

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

September 12, 2014

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on September 12, 2014, 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, Molly Fisher, Diane Boyd, and Patricia (Pat) Gross; Steve Batty via phone. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, Jerry Breazile and Jennifer Wrampe.

Guests: Stephanie Todd and Don Dunlap, Auditor of Public Accounts staff.

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

Approval of the Minutes: (May 16, 2014) a motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Diane Boyd to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Michael LaCroix reported that he attended the Eastern Library System board meeting on August 8. There was discussion on the merger of the Eastern and Northeast Library Systems. Eastern Library System, in collaboration with the Southeast Library System, hosted the annual Youth Services Retreat on September 4-5 at Carol Joy Holling Center in Ashland. Michael said that the Omaha Lit Festival "Navigating fact in fiction, past and present" will take place on September 12-14 at the W. Dale Clark Library (downtown branch).

Diane Boyd reported that Norfolk will seek voter approval for a three-year half cent sales tax increase to finance a 16,000 square foot addition and renovation of the Norfolk public library. The Northeast Library System Annual meeting will be held September 25 at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk. Nebraska State Poet, Twyla Hansen, will be the keynote speaker. The Columbus Public Library, celebrating 40 years at its current location, has completed its renovation project. Norfolk Public Library held its annual Literature Festival on July 26 at Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center. This is the longest running and second largest literary festival in Nebraska. Pilger is building a monument next to the library that is made out of building and house debris from last June's tornado.

Molly Fisher reported that the Wahoo Public Library re-opened on September 8. One Book One Lincoln is underway and the chosen book is *Light Between the Oceans* by M.L. Stedman. Molly said she will present a program about lighthouse keepers in October for Lincoln City Libraries. The Nebraska Center for the Book Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held November 8. Seward Public Library will host Melanie Benjamin, author of *The Aviator's Wife*, on September 16. Auburn Memorial Library is holding a fundraiser called Blind Date with a Book. Each book is covered and patrons can choose a book based on the description attached to it. Beatrice Public Library had a tomato tasting. They had 14 different vendors come to the library and encourage people to come learn about the various kinds of tomatoes.

Steve Batty reported that the Republican Valley Library System Annual meeting was held in McCook on June 6. The meeting included a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright House located near the library. McCook Public Library has finished the remodel and held an open house on June 9.

Pat Gross reported that Mitchell Public Library finished its remodel project and held an open house on October 2. The Goodall City Library in Ogallala is in the process of finding a site to build a new library. Chadron Public Library is working on an expansion project. Chadron State College has incorporated a coffee shop in a commons area in the Reta E. King Library. Gering Public Library has a Lego Club that was featured in the local paper. Pat attended the Panhandle Library System board meeting on September 9. The board is making plans for a children's author visit. The board is also making plans to welcome new libraries and directors that will be included within the region after the reconfiguration becomes effective in January 2015. The system is considering a name change to better reflect the new area coverage. Pat also attended the Panhandle System's annual meeting that was held on July 22.

Auditor of Public Accounts – Library Commission Report

Stephanie Todd and Don Dunlap from the State Auditor's Office attended to answer any questions about the Auditor of Public Accounts Library Commission audit report. Ms. Todd reported that there were two main issues of concern. One issue relates to the federal LSTA state grant and compliance with federal program regulations. The other issue concerns internal controls and segregation of duties related to financial administration. Work has begun to address those issues.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates –Rod Wagner reported that Sam Shaw has been hired to fill the Planning and Data Services Coordinator position. State Employee Recognition activities will be held in October. Laura Johnson was selected as the Commission's Employee of the Year and Scott Scholz as Manager of the Year. Several other employees will also be recognized for length of service.

First Floor Space Renovation – Wagner reported that work is underway to renovate space on the first floor for relocation of the Commission's lower level Talking Book and Braille Services

operations and studios. The first floor (west) space will also include a meeting/training room. Wagner said that the first floor west space should be completed before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Regional Library Systems Update – Wagner reported that he and Richard Miller attended a meeting in Fremont with the new regional board for the merged Eastern Library System and Northeastern Library Systems. Each of the boards has appointed three people to the new board and one person was recruited from Cass County that is currently in the Southeast Library System but moving to the new region as a result of regional changes. The Republican Valley Library System and Meridian Library System are also going through a similar merger process. The regional systems are all working with an attorney experienced in not for profit corporation laws.

Digital Literacy Educational Project – Wagner reported that the “Technology for Librarians” project is a partnership with the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service to provide technology training in different locations around the state. The first session was held in Alliance. The Cooperative Extension Service has grant funding to reimburse attendees for mileage. There are several Commission staff assisting with training.

NLA/NSLA Conference – Wagner reported the Conference will be held in South Sioux City October 8-10.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported the Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting and Celebration of Books will be held on November 8.

Financial Report

July/August Financial Report – Wagner reported that it is still early into the fiscal year. Wagner said that some operating expenses are paid at the beginning of the fiscal year for the year as a whole and will reflect high in percentage of budget expended.

New Business

2015-2017 State Biennium Budget – Wagner distributed a handout summarizing the Library Commission’s 2015-2017 Biennium Budget Request. Discussion was held and Wagner provided explanations regarding the recommendations in the budget request.

A motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the 2015-2017 Biennium Budget Request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

2014-2015 State Employee Pay Policies – Wagner reported that most state employees received an automatic 2.25% pay increase on July 1. Agency directors and other non-classified personnel are not included in the automatic pay change; their pay is determined by their governing bodies. Wagner requested that he receive the 2.25% pay raise and that it be retroactive to July 1.

A motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Diane Boyd for Wagner to receive a 2.25% pay raise and that it is retroactive to July 1. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael

LaCroix – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

Director’s Performance Criteria re Facilities, Equipment, Etc. – Wagner proposed to provide the Commissioners with a report that would relate to those duties. This item was tabled until the November meeting.

Out-of-State Travel Request – Rod Wagner requested approval for travel to attend the Chief Officers of State Libraries Agencies and Western Council of State Libraries meetings in Jackson Hole, WY October 19-22. A motion was made by Diane Boyd and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve Wagner’s travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Chair – Molly Fisher nominated Sherry Crow to continue as Commission Chair, seconded by Michael LaCroix. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Vice Chair – Molly Fisher nominated Diane Boyd as Commission Vice Chair, seconded by Michael LaCroix. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The scheduled November 14 meeting was re-scheduled to November 7, 2014 so Commissioners could attend the Nebraska Center for the Book annual meeting and Celebration of Books on November 8.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Patricia Gross at 11:40 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe