

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

September 11, 2015

MINUTES

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The Nebraska Library Commission met on September 11, 2015, 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, Susan Warneke, Molly Fisher, Sherry Crow, Patricia Gross and Debby Whitehill Bloom. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan, Richard Miller, Laura Johnson, JoAnn McManus and Tessa Terry.

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

Approval of the Minutes: (July 10, 2015) a motion was made by Sherry Crow and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Sherry Crow reported that she had not heard back from Sharon Osenga, of the Central Plains System, and therefore did not have any news to share.

Molly Fisher reported that the Crete Public Library had an interesting program this summer called the Migrant Summer Read, which can be read about on the Southeast System website or August newsletter. Stromsburg Library had a military book drive for paperback books which was very successful and Seward picked "A Good American" as their community read. The Southeast Library System had a few workshops going on, one in early September that was funded by the Library Commission on Libraries and Public Policy. Upcoming workshops for September are Programming in the Library, and Community and the Library. New staff announcements are: Fairbury has a new director, Deborah Aden, Wilber has a new director, Sharon Kastanek, and Nebraska City has a new director, Rasmus Thøgersen. Nebraska City Public Library also has a traveling exhibit from the Omaha Children's Museum on Dinosaurs. On a side comment Molly spoke about the Center for the Book's meeting in Seward in August at the Seward Public Library. The Lincoln City Libraries are trying to promote a new central library downtown. There

has been a lot of publicity and Molly said she was concerned about it coming to a bond issue and had doubts that it would pass in Lincoln. Molly mentioned other local news concerning Lincoln's Little Free Libraries, and a recent theft of their books, but that University of Nebraska Press had donated to replace the stolen books. With the closing of the Nebraska Bookstore there is concern that the University Bookstore is unable to handle the new student demands.

Susan Warneke said that there was a family in Norfolk who had recently adopted a Chinese student, 14. They are having trouble finding ESL resources for mandarin/Chinese speaking students. Susan asked the other commissioners if they had any suggestions or resources for her. Michael LaCroix mentioned Mango Languages, which are available through the Omaha Public Library. Debby Bloom offered to put Susan in contact with a friend from China who might have ideas, and Richard Miller informed her that he had some research he could pass on. Mary Jo Ryan suggested Norfolk Library check inter-library loan for resources. Susan thanked everyone for their help. Susan reported that the sales tax for the new library building was still being collected and drawings would be looked at possibly in November.

Michael LaCroix said that Three Rivers Library System Newsletter According to the Trails newsletter the University of Nebraska – Omaha Criss Library had staff changes; Melissa Cast-Brede is now on the UNO School of Education Faculty and Brian Maass has moved in to the open Reference Librarian position for a one year period. Albion Public Library hired Staci Wright as the Assistant Librarian and Beth Kratochvil as a Library Aid. Papillion Sump Memorial Library has a new director, Rebecca Sims. Michael said summer reading programs had been active in the Three Rivers System and were coming to a close. Fall Library Workshop is being held September 30th at the Norfolk Lifelong Learning Center, and school & public librarians can receive education credits for attending. Michael mentioned the NLA/NSLA Conference in a month in Lincoln and that UNO has a library in the Jun Kaneko Center, downtown Omaha, and on September 25th they are hosting an information exchange program. Michael said he received information from Sarah Johns, a school librarian and past president of the American Association of School Librarians, inviting people to contact their State Representative and Senators about the Every Child Achieves Act. Michael also said the privately funded library Do Space opens in about a month. Do space is an ultra-high end, super comprehensive, maker space. Located in the old Borders Bookstore building on Dodge, the first floor is the Do Space funded by the Heritage Foundation and the second floor will be where Metro community college classes and training are held. Michael Sauers, formally of the Library Commission, is the head of Technology. The website is live and the space will open to the public on November 7th.

Debby Bloom said she hadn't prepared a report but one interesting story had caught her eye about a Chick-fil-a Reading Storytime for children program taking place twice a month in Omaha and Millard.

Patricia Gross reported that she attended the Western Library System's annual meeting in Gering at Legacy of the Plains, a new museum. The meeting was well attended by school, academic, and public librarians, the guest speaker was the new museum director and they were given a tour of the new museum. Patricia said the Western System sent their director to the ALA National Conference in San Francisco, and he gave a report on his experiences there.

