

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

May 10, 2019

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met May 10, 2019, at the Atrium building, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Michael LaCroix, Charles Peek, Debby Bloom, Arun Pondicherry, Sandy White and Lois Todd-Meyer. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe. Michael LaCroix called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Debby Bloom and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (March 12, 2019) a motion was made by Lois Todd-Meyer and seconded by Sandy White to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Sandy White – reported the Western Library System (WLS) recently moved its office to a new location in Scottsbluff. WLS has added traveling makerspace equipment for libraries in the region. Scottsbluff Public Library is working to get funding for makerspace equipment. The WLS annual meeting will be held July 23 in Mitchell.

Lois Todd-Meyer – no report.

Arun Pondicherry – no report.

Debby Bloom – Millard Public Library has a variety of activities going on. Elkhorn Branch Library is hosting Music and Movement Storytime with Mo Williams. Omaha Public Library cardholders can check out passes to Lauritzen Gardens, Children's Museum, and the Henry Doorly Zoo among other places. Blair Public Library has a program called "Gabbie", a text to library service for reference questions. The meeting rooms at the Blair Public Library can expand to accommodate anywhere from 12 to 266 people. The Blair library also has an exhibit of Dana College memorabilia. Ralston Public Library has the ability to stream British television. Ralston also offers free access to 500 online classes.

Charles Peek – reported the Humanities Nebraska newsletter included an article about Matt Mason, Nebraska's new State Poet. Kearney Public Library has a Summer Highlights insert in

the newsletter. Central Plains Library System newsletter had an announcement of the 2019 Book Awards Competition. The newsletter also included a listing of Nebraska Library Commission Youth Grants for Excellence awards which included several libraries in the CPLS region. The Arapahoe Public Library held a gala on April 6 with a portion of the proceeds going to the library remodeling project.

Michael LaCroix – reported that Eric Jones, Three Rivers Library System Director, continues to promote communication and information sharing via media and the web. Eric Jones is also promoting scholarships available to librarians in the region. LaVista Public Library was one of sixteen libraries in the United States to receive a \$10,000 American Dream Literacy Initiative grant. The library offers GED classes. The grant will be used to update technology and resources for the GED classes.

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that Holli Duggan, Continuing Education Coordinator, will return to work May 28 following family leave. Three Commission staff members attended the Southeast Library System Training Extravaganza in Seward. Amanda Sweet, Tessa Terry and Lisa Kelly gave presentations at the training.

2019-2021 Biennium Budget Status – Wagner reported that appropriations bills were introduced last week and debate has begun with first round approval given to those bills. The Committee's recommendations for the Library Commission are the same as the committee's preliminary recommendations.

Library Innovation Studios Project – JoAnn McManus reported on the LIS grant. The project is two years into the three-year project. The project team is in the process of wrapping up the Cycle 4. Cycle 5 will begin with training in Lincoln on May 22 & 23. Makerspace equipment will be delivered to Beatrice, Hastings, and Chadron. In addition, micro studios will be placed in Laurel, Plainview and Verdigre. The micro studios will rotate equipment among these three libraries. This arrangement is due to space limitations in the libraries.

Heritage Emergency National Task Force – Wagner reported the Heritage Emergency National Task Force is an organization under the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency. Wagner and other Commission staff participated in conference calls to share information among national and state organizations to provide support for communities affected by the recent floods. Lisa Kelly sent messages to all Nebraska libraries to determine if they had experienced any flood damage. Most libraries did not sustain any flood damage. A small number had minor damage from flooding or snowmelt. However, many libraries are in communities that had extensive flood damage.

Financial Industry Regulator Authority (FINRA) Grant – Wagner reported the FINRA grant is providing \$20,000 for purchase of personal finance eBooks and audiobooks. Devra Dragos is managing the project and has started making book purchases.

Rural Broadband Task Force – Wagner reported that the Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force came about because of legislation enacted in the last legislative session. Governor Ricketts appointed task force members. Holly Woldt and Christa Porter were panelists at a recent

meeting reporting on broadband service issues for rural libraries. The Task Force formed a sub-committee to address school and library broadband service needs.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner said that books are coming in for the Nebraska Book Awards competition; deadline for entry is June 30. The annual Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held November 9 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. June 15 is the deadline for nominating books for the 2020 One Book One Nebraska selection. The Letters About Literature event was held in April with the Governor’s proclamation presentation at the State Capitol and a luncheon for award winners following at the Nebraska Club.

Nebraska Book Festival – Wagner reported that the University of Nebraska Press is the lead organization for planning and arranging the Nebraska Book Festival. The Library Commission and Nebraska Center for the Book are among the sponsors. The festival will be held on September 7 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln downtown campus. A morning children’s program will be held at Lincoln’s Eiseley branch library.

Financial Report

April Budget and Financial Report – Wagner noted that the fiscal year is nearing the end and the Commission is within the operating budget. Personnel costs are below budget and those savings can be applied to other operations expenses. The House Appropriations Committee has included an increase in funding for LSTA for the coming federal fiscal year. It appears that the amount included would fully implement the increase in the LSTA Grants to States program base allotment for each state, an increase from \$680,000 to \$1 million. However, the Senate has not yet acted on the 2020 federal budget.

LSTA Grants to States Program Maintenance of Effort – Wagner reported that the Commission fell 4.4% below the LSTA Grants to States program state maintenance of effort requirement. The MOE is calculated by averaging state expenditures for the past three fiscal years. A waiver request is being prepared. Reduced state expenditures were the result of Nebraska’s lower state tax collections and state budget reductions. If the waiver request is not approved the Commission’s LSTA allocation would be reduced by approximately \$70,000 in the next fiscal year (depending on FY 2020 appropriations).

New Business

State Aid to Public Libraries Payments FY2019 – Recommendations were presented for FY 2019 state aid to public libraries payments. Payments will be made to 178 accredited libraries that have met state aid requirements.

A motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the state aid to public libraries payments. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White - aye. Motion approved.

Regional Library System Funding FY 2020 – Wagner presented the Regional Library System funding allocation recommendations for FY 2020. The proposed payments are based on

funding included in the appropriations bill that is currently before the Legislature. The appropriations include an increase in state funds for Regional Library Systems.

A motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Sandy White to approve the regional library system payments for the 2019-2020 state fiscal year. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White - aye. Motion approved.

Out-of-State Travel Request – Wagner requested approval to attend the Western Council of State Libraries meeting, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting, and the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, DC, June 20-25.

A motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White - aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meetings will be held July 12, September 13, and November 8.

Adjournment

Michael LaCroix adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe