

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Nebraska Library Commission, Atrium Conference Room 206
Friday, November 18, 2016 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present in Lincoln: Francine Canfield (Chair), John Dale,, Denise Harders, Sherry Houston, Joann Jackson, Beth Kabes, Angela Kroeger, Laura Marlane, Julie Pinnell, Charlene Rasmussen, Vickie Retzlaff, Matthew Williams . Joining via GoToMeeting: Beth Falla, Cecelia Lawrence, Kara Welch, Janet Stoeger Wilke. Advisory Council member Susan Franklin was absent. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, Christa Porter, Mary Jo Ryan, Sally Snyder, and Linda Babcock.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Francine Canfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Sherry Houston and seconded by Vickie Retzlaff. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes of July 29, 2016 Meeting: Moved by John Dale and seconded by Matthew Williams. The Minutes were approved with the following changes: Page 1 Approval of Minutes of November 201, 2015 Meeting was changed to Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2015.

Public Comment: None

Reports / Discussion:

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner

Rod announced that Abby Yellman has left her position at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, and she has accepted a position as Director of Library Services and Cultural Affairs in Broomfield, Colorado. He also reported that Beth Kabes is the NSLA Liaison. Angela Kroeger, NLA President, is NLA Liaison.

There are two new Library Commissioners, Charles Peek from Kearney and Sandy White from Sidney. They replaced Pat Gross and Sherry Crow.

Rod congratulated the NLA/NSLA for the successful NLA/NSLA Conference. He also acknowledged his appreciation for Nebraska Center for the Book and their Celebration of Nebraska Books event last month. The University of Nebraska Press is taking the lead on plans for a Nebraska Book Festival in Lincoln on July 15, 2017.

The Library Commission is waiting to hear from the Institute of Museum and Library Services concerning whether the Commission will be invited to submit a full application for an IMLS National Leadership Grant. A pre-proposal has been submitted for a project designing library spaces, in partnership with Nebraska Extension (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Nebraska Innovation Studio and the Regional Library Systems. Nebraska Extension and the Library Commission have also submitted a proposal for a National Science Foundation grant that focuses on STEM Learning.

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Nebraska Library Association – Angela Kroeger reported that 500 attended the NLA/NSLA Conference this year. A joint conference with Iowa Library Association is being planned for 2019. The president-elect for NLA is Andrew Cano, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Beth Kabes also reported that the NSLA/NLA Conference 2016 was very successful.

Beth reported that the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) replaces No Child Left Behind. She provided the following report from Sylvia Norton, Executive Director of AASL.

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL), in collaboration with the ALA Office for Library Advocacy and the ALA Washington Office, is offering a complimentary {SID}, comprehensive workshop on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to each AASL-affiliated state association. The workshops build off to two well-received sessions presented by AASL during 2016 ALA Annual Conference and are part of the newly adopted “AASL Vision Plan for Implementing ESSA.” More information including participating states and workshop dates, is available on the AASL website: www.ala.org/aasl/essa.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Sherry Houston reported that the Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting and Celebration of Nebraska Books event was very successful. One Book One Nebraska author, Karen Shoemaker presented at the event. The 2017 One Book One Nebraska book is *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt.

State and Federal Legislative Outlook – Rod Wagner

Wagner reported that the legislative session beginning in January 2017 will have seventeen new senators out of forty-nine. The State of Nebraska has a projected tax revenue shortfall of over a \$1 billion which will result in budget cuts. State agencies will present their budget proposals during the legislative session, and the legislature will make decisions on appropriations for the 2017-2019 biennium beginning July 1, 2017.

Library Commission staff have had discussions with the League of Nebraska Municipalities staff in the past, and Lynn Rex, the League Director has invited Library Commission staff representatives and Steve Fosselman, NLA advocacy committee chair to meet in December. They will continue discussions about issues addressing public libraries and municipalities.

The Library Services and Technology Act five-year authorization period is ending, and new legislation will probably be introduced in January.

With all the new state senators, Library Advocacy Day will be an especially important event to attend. Library Advocacy Day is scheduled for March 21, 2017.

Library Services and Technology Act State (Nebraska) Program Five-Year Evaluation and Five-Year Plan (2017-2022) Discussion – John Dale

John Dale reported that Rod Wagner asked him to head up a focus group to review the current LSTA state program five-year plan. The deadline for the report is March 31, 2017. During today’s meeting a focus group consisting of the State Advisory Council and Library Commission staff will be the first of three focus groups to meet to review the five-year plan.

