

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

September 15, 2017

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met September 15, 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, Molly Fisher, Charles Peek, Sandy White and Susan Warneke. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Scott Scholz, JoAnn McManus and Jennifer Wrampe.

Michael LaCroix 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 Sandy White and seconded by Molly Fisher 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; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (June 30, 2017) a motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Molly Fisher 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; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Sandy White reported that Sidney Public Library, along with other local partners, is participating in Nebraska Extension's National Science Foundation funded EAGER grant project and will receive funding for makerspace equipment. Sidney also had an eclipse event and gave out nearly 1,000 pairs of glasses. Many schoolchildren and adults came to the library to view the eclipse. The library also received a digitization of newspapers grant to digitize all the newspapers dating back to the 1890s. Sidney Public Library director Andrew Sherman will be giving a presentation on the project at the NLA/NLSA conference in October. Libraries in the Western Library System are very busy with story time for preschoolers.

Debby Bloom mentioned a webinar scheduled for September 27 on the topic of hiring school librarians. Debby commented on activities in several metropolitan area libraries. Valley Public Library is involved in genealogy programming. Debby said that the Valley library is also using Minecraft Hour of Code for kids coding games. Debby mentioned a recent article about libraries being first responders for drug overdoses across the country; libraries in Philadelphia are stocking Narcan overdose medicine for \$75 a kit and librarians are being trained to administer the medication. Bennington Public Library has cake pans for loan and also offers a die cut machine. Omaha's Millard branch library is holding public meetings regarding library plans; Debby attended one about the 15-20 year plan for Omaha libraries. A first priority will be to

build a new library near 180th and Q St. Many of Omaha's library facilities are outdated and inadequate; plans also include replacement of the Cather library to also serve south Omaha. The Elkhorn library is not easily accessible and is hard for kids to bike to. Replacement of Omaha's main library (W. Dale Clark) with a smaller facility is also desired.

Molly Fisher reported that several events in the southeast area are listed in the Southeast Library System newsletter. One Book One Lincoln has been decided – *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Four events in connection with OBOL will start on September 17. The Nebraska Center for the Book board will meet at the Neihardt Center in Bancroft on October 1. The Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held on October 21 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln.

Charles Peek reported that the Central Plains Library System held its annual meeting on July 7 at Ravenna Public Library with 35 people in attendance. The Wood River (Maltman Memorial Library) board is being re-established by the city council. CPLS hosted a presentation from University of Missouri School of Information Science & Learning Technologies program to interest people in the field of library science. As part of the Grand Island Public Library summer reading program the library arranged for various local people to take the roles of historic figures involved in the development of Grand Island. On October 22, Charles will be reading at the Bookworm in Omaha with Twyla Hansen.

Susan Warneke reported that 14 libraries in the Northeast Library System participated with the *Norfolk Daily News* in incorporating newspaper reading into the summer reading program. A total of 46 children completed all 4 weeks of activities. The Norfolk Public Library expansion is coming along very well. Susan said that she had visited the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center library.

Michael LaCroix reported the Omaha Reads selection is *The Bones of Paradise* by Jonis Agee who spoke in Omaha September 14. Valley Public Library director has retired; Garren Hotchstetler who was the children's librarian was promoted to the director position. Sydney Groh has been hired as the part-time children's librarian. Bike Ride Across Nebraska stopped in Weeping Water on June 5th and the library invited riders to stop in, get out of the heat, charge cell phones and use WiFi; ninety-five riders stopped in. Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center will host a Nebraska School Librarians Day November 18.

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that Cynthia Nigh was hired to fill the Library Innovation Studios staff assistant position. Jan Jolliffe is a couple months into her position as the Western Library System Director and is doing a great job. Sharon Osenga, co-director of Central Plains Library System, will be retiring in October. MeMe Smith, director of Schuyler Public Library is retiring at the end of September. Drew Brookhart is leaving the director position at Columbus Public Library to return to his home state of Colorado and become the library director for the Gunnison County Library District.