Rossella Tesch Director of Chadron Public Library shared with Patricia about the City Council's purchase of land to expand the library. Patricia said she also attended the Western Library System board meeting on September 8th, Kathy Terrell a librarian at Morrill Public Library is heading up an author visit by Tim Smith "Buck Wilder" he will be visiting twelve schools and four public libraries, this was made possible with a Youth Grants for Excellence. 9/21-10/2, outdoors k-12th grade, and meeting in Omaha for a literacy night. On September 22nd is Database Roadshow that the Library Commission is bringing to Alliance Public Library, the class is full along with a waiting list. Sara Brennemann, trustee at Grant County Library is getting ready for their annual bake sale fundraiser; all proceeds go to the library. Ruth Walker of Mitchel Public Schools told Patricia their parent teacher organization is hosting a fundraiser and proceeds will go the school library. Job-alikes will be taking place at Alliance Public Library on October 7th and at Hastings Memorial Library on October 29th for librarian networking.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that David Oertli, Director of Talking Books and Braille Department had retired after 32 years at the Library Commission at the end of August, and Scott Scholz would be taking over as Dave's successor. Scott has been with the Commission for 10 years and is currently finishing his Library Science degree, he was the Talking Book and Braille Service Circulation Coordinator, and oversaw the studio operations as well. Rod also reported that they were still in the recruitment process of trying to fill the open Cataloging Librarian position. In October the State of Nebraska recognizes employees for a length of service, and the Commission has several employees on the list to be recognized; Christa Burns, Dave Eckmann, Annette Hall are all in their 15th year with the Commission, Janet Greser has 20 years, Scott Scholtz 10 years, Brad Hauptman and Dennis Klebe with 25 years, Kay Goehring has 35 years, Mary Geibel 30 years. Congratulations to these staff members for their length of service.

Library Commission Grant Programs Update – JoAnn McManus gave a presentation on the FINRA Grant report that was submitted to the FINRA foundation at the end of July. The presentation included statistics on Smart Investing in your Library program, conclusion of the financial education two year grant. JoAnn gave a brief summary of the grant explaining that it was a 23 month grant that ended in June. The Commission was given \$100,000 from the FINRA Investor Education Fund. The grant served twenty-two libraries across the state, and had three main objectives : to train library staff on financial education and marketing to their patrons, upgrading the resources in those twenty-two libraries with financial education kits (40 books and/or DVD's) including a kit for the Library Commission which is available through inter-library loan and EBooks, and finally financial literacy training at the twenty-two libraries in the form of online classes, group events, and extension educators. The online training course was divided into three groups; starting out (under 40), pre-retiree, and retiree. JoAnn spoke about how she evaluated the success of the grant project with statistics on circulation of resources (books, DVD's and EBooks), patron's opinions of the new resources, participant's pre and post-survey results and their rating of the training components. The online training courses are still available on the Commission's website for any Nebraska resident to access. FINRA's representative commented that this was "truly a lighthouse initiative" and inquired about us applying for a grant so the Commission could teach this program to another state. Margaret

Monsour with the American Library Association commented that this was a truly outstanding effort and congratulated the Commission.

Internship Grant Program - JoAnn also reported on the newly re-funded Internships Grant project. The program was previously funded by a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant but is now using federal LSTA funds that the NLC administers. The grants are for public libraries to expose interns to library work and encourage students to consider library careers. JoAnn said the application cycle opens October 23rd and libraries can begin applying for the grants, the application deadline is December 17th, and the award announcement will be on February 8th. There will be an *NCompass Live* episode on November 4th about the program. The award for each library or branch can be up to \$1,000 and can be used for as many interns as the library can support. The grant funds must be used as a stipend or wage for the intern. Eligible applicants are accredited public libraries but are encouraged to partner with other libraries. Eligible interns are college or high school students who have not been previously employed or interned with a library. The length of the internships will be determined by the libraries but must fall between mid-March and the end of November. The grant funds must be used as a stipend or wage for the intern. JoAnn finished her presentation by letting the commissioners know the current internships website was being revised and would be up by next week.

Library Development - Laura Johnson introduced the commissioners to the newly revised Nebraska Library Board Manual that is now online. The manual will be a resource for all public library boards in Nebraska. The new manual is an online version that will be easily updated, more available to trustees and easy to navigate. Richard Miller gave background information about the previous Board Manual; he said it was written in 2006 by Pam Scott (Laura's predecessor), Richard and a Committee and that the new manual gets some of its content from the original manual. Richard said the new manual was a boiled down version, an impressive approach, more user friendly and more flexible.

