

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries
GoToMeeting
Friday, July 21, 2017 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present via GoToMeeting: Cecelia Lawrence (Chair), Drew Brookhart, Gail Irwin, Joann Jackson, Angela Kroeger, Lori Long, Dana Morgan, Lisa Olivigni, Charlene Rasmussen, Angie Richeson, Sky Seery, Noelle Thompson, and Matthew Williams. Advisory Council members absent: Scott Childers, John Dale, Susan Franklin, Sherry Houston, Beth Kabes, Laura Marlane, and Julie Pinnell. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, JoAnn McManus, Christa Porter, and Linda Babcock.

Welcome and Introductions

Rod Wagner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved. There were no additional agenda items added.

Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2016 Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes. The Minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None

Reports / Discussion

Nebraska Library Commission – Commission Staff

Library Innovation Studios Project Grant – JoAnn McManus, Library Innovation Studios Project Manager, provided information about the Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities Project (Institute of Museum and Library Services) awarded to NLC and project partners. A summary and information about this grant may be found on the NLC website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/innovationsstudios/>. Co-partners are University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Nebraska Innovations Studios, Nebraska Extension) and Nebraska Regional Library Systems. The multi-faceted project began on July 1, 2017 and will end June 30, 2020.

Thirty accredited public libraries with populations under 25,000 will be selected for the project through an application process. The first round of applications deadline was July 10, 2017, and up to twenty-four libraries will be selected. A second round of applications will be offered in 2018 to select libraries for the remainder of the thirty.

The Innovation Studios project involves purchasing equipment for four makerspaces in four rotating innovation studios. The makerspaces will be placed in each of the participating libraries for twenty weeks. There will be training and guides available to help people use the makerspace devices. Included will be 3-D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, CNC routers, and Bernina sewing machines. There will also be mobile stations with kits available to users. Communities involved will host open houses with maker showcases. There will also be an annual showcase event in Lincoln. The first delivery to participating libraries is tentatively planned for October 2017.

JoAnn also mentioned that NLC is a partner in a University of Nebraska-Lincoln National Science Foundation EAGER grant for innovative research. This youth focused grant project will provide a permanent makerspace at Sidney Public Library.

Library Services and Technology Act State Program and Budget Update – Rod Wagner reported the Library Commission’s operating budget was reduced by about 8% (\$250,000). This action was a result of state tax revenue shortfalls and overall reductions in the state budget for the 2017-2019 state biennium budget. Most of the Commission’s operating budget is used for personnel and facilities. The reduced budget will be addressed primarily through staff position vacancies.

Wagner said that 2017-2019 state biennium appropriations for the state aid to libraries program will be funded at the same level as last year. The state aid to libraries program includes funding for state aid to public libraries, lender compensation, Youth Grants for Excellence, motion picture licensing, regional library systems, continuing education grants, Nebraska eReads (Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Group), NebraskAccess database subscriptions, and more.

Federal library program funds through the Library Services and Technology Act will be decided by Congress in the coming months. The House Appropriations Committee met on July 19, 2017 and voted on federal appropriations for Institute of Museum and Library Services funding at the same as last year. The federal fiscal year begins October 1.

Christa Porter reported that Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, is opening the Youth Grants for Excellence application process on August 16. Rod Wagner added that announcements will be made later in the year about summer library internships for high school and college students.

Nebraska Library Association – Angela Kroeger, NLA president, reported that Michael Straatmann has been serving as the NLA’s interim executive director following Nicole Zink’s resignation in March 2017. The NLA executive director search committee has chosen an external management company to fill that position.

The NLA strategic planning committee received a large number of responses from their recent survey. The NSLA/NLA joint conference with the Iowa Library Association will be held at the LaVista Conference Center October 2-4, 2019. The joint conference planning committee held its first meeting on July 18, 2017.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Angie Richeson, NSLA president, said she is excited to serve on the State Advisory Council and to report on NSLA activities. NSLA is focusing on advocacy for all school librarians across the state. Angie said there are many organizations and groups advocating for school librarians but she would like them to work together as partners. NSLA will be reaching out to Nebraska’s educational service units, regional library systems, public libraries, Nebraska Educational Technology Association, and the Library Commission. School librarians located in the northeastern and western parts of Nebraska need more interaction as they feel like they are on an “island.” NSLA is coordinating with the library systems to plan more School Librarian Days in different areas of the state.

Center for the Book – Rod Wagner reported for Sherry Houston, Nebraska Center of the Book president. The annual Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. The event will include the annual presentation of

Nebraska book awards in several categories. Wagner said the Celebration is an enjoyable time to spend with authors and other award recipients. Books will be available for sales and signings. The Jane Geske Award and the Mildred Bennett Awards will also be presented. Timothy Anderson will be the keynote speaker. Anderson's presentation will include remarks about his research on John G. Neihardt and his Neihardt biography titled *Lonesome Dreamer*. Anderson's presentation will include remarks about this year's One Book One Nebraska selection – Neihardt's *Black Elk Speaks*. The 2018 One Book One Nebraska selection will be announced at the Celebration.