Talking Book and Braille Service Report – Scott Scholz said that he finished his master's degree in library science last fall and transitioned from acting director to director of TBBS on January 23. He is presently the vice-chair of the western conference of talking book libraries (multi-

state regional group of talking book libraries). Scott attended the 2nd annual Outlook Nebraska Resource Fair in April. He also testified in support of LB 645 in February, a bill to add a definition of dyslexia to state statutes. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) released a software add-on for their BARD (Blind and Audio Reading Download) site. The app is called BARD Mobile Manager and is intended to simplify the downloading process that patrons must follow to receive books from BARD. Pam Davenport, National Library Service consultant, visited TBBS on April 6-7. She met with staff and reviewed TBBS operations. Davenport was also present for the volunteer recognition lunch event. Scott has been handling machine operations directly since the machines staff person resigned at the end of February. NLS made the C-1 cassette player machines officially obsolete at the end of June. He sent a total of 573 machines to a recycling center as instructed by NLS, holding onto a few for patrons who have an occasional use for them. In March, TBBS obtained an audio postproduction software plug-in that allows staff to experiment with reducing the sounds of breathing in local recordings. Scott said the TBBS has had good luck with finding good general settings for the software, which significantly improves the sound of recordings. TBBS is getting ready to join a 2nd wave of duplication-on-demand pilot testers. NLS will be providing libraries that use WebREADS circulation software with duplication and printing equipment that will make it possible to run mail cards and make custom cartridges for patrons instead of pulling books off shelves. Amanda Sweet, TBBS Readers Advisor, is working on changes to the TBBS section of the NLC website that will make it more functional for people using screen readers. NLS is working on new talking book players that will add wireless delivery capability; they are also working to develop refreshable braille displays. The next national NLS conference will be June 17-21, 2017, in Nashville, Tennessee.

LSTA Grant Project (Library Innovation Studios) Update – JoAnn McManus presented an update on the Library Innovation Studios grant project. Libraries will have a makerspace for twenty weeks. The makerspace devices will then be moved to the next group of libraries. There will be two cycles to select thirty participating libraries. Seventeen libraries have been selected to participate in the first cycle. The next cycle will begin next spring with an additional thirteen libraries participating. A two day train the trainer session will be held before each cycle begins. One makerspace will be set up at the NLA/NSLA conference in October for demonstrations; there will also be a ninety minute conference session about the makerspace devices.

NLA/NSLA Conference - The NLA/NSLA conference will be held in Kearney October 11-13. Several Commission staff members are among the presenters.

Celebration of Nebraska Books – Wagner reported that the Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held October 21 at the Nebraska History Museum. Tim Anderson, author of *Lonesome Dreamer: The Life of John G. Neihardt*, will be the keynote speaker. The program will follow the Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting.

Michelle Farrell, IMLS Senior Program Officer – Nebraska Site Visit – Wagner reported that Michelle Farrell was in Lincoln the week of August 28 and met with several Commission staff and some Lincoln area library representatives. The IMLS program officers make visits to state library agencies on a rotating basis, usually once every five years. The purpose of the visits is to review Library Services and Technology Act state program administration and projects supported with LSTA funds.

Financial Report

August Financial Report – Wagner commented that personnel expenditures are within budget based on the current staffing through the remainder of the state fiscal year. Some operating expenses are paid early in the fiscal year as one time expenditures; this includes dues, subscriptions, technology fees, accounting and auditing services, etc.

Audit Report and Actions – Wagner reported that Jerry Breazile, NLC business manager, has developed a procedure to monitor the expenditures of the Regional Library Systems in accord with the recommendations included in the State Auditors report.

Unfinished Business

Office Space Lease – Wagner commented that the Department of Administrative Services has not yet signed the renewal. An issue of who pays to move furnishings when carpeting and painting is being done was still in question. The building owners have labor arranged to help with that and work should begin after December 1.

New Business

Out-of-State Travel Request - Wagner requested approval to attend the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting and the Western Council of State Libraries meeting, both to be held in Nashville, TN, October 29-November 1. Wagner said the travel expenses for attending these meetings would be paid by those two organizations. A motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Sandy White to approve Wagner's out of state travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White- aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meeting will be held November 16 (Thursday).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Michael LaCroix.

Jennifer Wrampe