The current five-year plan has two goals: (1) All Nebraskans will benefit from lifelong learning delivered through their library programs and services; and (2) Library staff and supporters will have the tools and skills to provide and sustain needed programs and services to their target audiences.

Noon Lunch

Council round Table – Successes and Challenges

Kara Welch—

Kara reported that challenges continue for Ainsworth Public Library. It has a small budget and is quite a distance from other libraries. The Friends of the Library group and Ainsworth community members have donated thirty-seven book-themed baskets for a silent auction being held tonight. The Ainsworth Public Library has received Star Libraries recognition from *Library Journal*.

Janet Stoeger Wilke –

Janet said she is excited about a master planning initiative for UNK-Calvin T. Ryan Library. Consultants will work with library staff and others on the campus to get a broad idea of what the campus needs in library services. She is also looking forward to the institutional repository opening next year. One of the challenges she faces is the hiring freeze and open positions at the library. She does feel this will improve in time.

Branding - Mary Jo Ryan

Mary Jo Ryan reported that the State of Nebraska has a new brand, “Nebraska. Good Life. Great Opportunity.” The Governor’s Office approved a request from the Library Commission for a tagline to the brand, “We are Nebraska, good life, great stories.” The Library Commission and all Nebraska libraries may use that brand in a variety of ways. A graffiti pad was placed in the Library Commission’s exhibit booth during the NLA/NSLA Conference asking booth visitors how the brand could be used. Some responses included Nebraska writers, genealogy and direct Nebraska related stories. Mary Jo presented a handout showing a copy of the Nebraska Library Commission’s imprint of the brand.

Beth Falla—

Beth reported that a Lied Imperial Public Library success was receiving a grant for \$500 from the Western Library System for a makerspace in the library. She said there were many helpful sessions about makerspaces at the 2016 MPLA Conference. The Summer Reading Program was very successful this year. Challenges include time and funding for a new ILS since a decision needs to be made this year.

Vickie Retzlaff—

Vickie reported that Grant County Library received a \$500 grant to expand their teen and children’s areas in the library. The once-a-year fundraiser in October was very successful with lots of community support. One challenge is the aging library board members. Younger people of the community have shown interest in the board, so this challenge is turning into a success. Two other challenges are recruiting a Western Library System director and working with Windows 10.

Charlene Rasmussen—

Charlene reported that Wayne Public Library’s biggest accomplishment was operating through the recent mid-year budget cut. The library received a bequest that has been invested for future use. A big challenge for the library is replacing library director Lauren Lofgren who is retiring in October 2017.

Matthew Williams—

Matthew reported that the One Author Kearney presentation has become very successful in the three years since it was started. Gail Tsukiyama presented the first year, and she returned with others last year and this year. The event was attended by 300 people at the World Theater in Kearney.

The library advisory board has been a challenge with three new members out of five. Another challenge is improving the appearance of the library. He reported that the mayor suggested adding art work to the outside of the library, and Matthew is pursuing possibilities.

Julie Pinnell—

Julie reported that Nebraska Wesleyan University Cochrane-Woods Library has renovated the library's first floor. A learning commons area was part of the renovation and has been very successful. One of the challenges is limited funding for all the needed resources on campus.

John Dale—

John reported that one of his successes is the focus group that met today. He thanked the State Advisory Council members and Library Commission staff for their involvement in the focus group held today.

John also reported that the City of Lincoln has been selected to participate in a nationwide initiative called Enhancement of Access to Public Information. Lincoln City Libraries will be involved. The initiative is a city-wide effort to share public information.

John is currently reading his granddaughter's second book, *In Obscura Silvae* by Ellie Piersol.

Beth Kabes –

Beth reported that she is now employed full-time with the ESU Coordinating Council, representing all ESU's across the state to coordinate statewide projects. She is Director of Blended Learning. A challenge is working on a learning repository for access to resources statewide. The council is working with Learning 360 to achieve this. NebraskaAccess is available to all schools in the state, and that has supported access to children in Nebraska's schools.

A challenge is supporting libraries, schools, and teachers to identify high quality resources. Another challenge is the appropriate time spent on the Blended Learning concepts of a combination of face-to-face teaching and online teaching. She is working on a pilot, visiting twenty-five schools and districts in Nebraska for Blended Learning. Each of those schools or districts has at least three teachers using the Blended Learning strategies. Students say that teachers talk to them as individuals. This kind of learning allows "high-flyer" students to advance to a speed or level that matches their learning. Another success is the portal, where students and teachers only have to login once to access real-time data through any resources of the system. She also mentioned that ESU staff, teachers, and students now have the capability to support virtual connections with authors.

Laura Marlane--

.Com has approved Omaha Public Library to switch to internet services provided by Network Nebraska Education, providing speeds at a fraction of the cost paid now. Her biggest challenge is poor technology and needed upgrading of the system. Plans are underway to replace security cameras with capital improvement funds.

Omaha Public Library is working with Omaha Public Schools to develop a service model and a pricing model for a shared catalog. The biggest piece is to coordinate with physical delivery throughout the county.

Laura is initially working on the database piece. A survey was done with the county and school libraries to see what databases they currently purchase. There are vendors that have already agreed to add more public libraries on to OPL's contract since OPL pays for county access.

Denise Harders –

Denise reported that a challenge for her is dealing with several city and village councils in the Central Plains Library System region. Many times the city councils or village boards overstep the authority of library boards concerning funds, policies and procedures set by state statute.

One success that Denise reported was that Logan County Library, which is housed at Logan County Courthouse in Stapleton, hosted its Third Annual Election Day Open House with an 80 in attendance. She also reported that Butler County Library at Cambridge is now an accredited library.

Joann Jackson –

Joann reported that McCool Junction Learning Center was completely supported through community fundraising. A yearly event, "Evening with the Stars," earns between \$60,000 and \$70,000 each year.

Angela Kroeger—

Angela reported that a Digital Engagement Librarian and a Digital Initiatives Librarian were hired at University of Nebraska Omaha before the hiring freeze went into effect. Both of these positions will provide an increase in digitization efforts and digital repository improvements in the near future.

A challenge is to open a branch library on the Scott Campus without additional funds.

Sherry Houston—

Sherry reported that Sump Memorial Library (Papillion) recently completed a major renovation project. She reported that the Marion Marsh Brown lecture series is a free event in Omaha every year. John Grisham presented at the event last year, and the next lecture will be presented by author Cheryl Strayed on April 26, 2017 at Baxter Arena in Omaha.

Sherry also reported that there are 80,000 people in Sarpy County without public library access unless they purchase a library card. Schools in Papillion have cut library services in their school libraries.

Cecelia Lawrence –

Cecelia reported that she has twenty-one events planned for the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Celebration, including Nebraska Humanities speakers and local speakers. North Platte Public Library will be closed for ten days next year due to a minor cosmetic renovation.

Cecelia reported that there is a great need in North Platte for improved community housing. Cecelia contacted Habitat for Humanity and Lincoln County Development Corporation which focus on building new homes in the community. They are very supportive of North Platte starting a program called Home Improvement 101. The library is organizing local speakers from local businesses to come in every month and talk about maintaining and improving existing homes. North Platte Public Library provides print resources and an online Home Improvement Reference Center from EBSCO.

Rod Wagner—

Rod reported that Maine State Library conducted a trusted professional survey, comparable to a national survey. That survey found that among the twenty-two professions included in the research, the top perceived in honesty and ethics was first nurses, second librarians and third pharmacists.

Francine Canfield –

Francine reported many success at Baright Public Library. She said the library is fully staffed. The library has a new phone system with Cox and an additional internet line. The library was reaccredited this year. The Ralston Arena made a profit this year, and it was part of the library's strategic planning for economic development. A newly formed group to help encourage development downtown, The Downtown Business Association, meets at the library. Francine is very pleased to provide a meeting room for many local businesses to develop their strategic planning. A speaker from InCommon, an asset-based community development group spoke at the library's staff training yesterday and Francine is interested in more training with them.

John Dale –

John said that a huge challenge is to get people to rely on reputable sources, and how can this be done. Matthew Williams said the library plays a big part in that. Rod Wagner commented that 62% of the public rely on Facebook as their primary news source. Julie Pinnell said that a vast majority of college students have no idea how credible information is created. All agreed that this involves all age groups.

New Business

There were no **Recommendations and Resolutions** brought before the Council.

Special Recognition

Rod expressed his appreciation to the members who are leaving the council and the end of their second term. Francine Canfield, Beth Falla, Denise Harders, Vickie Retzlaff, Janet Stoeger Wilke, and Kara Welch were presented Nebraska Admiralships.

The next meeting will be contingent upon NLA activities and Advocacy Day. Other meeting dates for the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries for 2017 are July 21 and November 17.

Adjournment at 1:45 pm.