

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries
Cornhusker Hotel, Hawthorne Room
Tuesday, March 6, 2018 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Cecelia Lawrence (Chair), Andrew Cano, Jessica Chamberlain, John Dale, Susan Franklin, Joann Jackson, Lori Long, Laura Marlane, Julie Pinnell, Sky Seery, Noelle Thompson, and Matthew Williams. Advisory Council members absent: Scott Childers, Pat Gross, Gail Irwin, Beth Kabes, Dana Morgan, Lisa Olivigni, Charlene Rasmussen and Angie Richeson. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, and Linda Babcock. Commission members present: Michael LaCroix and Sandy White.

Welcome and Introductions

Cecelia Lawrence welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda with the change of the meeting location to the Hawthorne Room Conference Center (Lower Level) at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel. There were no additional agenda items added. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes of November 7, 2017: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

Reports / Discussion

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner

Rod Wagner reported that the Library Innovation Studios project is off to a good start. The cycle one libraries are Plattsmouth, Ashland, Ainsworth, Loup City, and Crete. “Train the Trainer” training at the University of Nebraska Innovation Studio for cycle two libraries is scheduled for March 13-14. Cycle two libraries are Neligh, Bridgeport, South Sioux City, and Broken Bow.

The Library Commission submitted an application for the “Nebraska Schools and Libraries Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships” IMLS SPARKS Grant. The SPARKS Grant would provide funding for public libraries to partner with school districts to install broadband services. Holly Woldt, Library Technology Support Specialist at the Library Commission, has sent invitations to Nebraska public libraries providing a description of the proposed project. Wagner said that the project is likely to be funded.

The Nebraska Center for the Book’s Celebration of Nebraska Books event will be held Saturday, October 27, in Lincoln at the Nebraska History Museum. Twyla Hansen, Nebraska State Poet, will present the awards. Wagner said that the awards event will also be an opportunity to recognize Twyla Hansen for her contributions as State Poet. This year is her fifth and final year as State Poet. Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Arts Council and the Library Commission collaborate on the nomination process for recommendations to the governor for the next State Poet.

The Nebraska Book Festival will be held on Saturday, August 25, at the UNL City Campus Union. There will be a festival kick-off event the night before for Great Plains Literature and Great Plains Politics at the Center for Great Plains Studies.

Christa Porter provided a handout with descriptions of recent activities. *Big Talk From Small Libraries 2018* was successful with over 330 participants from Nebraska; 37 other states, and 4 Canadian provinces. Public Library Accreditation and Community Needs Response Planning workshops (a new name) have been taught in Lincoln, O'Neill, Grand Island, Sidney, North Platte, and West Point. The online session will be held on March 8. Sally Snyder has presented several sessions for the annual Summer Reading Program. The theme for 2018 is "Libraries Rock."

NCompass Live presentations in March will include:

- March 7 - Pioneers in Violence Presentation
- March 14 - Tops and Flops of Library Programs
- March 21 - Reading Diversely
- March 28 - Providing Access to the Good Life for the Disabled

Christa also provided the 2018 Basic Skills Schedule for the Nebraska Public Librarian Certification Program.

Nebraska Library Association – Andrew Cano

Andrew Cano, NLA President, reported that NLA/NSLA conference attendance was down this past year. In 2015, membership rates were increased and budget cuts were made. This past year the conference generated a \$30,000 profit. This was the first time in three years the budget expectation was met. Andrew thanked the 10-member planning committee for the 2017 conference. Over 80% of the post conference surveys were positive.

The NLA/NSLA 2018 Conference will be held October 4-6 in Lincoln. The conference will be in competition with a Husker football game, the Iowa Library Association conference, and the Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival. Andrew said there are many good speakers and relevant topics planned for the conference. This year, the Golden Sower Award will be moved to an evening event.

NSLA conducted a survey and members indicated that they would like to have Saturday as a conference day. Andrew will provide an update on conference plans at the next meeting.

The NLA/NSLA/ILA 2019 joint conference will be held October 2-4. Nebraska will represent half of the programs. The changes made for this year's conference are intended to prepare for the joint conference with Iowa, which looks very different from what Nebraska members are used to. Program proposals will be open in November 2018. The proposals will be blind proposals where the applicants cannot indicate who they represent.

Andrew also reported that professional webinars will be available for NLA members, as well as other options for professional development.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Angie Richeson, NSLA President, was not able to attend the council meeting. Angie sent a report by email.

State and Federal Legislative and Budget Outlook – Rod Wagner

Rod Wagner reported that the Legislature’s Appropriations Committee’s preliminary 2019-2021 biennium budget recommendation and the Governor’s budget recommendation include the Library Commission among many agencies that would receive state funds reductions as part of across the board agency budget reductions. The potential reductions are 2% for the current year and an additional 2% reduction next fiscal year.

LSTA funding has not been determined for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. Funding thus far has been based on last year’s funding level. The U.S. House of Representatives approved funding for LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) at the same level as last year. The Senate is expected to approve appropriations by the end of December. Senator Jack Reed and Senator Susan Collins introduced the Museum & Library Services Act of 2017 to reauthorize the federal library program. Additional co-sponsors are being sought for the legislation, especially members of the Senate’s HELP Committee (Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions).