Laura also spoke about the new Public Library Directors Guidebook that is being put together in conjunction with the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Systems Directors. Laura said the Systems Directors frequently encounter new library directors, and fairly often they have no background in libraries. There is so much for them to learn right away so the idea is to give them a place that will answer their questions. This guidebook is still a work in progress, the content is still being written and put together, the format has not been decided on and the system administrators are working on a way to make it easily searchable. September 30th is the goal for getting the content together and they hope to present it at the upcoming NLA conference.

NebraskAccess – Mary Jo Ryan reported on marketing NebraskAccess, she's been working with Devra Dragos, Allana Novotny, and Susan Knisely who work on the NebraskAccess Databases. Mary Jo said the first thing they wanted to do was put out something libraries could share with customers showing the new databases available. Mary Jo showed the commissioners the NebraskAccess website and how it recognizes a Nebraska IP address to automatically give them access, these resources are available and free for all Nebraskans. They are in the planning process, looking at what will reach target audiences. Their first attempt was offsite training where they could communicate with both school and public librarians. Mary Jo said she also had

the opportunity to attend, along with Rod Wagner and Sherry Crow, the State Symposium on Education put on by the State Education Director. There she had access to many people who could connect her with teachers and school librarians all over the state. Mary Jo said they are also using an online resource called Librarian's Toolbox to connect with librarians. Using the promotional materials section to give librarians access to customizable materials; press releases, business cards, flyers, bookmarks. They've also been gathering information about what the librarians want, and have found the most common need are talking points for librarians to use when patrons ask them a question. The result is they are thinking through scenario based information that librarians can use with their individual customers. The result was a series of testimonial style banner ads that look at the way a user would look at these databases, and asking what is the best database to answer a specific patron question. Mary Jo said they also found there was a need for lifestyle marketing, not just marketing the databases, but what is in all the databases that might be useful to a retiree specifically for example. All of these strategies will be taken into consideration over the next six months as they build a marketing plan. Materials will be distributed at the NLA booth as well as Facebook and the website.

State Legislative Issues – Wagner reported that last May the legislature adopted a number of resolutions that are the basis for some interim studies that the legislature is now doing. A couple of those refer to public libraries. Legislative Resolution (LR) 288 relates to studying the relationship between cities of the 2nd class/Villages and public libraries within those jurisdictions, second class cities being those under 5,000 populations. There will be a hearing on September 25th that will include this issue and also LR 290. LR 290 refers to digitization of newspapers, an activity that public libraries, the Library Commission, and the State Historical Society are involved in. Wagner will be attending the hearing and making remarks; he's also had conversations with Mike Smith, Director of the Historical Society, and will be meeting with Allen Beermann who is the Executive Director of the Nebraska Press Association. The Library Commission and the State Historical Society about a year ago adopted some guidelines that they encouraged libraries to follow regarding digitization, so there are standards in place to guide libraries in these kinds of projects. Wagner said he found LR 288 more worrisome, and Richard Miller had experience in his work with public libraries about issues relating to city council, mayor or village council and their interaction with library boards. All of the library boards in 2nd class cities and villages have governing authority under the Nebraska Statutes, but those are often compromised by city councils/village boards that think they have the authority to set aside or challenge the library board's authority. Wagner said they didn't know what had led to the study but he knew the League of Municipalities had interest in this and in the past they had initiated legislation to modify the statutes. Miller and Wagner have a meeting scheduled with the League of Municipalities to talk before the hearing on the 25th. Wagner wanted to alert the commissioners to these issues telling them interim studies may or may not lead to any legislation and committees report on their studies mid to late December. Wagner asked Richard Miller if he had anything to add and Miller passed out a hand out of the Newspaper Digitization Guidelines that the Commission developed last year. Miller said Nebraska Community Foundation makes grants available through the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advise Fund Grant which are for communities, population 3,000 and under, to public libraries. One of the things public libraries have been asking for is money to digitize local newspapers so that they can have subject access to those old newspapers. Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advise Fund asked the Commission to help vet proposals regarding digitization, thus guidelines were developed. Wagner said newspapers had a

lot of interest in the issue over copyright and accessibility. Wagner said they aren't terribly concerned about people using microfilm in libraries to find past information, but it's when they're online and people can remotely access them that they have concerns about copyright. Wagner said they would have more information about these Legislative Resolutions at the next Commissioners meeting in November since the hearing will have taken place.

