

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

March 14, 2014

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on March 14, 2014, at the Kearney Public Library, 2020 First Avenue, Kearney. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Sherry Crow, Michael LaCroix, Molly Fisher, Diane Boyd and Steve Batty. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller and Jennifer Wrampe.

Guests: Denise Harders, Francine Canfield, Sherry Houston, John Dale, Ceri Daniels, Merrillene Wood, Scott Childers, Abby Yellman and Matt Williams.

Sherry Crow, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. This meeting is in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Steve Batty and seconded by Diane Boyd to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (January 17, 2014) a motion was made by Steve Batty and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Sherry Crow reported that the Meridian Library System's Cowgirl Peg author tour was a great success. Cowgirl Peg spoke to over 3500 kids during the week and also did a segment on NTV's Good Life morning show. There are two new library directors within the system: Joyce Bauer at Farnam Public Library and Erica Teel at Rock County Library in Bassett. North Loup-Scotia and Greeley-Wolbach school districts are combining next year. The school at Scotia will be replaced with a new building that will house the high school. The Elementary schools at North Loup, Greeley and Wolbach will all be combined into one school in Greeley. The Summer Reading Program workshop is Tuesday, March 18th at Lexington Public Library. The "Week of Weeding" is set for April 7-11. Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System Director, is scheduled to help weed at libraries three of those five days.

Diane Boyd reported that Wausa is building a new library. The Northeast Library System's winter workshop that was to be held on February 2 at Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk was rescheduled for April 28 due to weather conditions on the original date. The Leigh Public Library received \$200,000 from the Arnold Hessa estate for use toward a new library facility.

The library was dedicated on February 23rd. Lied Winside Public Library built a new facility at a cost of \$167,000 with most of the labor donated.

Molly Fisher reported that the Nebraska Book Festival will be held April 25-26. The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries 30th Annual Adult Spelling Bee will be held March 20. Ted Kooser, who is a founder of the spelling bee, will be a celebrity speller along with Pat Leach, Director of Lincoln City Libraries. The Spelling Bee is a fundraiser for the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors. The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries will hold a *Wine and E* event on April 24th; the event is a fundraiser for the Foundation. Lincoln City Libraries has a Read to a Dog program to help kids improve reading skills. Scott Childers, Southeast Library System Director, reported that he met with Pat Leach and Mary Reiman to promote the Declaration for the Right to Libraries signings. The Declaration is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA). The Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln Public Schools, and Southeast Library System will promote signings during National Library Week and after. The number of signatures will be reported to ALA. Daykin Public Library is currently seeking funding for a new library. Crete Public Library is seeking support for a new building.

Michael LaCroix reported that a “Policies for Results” workshop will be held at the Agnes Robinson Memorial Library in Waterloo on March 27. Jamie LaRue will speak at the Spring Colloquium on April 28 at the LaVista Conference Center and also at the LaVista Public Library on April 29. School Library day, a collaboration with Eastern Library System and University of Nebraska at Omaha, will be March 29. Wahoo is negotiating with insurers over damage done when the pipes froze at the library. Many of the books have been recovered; a list of books was distributed asking people to donate books that need to be replaced. Shelly Nelson is the new Snyder Public Library director.

Steve Batty reported that Cowgirl Peg spoke to nearly 350 people in the Republican Valley Library System. Weeding was done at several libraries within the system the week of March 3-7. There are three new library directors in the RVLS – Allison Peyton at Holdrege Area Public Library; Jennifer Einspahr at Arapahoe Public Library and Janene Hill at Jensen Memorial Library in Minden. The Hildreth Public Library’s expansion project is underway. Culbertson Public Library will be breaking ground for a new facility in the spring. The McCook Public Library remodel project will be finished in March; an open house will be held at the end of April or first of May. The RVLS annual meeting will be held at the McCook Public Library. The program will include a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright house.

Director’s Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that JoAnn McManus submitted the final report for the Library Broadband (BTOP) project to the Gates Foundation on February 28.

Building Lease and Space Issues – Wagner reported that the ground floor space plan has been approved by the Department of Administrative Services Building Division. The plan has been passed on to the building managers.

Library Advocacy Day – Nebraska Library Advocacy Day was held February 5. Wagner thanked Francine Canfield for arranging the activities for the day. Wagner complimented the Nebraska Library Association leadership including the Advocacy Committee for the great job they do in planning and hosting the Advocacy Day event.

Big Talk from Small Libraries – Wagner reported the online conference took place on February 28. Michael Sauers, Laura Johnson and Christa Burns planned and arranged this event with 500 plus registrations (some registrations included multiple participants). There were registrants from nearly all states, Canada, and Australia. The conference was recorded and is accessible for listening and viewing through the Commission website.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported that the Commission has sent out book club kits for the 2014 One Book One Nebraska book selection - *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by Bob Greene. Nominations for the 2015 OBON will be coming in within the next few months. The Nebraska Book Festival will be held April 25-26 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Thompson Alumni Center.

Wagner reported that the Library Commission has been asked by the administrators of the College Savings Plan to partner with the State Treasurer to provide scholarships for children participating in summer reading programs across the state. Children will have an opportunity to have their name drawn to receive one of 15 scholarships worth \$529.

Financial Report

January and February Financial Report – Wagner reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts with exceptions for minor objects.

Unfinished Business

Wagner distributed copies of the Regional Library Systems Task Force Preliminary Report. The current regional configuration of six library systems has been in place since the mid-1980s. Due to budget cuts in recent years, there have been discussions about funding limitations and future funding prospects in relation to rising costs. Those conversations led to creation of a task force to work with the Library Commission to develop regional library system options with fewer regions for statewide coverage. The task force has held meetings over the last several months to discuss the regional library systems. The task force developed two options – one for four regions and one for five regions. Discussion addressed advantages and disadvantages of each option. Regional Library Systems configuration will be included on the Commission's May meeting agenda as an action item.

New Business

State Advisory Council on Libraries – Rod Wagner reported that Ellen Weed has resigned from the State Advisory Council on Libraries. Wagner recommended that Sam Shaw, Library Director at the Nebraska State Penitentiary, be appointed to replace Ellen.

A motion was made by Diane Boyd and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the appointment of Sam Shaw to the State Advisory Council on Libraries. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd - aye. Motion approved.

National Library Legislative Day – Wagner reported that National Library Legislative day will be held May 5-6 in Washington D.C.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meeting will be held on Friday, May 9, 2014.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 10:40 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe