

## NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

March 20, 2017

### MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met March 20, 2017, 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, Debby Bloom, Charles Peek, Molly Fisher and Sandy White. Staff present: Rod Wagner and Jennifer Wrampe.

Michael LaCroix called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. This meeting is in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Sandy White to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Minutes:** (January 13, 2017) a motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

**Debby Bloom** – spoke with Karen Berry, children's librarian at Elkhorn Public Library. Berry said most of their patrons are not originally from the Omaha area. The library serves mainly children but once the children reach junior high and high school they don't patronize the library as much. The library received a \$10,000 toy library grant. They have an "Out and About" program where staff go to different venues in the community and have a reading event. The library has a watt detector to loan and take home and check wattage use. The library has a seed catalog. Patrons can check-out seeds. Some patrons have brought in seeds from the plants they have planted. June is a busy time with the summer reading program. The library has a program called Beanstack (a readers' advisory tool for young readers). The tool can be used to record the number of hours a child has read. Debby reported that the Blair Public Library will hold its grand opening on April 1.

**Sandy White** – reported that libraries in western Nebraska were busy with Dr. Seuss activities on March 2. On March 4, Sidney Public Library had an opening activity for Sidney Create which is part of the grant Nebraska Extension received in partnership with the public library, public schools, city, county chamber, ESU and the community college. Summer reading program workshops will be held March 20 and 21. School Library Days will be held on May 5. Sandy will present a program on the Nebraska 150 books and One Book One Nebraska for a local women's group. The Western Library System had a surprise supper for Richard Miller in recognition of his contributions and his retirement.

**Charles Peek** – reported that three libraries in the Central Plains system have new librarians – Franklin, Axtell and Sutherland. Jeff O'Donnell donated a complete set of Louis L'Amour books to

the Central Plains Library System; Ord Township Library was chosen to receive the books. Summer Reading Program workshops will be held in McCook and St. Paul. Maltmann Memorial Library in Wood River received an unexpected gift of \$128,000. Faith Memorial Library in Wallace is automating with an Alexandria system installation. The town donated money to the library to buy the system and maintain it for the first year. The library also has a makerspace and a program where 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students come every day during one school period and read to their 5<sup>th</sup> grade partner. Grand Island Public Library will be making some remodeling improvements to the library. Central Plains Library System is promoting the Letters About Literature program. The Library System has a Cover One book repair service and disc cleaner and repair, which can be sent out to libraries in the region.

**Molly Fisher** – reported the Southeast Library System (SELS) will hold a board meeting on March 31. April 12<sup>th</sup> is Drop Everything and Read Day. The SELS Training Extravaganza will be held on May 12. Geneva Public Library has completed some renovations. Wahoo Public Library is hosting a Trucking through Nebraska exhibit. Lisa Westerholt is the new librarian at the Waverly Public Library. The SELS friends organization will hold a fundraiser on April 27 at Glacial Till Vineyard. Lincoln City Libraries has Primetime Preschool and Makerspace month. Lincoln City Libraries had a challenge to read 42 books from the Nebraska 150 list; Mary Alice Riley read all 42 books. Read to a Dog program will run March 20-April 27 at Lincoln City Libraries. Neihardt Day is April 29. The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association will host the annual Spelling Bee fundraiser on April 26. Funds are used to support the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors.

**Michael LaCroix** – reported that Rebecca McCorkindale, Gretna Public Library Assistant Director, designed posters called “Libraries for Everyone” using pictures of people of all backgrounds and using 25 different languages. A webinar, How to Respond to a Security Incident, is available for anyone to watch. LaVista Public Library is hosting a presentation later this month called “How to Live and Die on the Plains.” John Rogers Memorial Library in Dodge is holding a comedy night fundraiser. The Nebraska State Genealogical Society’s annual conference is April 28-29.

## **Director’s Report**

*Personnel* – Rod Wagner reported that a retirement party for Richard Miller was held on February 8. Christa Porter has been appointed to fill the Library Development Director position following Miller’s retirement. Due to budget reductions, Christa’s current position will not be filled. Recruitment for the Western Library System Director has been reopened for applications until the end of April.

*LSTA National Leadership Grant Application Update* – Wagner reported the grant application was due January 13 and was submitted that day. Grant announcements are expected by late March or early April.

*Nebraska Center for the Book* – Wagner reported the winners of the Letters About Literature contest will be recognized in April at the Governor’s Proclamation signing ceremony at the Capitol. A luncheon at the Nebraska Club will follow. Brochures for the Book Awards competition are in the process of being mailed out. Book Award entries are due June 30. The Nebraska Book Festival is scheduled for July 14-15 in Lincoln. One Book One Nebraska book club kits are sent out on a daily basis. Humanities Nebraska has provided grant funds to support clinics to work with kids on writing letters to authors. The clinics will be a strategy and activity to increase participation in the Letters About Literature program.

*Nebraska Library Advocacy Day* – Wagner commented on Nebraska Library Advocacy Day activities to be held Tuesday morning and including lunch with senators at the Cornhusker Hotel.

*National Library Advocacy Day* – Wagner reported that National Library Advocacy Day will be held May 1-2 in Washington D.C. Wagner and Commissioners LaCroix and Bloom will attend.

### **Financial Report**

*January-February Financial Report* – Wagner reported the budget reflects state reductions that were recently made and expenditures are in line with those adjustments.

*2017-2019 Biennium Budget Request Update* – Wagner reported that the Library Commission's budget hearing was held March 7. The Committee's recommendations would leave state aid funds at the current fiscal year level and the operating budget (state funds) would be reduced by 8%. The committee will present its budget recommendations to the full legislature by April 24.

### **Unfinished Business**

*LSTA Five-Year evaluation Report Status* – Wagner reported that John Dale sent the rough draft report to the Commission. The final report is due to the Institute of Museum and Library Services on March 31.

*LSTA Five-Year Plan Process* – Wagner reported the LSTA Five-Year Plan process will get underway with the State Advisory Council meeting being held on March 21 and will be on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

*Office Space Lease* – Wagner and Jerry Breazile met with Ann Tanner, Commercial Lease Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, on March 2 to discuss the lease renewal or relocation process and schedule.

### **New Business**

*Next Meeting Dates* – The next Commission meetings will be held May 12, and June 30.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Michael LaCroix.

Jennifer Wrampe