Transforming Communities – Advocacy, Engagement, Collaboration – Council Discussion

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has all five-year state program evaluations from state library agencies available on the IMLS website. John Dale, who served as consultant/evaluator for Nebraska’s five-year program evaluation, said the summaries are easy to read.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has introduced its Strategic Plan 2018-2022. The plan includes themes, trends, and issues common to what is typically discussed in this Council. John said that the plan is broad and covers both museums and libraries. The IMLS Strategic Plan consists of four goals: promote life-long learning, build capacity, increase public access, and achieve excellence. Some items the plan addresses are recruitment, sharing resources, identifying trends, tools and technology training. John said he believes the broad goals point toward directions that are in line with Nebraska’s intentions and goals.

Council Round Table – Successes and Challenges

Joann Jackson – Joann reported that Deb Robertson, Kilgore Memorial Library director, is pleased with the 50 to 70 children that attended the library’s Friday morning pre-school program. One challenge is providing volunteer opportunities at the library for people with disabilities. Matthew Williams and Cecelia Lawrence mentioned that they have similar situations.

Jessica Chamberlain – Jessica reported that construction at Norfolk Public Library is nearly completed. The construction includes renovation of the current facility and an expansion space of 16,000 feet. Jessica said that Craig Johnson, author of the “*Longmire*” series, will be presenting at the library this summer.

Susan Franklin – Susan reported that Perkins Library at Hastings College is hosting the 2nd Annual All Campus Spelling Bee. Alex Pravda is the speaker for the National Artist Lecture Series on April 3, 2018. Susan’s biggest challenge is a vacant technical services position. There are no plans to fill the position for at least two years due to budget constraints. Susan said that book purchases are also limited due to current budget constraints.

John Dale – John had no additional comments.

Andrew Cano – Andrew reported that the Willa Cather Archive is a significant success for UNL. Andrew also noted that Andrew Jewell has done great work on the Cather project.

Andrew said a challenge at UNL is the lack of funds, but he is optimistic about funds appropriated by the legislature.

Noelle Thompson – Noelle reported that a Scottsbluff Public Library challenge is the behavior of children and teens after school. Library staff find it stressful to keep the library safe for everyone while enforcing policies to protect the safety and well-being of patrons, staff, and materials.

Noelle said that the library's teen advisory council has been revived. The council is a group of middle school and high school students who advocate for the library among their peers.

Laura Marlane – Laura reported that Network Nebraska did not work out for upgrading the Omaha Public Library system's broadband services. DOT.com convinced COX Cable to offer the library the same rate as Network Nebraska. This summer the library will connect to Network Nebraska through DOT.com.

Laura is looking forward to "Stronger Together," May 10-12, 2018 at UNO. Library Journal and School Library Journal will host the event. The keynote speaker will be Chelsea Clinton. Participants from across the country will share information and discuss partnerships between schools and public libraries. Laura is encouraging all schools in Douglas County, city council members, and others to attend.

Lori Long – Lori reported that the school library's fine policy has been eliminated. A result is that circulation has increased. Lori said she previously collected \$1,200 to \$1,400 yearly from fines. She will be challenged to keep the present programming due to the loss of those funds.

Julie Pinnell – Julie reported that Cochrane-Woods Library, Nebraska Wesleyan University, opened a new meditation space on campus called the Contemplative Corner with a focus on mindfulness. As a part of the university program review, Sue Leibold, an external reviewer from Clark University, will visit the library on March 27. One of the library's programs this year is campus wide dialogue sessions on current topics.

Matthew Williams – Matthew reported that there are so many people waiting to get their taxes prepared at the library that they arrive at 9:00 am when the library opens and wait for two to three hours for tax preparation assistance.

Kearney Public Library is planning a makerspace downstairs in the computer classroom. He wants the makerspace to be portable so the computer classroom can be brought in and out of the space as needed. He said it is challenging to plan on supply quantities for the makerspace and how much to charge patrons for the supplies.

Leadership Kearney, a local group of middle management individuals, were impressed with their recent tour of the library.

Sky Seery – Sky said that she is pleased that Mid-Plains Community College has secured funding for book purchases for both campuses. In prior years, when funds were not available for books, circulation was down, but now circulation has increased. Administration is considering adding other items or services to the library that will enhance the students' experience.

The staff shortage at the library is a challenge. When staff is absent, Sky fills in at both campuses. The campuses are seventy miles apart.

Cecelia Lawrence – Cecelia reported that the North Platte Public Library’s new young adult librarian has been successful with teen programming. The library will install the makerspace provided by the Transforming Rural Communities project in a few months. The library will renovate to provide a permanent makerspace area. Bids for construction were 40% higher than budgeted. However, bids came in early enough for Cecelia to request additional funds from the library foundation, plus a contingency fund. In preparation for the needed space, half the non-fiction collection was removed. The library’s goal is to withdraw 400 books a day by the end of March.

New Business

Recommendations and Resolutions

There were no recommendations or resolutions brought before the Council.

Special Recognition

Rod Wagner thanked NLA colleagues for a successful Library Advocacy Day.

Election of 2018 Council Vice-Chair

Sky Seery was nominated for Council Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations. Sky Seery was elected as Council Vice-Chair by voice vote.

Next Meeting:

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for July 20 (online) and November 16 (Lincoln).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.