Council Round Table – Successes and Challenges

Drew Brookhart—Drew reported that the bond issue for funding a new Library/Cultural Arts Center in Columbus failed but there is a sales tax in place to fund a new building. The City of Columbus received a \$750,000 grant from the Nebraska Economic Development Department to aid in the construction of the Library/Cultural Arts Center project. There is a matching grant from the Sherwood Foundation to bring additional funds to the project. The library's RFID tagging project is nearly done. The library is working on its strategic plan and library accreditation process.

Joann Jackson—Joann reported that she enjoyed her visit last week to Irondequoit Public Library in Rochester, New York. She also mentioned that she attended school (Oakland) with Timothy Anderson, keynote presenter for the 2017 Celebration of Nebraska Books.

Angela Kroeger—Angela reported that UNO and UNMC are now operating under the same chancellor, Jeff Gold. The University of Nebraska system campuses are exploring opportunities for collaboration and consolidation. Angela is a member of an archived space group that is working on an archived space that can be shared among all four campuses within the University of Nebraska system. This would allow accessibility to all materials to everyone involved, as well as saving funds.

Lori Long—Lori reported that the celebration event for Sharon Osenga's retirement July 7, 2017 at the Cedar Hills Vineyard & Gardens was successful. Lori said that a challenge for her is preparing for new staff members and preparing the new school year.

Dana Morgan—Dana mentioned that she also feels like she is on an "island" being located in the Nebraska Panhandle. She thanked the Western Library System for a mini grant awarded to Leyton Schools. Leyton Elementary-Middle School and, Leyton High School received Golden Sower Award Nominees books, including winners from the past two years.

Lisa Olivigni—Lisa reported that a big challenge at Lincoln City Libraries, Eiseley Branch, is the heat. People are encouraged to come into the air conditioned library. She is glad that the library can provide relief from the summer heat.

This is Lisa's first summer at Eiseley branch, and she is finding similarities and differences in the summer reading program in comparison to the Crete Public Library where she served as director for many years. Lisa said that she is learning a lot from both library staff and patrons.

Cecelia Lawrence—Cecelia reported that North Platte Public Library will be closed ten days for renovation. The library will have a new parking lot, and staff will be doing inventory. An inventory at the library has not been conducted for over thirty years.

Charlene Rasmussen—Wayne Public Library summer reading program was very successful with 382 children registered this year. The library has applied to participation in the Library Innovation Studios grant project.

Lauren Lofgren, Wayne Public Library director, is retiring in three months, and a new director will be hired to start in a couple of months. There will also be a change in city administration and a long-time city clerk will be leaving her position.

Sky Seery—A success was purchasing \$4,000 worth of library material for campus libraries. Sky said that they were able to buy quite a few of the “fun” books students have requested. Their challenge is hiring and retaining part-time employees. The hours are minimal and not always desirable (evening shift!) so it’s hard to find the right person for the job.

Noelle Thompson—Lied Scottsbluff Public Library summer reading program was very successful this year, as well as circulation at the library. The Scottsbluff library also applied to participate in the Library Innovation Studios grant project.

A challenge is that attendance and circulation at the library are growing but the number of staff members has been the same for twenty-five years. Another challenge is making the library safe due to drug usage near the facility.

Matthew Williams—Matthew reported that Kearney’s summer reading program was very successful. A planetarium show will be presented by Edgerton Explorit Center to celebrate the August 21 solar eclipse. Matthew is pleased with the art work designed for a bicycle rack. The work has been completed.

Gail Irwin—Ainsworth Public Library applied to participate in the Library Innovations Studio grant project. A tri-lingual class (Spanish, English, and hand signing) is being held at the library for Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

The Ainsworth Public Library, Ainsworth Library Foundation, and the Brown County Foundation Fund all contributed funds to digitize the local newspaper. Two websites were created so that the papers from 1882 to 1929 could be available by way of the library’s website. The second site includes papers from 1882-2009 and is accessible only within the library.

Christa Porter—Christa reported that next week’s NCompass Live will be “Solar Eclipse 2017 & Your Library.” Mary Sauers, Government Services Librarian at the Library Commission, will talk about the eclipse itself, eclipse resources, programming and activity ideas, and what other libraries around the state are doing for this historic event. Megan Boggs from Seward Memorial Library will share what her library is doing to celebrate the solar eclipse. Christa encouraged libraries to contact her or Mary Sauers if they would like to share their plans for the event.

Christa encouraged the group to contact her with ideas and suggestions for future episodes of NCompass Live. Some upcoming NCompass Live presentations include the following:

August 2, 2017 - Connecting Students to Courses, Experts, and Virtual Field Trips

August 9, 2017 - The 2017 Public Library Accreditation Process

August 16, 2017 - United for Libraries – Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations: The Voice for America’s Libraries

August 23, 2017 - How to Break Up Boredom! Interactive Events for All Ages

New Business

Recommendations and Resolutions

There were no recommendations or resolutions brought before the Council.

Next Meeting:

Rod Wagner announced the next meeting will be Friday, November 17, 2017 in Lincoln at the Library Commission offices (Atrium Building - Conference Center). Election for the 2017 Chair of the State Advisory Council of Libraries will be on the agenda for that meeting. He asked for any topics the group may want to add to the agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.