Nebraska Library Association – Wagner said the Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska School Librarians Association conference would be coming up October 15-16th here in Lincoln, he said he knew several of the Commissioners would be attending and that all of them were more than welcome. He said he believed Jennifer Wrampe from the Commission had approached them about registering.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner spoke about the Nebraska Center for the Book activities including the Celebration of Nebraska Books which will be held on November 14th, preceded by the annual membership meeting. Wagner said Mary Jo Ryan has been very busy putting together publicity for those events. Mary Jo passed around a hand out for the commissioners and reported that the Celebration of Nebraska Books would be located at the Library Commission in the upstairs conference room and she said the agenda was on the hand out. She said they were looking forward to hearing from the authors that won the Nebraska Book Awards, not all of them are able to attend, but the ones that do always have great talks about how their books developed and read from their books. Wagner informed the Commissioners that there were awards for fiction, poetry, anthology, children/youth, cover design and illustration, and he said non-fiction was broken down into a number of sub-categories. Mary Jo said there would also be a One Book One Nebraska presentation by Thomas Berg, a history professor at UNL. He will be speaking about Beverly Deepe Kever the author of *Death Zones and Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting*. Mary Jo said there would also be a reception after the presentations. Mary Jo also reminded the Commissioners that the celebration is the day after their November Commissioners meeting and they are welcome to stay the night and attend the Celebration. She said the Celebration is funded mainly by the Library Commission but they were getting some funding from Humanities Nebraska to support the program that Thomas Berg is doing as well as some funding from the University of Nebraska Press for the reception. Mary Jo said they would be doing around six news releases on various aspects of the celebration and they usually got very good coverage in Lincoln. There will also be posters, email blasts and an *NCompass Live* webinar on September 30th about One Book One Nebraska, and the Celebration. Pat Gross commented that she attended the Celebration two years ago and it was well worth it, and would encourage the new members to attend.

National Book Festival -- Mary Jo Ryan reported on her recent trip to the National Book Festival in Washington D.C., held over Labor Day weekend, she said it was an amazing event held by the Library of Congress and covered by Book TV. Mary Jo said she worked in an area called the Pavilion of the States, where every state has a table, and she tries to encourage the people who visit her table to look into Nebraska authors. It is an event primarily for children and families, each child is given a map and encouraged to visit every state's table and get a stamp and ask questions about that state. Once they've completed their map the Library of Congress table gives them a prize, which is a great motivator. Mary Jo attended with Devra Dragos, and they have Junior League volunteers from the Junior League of Washington D.C., which is a great help

because it is a very busy event. Mary Jo passed around the event program for the Commissioners to take a look at.

Financial Report

August Financial Report – Wagner requested that the commissioners look over the reports and if they have any questions he would refer them to Jerry Breazile. Wagner reported that the Library Commission was pretty much on budget, but there were some items showing a high percentage of the budget. He said sometimes that is due to them making payments early in the year for the full year, such as subscriptions. They also recently purchased a large number of digital cartridges that are used for the Talking Book players, around \$10,000. Wagner said it was these types of things that skewed things early in the budget year, and that overall they are in good shape. Wagner also reported on the LSTA funds and that as usual the Congress had not yet passed a federal budget for the full fiscal year coming up October 1st. He expects a congressional continuing resolution that will extend funding into a new fiscal year for a period of time, perhaps 60 or 90 days, at which time they will either pass a budget for the continuing year or another resolution. Wagner said the state program report will be due at the end of December and there is a new reporting system coming into play this year. Wagner said he, Richard Miller, and Jerry Breazile will be learning what they can in order to complete the report. Debby Bloom asked about the Library Commission's budget and the operating expenses section being over budget asking if that was an unusual item. Wagner said he would have to look into the specifics, talk to Jerry Breazile and get back to her with an answer.

New Business

Travel Request – Wagner requested approval to attend the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting, and the Western Council of State Libraries meeting, both held in Cape Maine, New Jersey, October 18th-21st. Wagner said a majority of the expenses would be paid by those two organizations. A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve Wagner's out of state travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meetings will be held November 13, 2015, January 15, and March 11, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Patricia Gross at 12:15 p.m.

Tessa Terry