Library. Several libraries are automating or changing vendors. Finch Memorial Library in Arnold has purchased Library World; Rock County Library in Bassett has purchased Alexandria; Ainsworth Public Library is looking to purchase either Book Systems or Alexandria. Meridian Library System and Republican Valley Library System have jointed to submit a Youth Services Grant to bring in Cowgirl Peg Sundberg. The regional library systems sponsored a pre-conference at the NLA/NSLA Conference, *Breaking Down Barriers with Excellent Customer Service: Body Language and Social Barriers*, presented by Theresa Dickson with 44 participants. Sharon Osenga attended the Mountain Plains Library Association Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The University of Nebraska Kearney Calvin T. Ryan Library received more water

damage due to heavy rains. Sherry published an article in *Teacher Librarian* in October titled “Researching Stuff is the Best.”

Director’s Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that Jan Anderson, TBBS Readers Advisor, will be retiring on November 14, 2013. Jan has been with the Commission for more than 25 years. Wagner said that Christa Burns was awarded the NLA Presidential Award at the NLA/NSLA Conference.

Library Broadband Technology Project – JoAnn McManus reported on the BTOP project. JoAnn distributed a progress update report and reviewed project highlights. The grant project officially ended on September 30. An additional three months is available for project closeout and completion of reports. Mary Jo Ryan reported on *Books are Just the Beginning*, a marketing initiative developed as part of the project and intended to convey the message that libraries offer multiple services.

Technology & Access Services – Devra Dragos commented that one of the reasons Christa Burns received the NLA Presidential Award is recognition for her work with online conference and meetings using the Go To Webinar software that the Commission subscribes to and uses to support meetings, conferencing for librarians or library related groups. Christa has helped many groups such as the NLA board, sections and roundtables to use the software for their meetings. This is in addition to Christa’s work in arranging and conducting weekly NCompass Live webinars, serving as the Commission’s E-Rate coordinator, and assisting with special projects.

Devra also reported on Technology & Access Services staff training activities. She and Allana Novotny have provided ADA training for librarians in nearly 80 libraries involved with the BTOP grant. Michael Sauers and Susan Knisely have presented 24 introductory training sessions on eBooks and eReaders since November 2011. Michael has also presented an advanced eBook session.

Devra said that Christa Burns will be starting E-Rate training to be held at several locations around the state beginning in November. Christa recently traveled to St. Louis for training related to E-Rate policies, procedures, and issues. Last year 87 Nebraska public libraries applied for and received E-Rate funding (telecommunication services discounts).

Devra reported that cataloging rules have been revised in the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR) manual. Many revisions have been made to take into account new formats like eBooks, computer pages, and websites. The new rules are called Resource Description and Access (RDA). Emily Nimsakont, NLC Cataloging Librarian, has held several training sessions on RDA.

The Big Talk from Small Libraries online conference will be held on February 28. Hundreds of participants from across the U.S. and beyond are expected. This is the third year for the Big Talk from Small Libraries conference.

Devra reported that NLC offers website hosting for public libraries. The hosting service is named “Nebraska Libraries on the Web.” Currently 56 public libraries and 3 regional systems websites are hosted by NLC. Devra said that the Nebraska Memories online database began in 2005 and now has 31 different collections. Software changes are being made and Devra expects the new site to be active within the next month. Devra reported that in addition to providing statewide subscriptions to databases for all Nebraska residents, Technology & Access Services staff work with vendors to obtain discounts for libraries that purchase their own database subscriptions in addition to those offered through NebraskaAccess. Database trials are also arranged for libraries in order to assess their value for purchase consideration. Devra said that her team also provides administrative support for the OverDrive Libraries group for purchase and management of a collection of eBooks and digital audiobooks. The OverDrive Libraries group has grown to include over 140 public libraries.

Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference – Rod Wagner reported that the Nebraska Library Commission awarded over 40 scholarships to Nebraska librarians to attend the conference. The next ARSL conference will be in Tacoma, Washington, in 2014 and Little Rock, Arkansas, in 2015.

Regional Library Systems – Wagner reported that a meeting was held on October 2 in Lexington with the regional library system directors and regional system board representatives. The meeting included discussion of the benefits and value of the regional systems and funding constraints due to budget reductions from state and federal sources in recent years. With the prospect of limited future funding a Task Force was formed to develop recommendations for re-configuration of regional systems with options for fewer regions. Recommendations are expected to be presented during the first quarter of 2014. The Task Force will meet on November 7 in Grand Island.

Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association Joint-Conference – Wagner commented on the new conference facility in Kearney. Several Commission staff members were involved in making presentations and many Commission staff participated in the conference. There was excellent traffic at the Commission booth in the exhibit area.

Facility Issues – Wagner reported on Commission office space issues related to lower level water problems and overall space maintenance. These issues are being addressed through the State Department of Administrative Services Building Division. ASBD administers lease agreements for state agencies.

Financial Report

September Financial Report – Wagner reported that it is early in the fiscal year and expenditures are in line with the budget. About one-third of the Commission’s funding comes from federal LSTA funds which were suspended during the time the federal government partially closed down. Wagner reported federal funds have now been appropriated through mid-January 2014.

LSTA FY 2013 and FY 2014 Appropriation Status – Wagner reported that the Institute of Museum and Library Services did not approve the Commission’s LSTA state maintenance of

effort waiver request. The Library Commission can appeal the decision. An appeal request must be submitted to the IMLS by November 30.

New Business

Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting and Celebration of Books – Wagner noted the Celebration of Books event to be held on October 26 with some of the Commission members planning to attend. Of special significance – the Library Commission will be presented the Nebraska Center for the Book’s Jane Geske Award.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meeting will be held on Friday, January 17.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 11:40 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe