

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska

July 12, 2013

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on July 12, 2013, at the Library Commission office, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Patricia (Pat) Gross, Sherry Crow, Diane Boyd, Michael LaCroix; Steve Batty and Molly Fisher both via telephone. Staff present: Rod Wagner, JoAnn McManus, Mary Jo Ryan and Jennifer Wrampe.

Sherry Crow, acting chair, 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 Diane Boyd and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Michael LaCroix - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (May 17, 2013) a motion was made by Patricia (Pat) Gross and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Michael LaCroix - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Sherry Crow reported that Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System director, is preparing for the Library Leadership Institute. There are 36 registered in addition to mentors and consultants. The Leadership Institute is scheduled for August 5-9, 2013, at St. Benedict Center near Schuyler. Osenga spent two days at Thomas County Library in Thedford helping to weed the non-fiction collection that had not been done in 25 years. It was estimated that 70% of the collection was weeded. The library is in the middle of remodeling and the new doors, windows, ceiling and HVAC have been installed. The Meridian Library System annual meeting is set for July 31, 2013, at the Lexington Public Library.

The Meridian Library System has received E-Rate funding for 2013-2014; the discount is 70% on telecommunications bills. The regional library systems are sponsoring an NLA-NSLA pre-conference program, "Breaking Down Barriers in Customer Service".

Patricia Gross reported that Eric Green, Panhandle Library System coordinator, hosted a Job Alike meeting on June 18. Beth Trupp, Youth Services Librarian at Gering Public Library, announced that she will be retiring sometime this fall. An ad has been placed in the paper for her position. Pat attended an iPad training session hosted by the Scottsbluff Public Library, which was part of the BTOP Grant. The Scottsbluff library also hosted eBay training. Pat thanked the

Commission for the opportunity to participate in National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC. Pat said the Panhandle Library System annual meeting will be held July 19 in Ogallala. A farewell reception will be held for Nancy Escamilla, Scottsbluff Public Library Youth Services Librarian, on August 4. Nancy will be moving to Lincoln.

Diane Boyd reported that the Leigh Public Library recently purchased a new building. The building is located across the street from the current library. The new building has more space than the current facility. The building has a meeting room and an adult reading room with a fireplace. Eight Nebraska libraries received grants from the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund; four of those libraries are from the Northeast region – Albion, Wausa, Walthill, and Osmond. The Fund Advisory Committee recommends grants in three areas: planning grants leading to accreditation; enhancement grants to improve library services; and facilities grants for new construction or the renovation, restoration or rehabilitation of current libraries. The fund is administered through the Nebraska Community Foundation. Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission library development director, is the Commission’s liaison to the advisory committee. Approximately \$70,000 is available each year for grants. The Northeast Library System annual meeting will be held September 18 at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk. The annual Norfolk Literature Festival, sponsored by the Norfolk Public Library, will be held July 27 at the Lifelong Learning Center. The festival will feature authors Jodi Moore, Caroline Rose and Carl Deuker – all are 2014 Golden Sower Award nominees.

Michael LaCroix reported that Gail Formanack is the new Eastern Library System Director. She was previously the supervisor of Library Services for Omaha Public Schools. She also served on the ELS board and served as interim director following Kathy Tooker’s retirement. Michael said Omaha’s summer reading program is doing very well and every year the program grows with activity and enthusiasm for both children and adults. Michael said that Omaha area library directors have a monthly lunch meeting to share information, updates and some social interaction.

Molly Fisher no report

Steve Batty said that Denise Harders, RVLS director, attended the American Library Association annual conference in Chicago. Denise is assisting six libraries in the region on the new accreditation guidelines. The McCook Public library had 245 students participate in the library’s summer reading program. Jody Crocker, McCook Public Library director, provided training for 155 librarians for the summer reading program. McCook’s public library construction project has started and is expected to be finished in November. The McCook library is working with Great Plains Communications to install fiber optic to the library but the changeover had not been made from the existing provider to Great Plains.

Director’s Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that the Library Commission’s 2013 Employee of the Year is Mary Geibel and Manager of the Year is Richard Miller. They will be recognized at a state employee recognition ceremony in October.

Library Broadband Technology Project – JoAnn McManus reported on the BTOP project.

JoAnn distributed a progress update and noted highlights. The grant was set to expire at the end of July. However, a two month extension was requested to allow additional time to complete project activities. The request was approved and the grant will now close at the end of September. Several additional months are allowed for project closeout and completion of project reports.

FINRA Education Grant – Mary Jo Ryan reported that the Commission has been awarded, with the Northeast Library System, a Financial Education Grant through the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. It is a two year grant starting in August. FINRA is the Financial Investor Organization that collects fines from the financial industry and the Foundation makes grants for investment and financial education. Twenty-two libraries have indicated interest in working with the Commission and Northeast Library System on this project. These libraries will offer face to face and online training for local community members on financial information. JoAnn McManus will be the project principal. Since the foundation only gives funding to non-profits, the Commission is partnering with the Northeast Library System, the co-applicant and grant recipient.

Facility Issues – Rod Wagner reported that water problems in the Commission’s lower level space have been partially fixed. A substantial section of pipe was replaced. The Department of Administrative Services - Building Division, the agency that is the leasing agent, is promoting, on the Commission’s behalf, relocation of the Talking Book and Braille Service from the basement to the vacant first floor area. The building owner is resisting, but if there are further water and plumbing problem the Commission has grounds within the lease agreement to relocate. The restrooms in the lower level were closed for a time due to work being done, but are now open.

Regional Library Systems – Wagner reported that Commission staff meets quarterly with regional library system directors. Budget issues are routinely discussed at meetings. Due to budget cuts in the past and more recently flat funding, there is concern for sustaining six regional library systems. Proposals have been made to reduce the number of regions. That has not happened and contracts have been extended with each of the regional systems for the current fiscal year. However, funding is a continuing concern and the current biennium has not resulted in increased state funds for the regional program. The next quarterly meeting will be held on August 21 and regional re-organization will be discussed. Regional system directors have been asked to invite a board member representative to attend the meeting for this discussion. Other options could be discussed, such as looking at funding sources that may be pursued beyond state funding; a deficiency budget request could be submitted in the 2014 legislative session to increase state funding. All regional systems are now staffed with directors. The most recent appointments are Gail Formanack, Eastern Library System, and Scott Childers, Southeast Library System. The Meridian Library System is the only system that does not have a staff assistant, a choice made to deal with budget constraints.

American Library Association Annual Conference – Wagner reported that Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan, Kathryn Brockmeier, and he attended the American Library Association Conference in Chicago. There were over 25,000 conference participants. Wagner serves on the United for Libraries board and participated in several of the division’s programs, board and

committee meetings. He also attended meetings with other American Library Association officers. He reported that many Nebraska librarians attended the conference including over thirty who traveled to the conference on a bus arranged by the regional systems and through grant funding from the Library Commission.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported on books nominated for the Nebraska Book Awards competition. Eligible books are those published in 2012 and that have a Nebraska connection. The books are being reviewed by category judges for award selections. The winners will be announced at the October 26 NCB Celebration of Books. The One Book One Nebraska 2014 nominated books are being reviewed. There were over 30 books nominated. A Nebraska Center for the Book board committee reads the books and narrows the number down to a short list for the full board to vote on. The 2014 OBON selection will be announced at the Celebration of Books event on October 26 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. The Celebration of Books event will also include announcement of the Jane Geske Award. This year's award will be presented to the Nebraska Library Commission.

State Advisory Council on Libraries – Wagner reported that the State Advisory Council meeting will be held July 19 and will be an online meeting.

Financial Report

May/June Financial Report – Wagner reported that fiscal year end expenditure totals came in under budgeted amounts, overall. Wagner said that the financial report doesn't reflect some encumbrances and those will bring expenditures closer to budgeted amounts for the year.

LSTA FY 2013 and FY 2014 Appropriation Status – Wagner said that Congress has not acted on federal appropriations for the 2014 federal fiscal year beginning October 1. He also said that the Commission has not, as yet, received a response regarding the Commission's state maintenance of effort waiver request for LSTA grants to state program funding. The waiver request was submitted in May.

New Business

Nebraska eReads Program Funding Allocations – Wagner referred to the proposal for distribution of the \$150,000 state funds appropriation for eBooks and digital audiobooks. The allocations are proposed for distribution in relation to the service area populations for the libraries that loan eBooks and digital audiobooks. A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Patricia Gross to approve the funds distribution proposal. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Michael LaCroix - aye. Motion approved.

Nebraska Library Digital Literacy Coaching Corps – Mary Jo Ryan distributed a summary regarding the Digital Literacy Corps. Ryan said that there are scholarship students interested in teaching community members how to use computers for a variety of purposes. For those interested, scholarship stipends could be used to support them to provide training. The students will be offered training before they start training community members. Jessamyn West, who has

done a large amount of training for people in rural areas, will be brought in to provide an onsite training session on August 19. Nine students have expressed interest in the training project. Ryan requested approval for a change to the grant distribution policy. A motion was made by Patricia (Pat) Gross and seconded by Diane Boyd to approve the policy change. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Michael LaCroix - aye. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Chair – Patricia Gross nominated Sherry Crow to serve as Commission Chair, seconded by Michael LaCroix. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Michael LaCroix - aye. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Vice-Chair – Michael LaCroix nominated Steve Batty to serve as Commission Vice-Chair, seconded by Patricia Gross. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Michael LaCroix - aye. Motion approved.

2013-2014 State Employee Pay Policies – Wagner sent a memorandum issued by the state personnel director regarding 2013-2014 fiscal year pay policies for state employees beginning July 1. Most state employees received an automatic 2.25% raise on July 1. Agency directors and other non-classified personnel are not included in the automatic pay change. Their pay is subject to action by their appointing authorities. A motion was made by Diane Boyd and seconded by Michael LaCroix for Wagner to receive a 2.25% pay raise. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Michael LaCroix - aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meeting date was confirmed to be held on September 13. The scheduled November 8 meeting was re-scheduled to October 25 in order for Commissioners to attend the Nebraska Center for the Book annual meeting and Celebration of Books on October 26.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 11:15 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe