

# NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

May 8, 2020

## MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met May 8, 2020. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Via GoToWebinar: Debby Bloom, Vernon Davis, Arun Pondicherry, Lois Todd-Meyer, Julia Tye. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, Jennifer Wrampe. Debby Bloom called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and Governor's Executive Order Limited Waiver for Public Meetings.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Vernon Davis and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** (March 5, 2020) a motion was made by Lois Todd-Meyer and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioner's Comments

**Julia Tye** – no report.

**Lois Todd-Meyer** – commented on the *NBC Today Show* feature regarding Lincoln's Kooser Elementary School librarian, Betsy Thomas.

**Vernon Davis** – stated that this is a great time for utilizing library e-resources with people at home due to COVID-19.

**Debby Bloom** – reported Omaha Public Library has several e-resources for patrons to use such as OverDrive, AudioBookCloud, Lynda.com, and Flipster. The OPL also has virtual storytime for children on the library's YouTube channel. Bennington Public Library held a Story Walk for National Library Week. Gretna Public Library had outside carts for patrons to come take a book.

**Arun Pondicherry** – said that since libraries have closed students have been encouraged to check out e-books and audiobooks. In Lincoln, they can download up to ten titles at a time.

### Director's Report

*Library Commission Activities During COVID-19 Health Safety Restrictions* – Rod Wagner reported that the Library Commission is currently closed for walk-in service. Staff have been working from the Commission office and at home; on average, approximately two-thirds of the staff are working from home. Many in person meetings have been rescheduled to online meetings. Mary Sauers and other staff have been posting Census related information. Census posters are displayed in the Commission office windows. Wagner reported that OverDrive consortium libraries have experienced a significant increase in ebook and audiobook loans. Talking Book and Braille Service lending has remained steady. Credit goes to several staff who have been posting information related to the COVID-19 virus. Aimee Owen posts Pandemic Resources for Libraries and the status of Nebraska libraries regarding local activities. A Phased Plan for Reopening Nebraska Libraries has been posted for libraries to use in planning for their own situations. Sam Shaw distributed a survey to public libraries to collect information about library status and needs in regard to planning reopenings. This information is helpful to provide support and funding to the libraries. Christa Porter reported that registrations for NCompass Live have increased significantly, including some from out of state and out of country.

*Library Innovation Studios Project Status* – Wagner reported that with library closings the project is on hold. Some training had started for the cycle 7 libraries, but has been suspended due to library closings. Libraries with makerspace equipment in place continue still using it. Some of the equipment is being used to make supplies (e.g., face masks and shields) for health care workers.

*Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force and NLC Actions* – Christa Porter provided testimony (attached) at the NUSF-117 E-Rate Special Construction Hearing on April 21 supporting implementation of the program.

*Nebraska Universal Services Fund Special Construction Program* – Christa Porter reported that the E-rate Form 471 filing window was extended to April 29 due to COVID-19. This change also reset the deadline to submit the Form 470 – libraries had until April 1 to submit the 470 form and still meet the 28-day posting requirement. A few libraries took advantage of the extension.

## **Financial Report**

*April Budget and Financial Report* – Wagner reported that a month and a half remain in the current fiscal year. At the end of April, the Commission was 6% under the budgeted amount for personnel costs and slightly under budget in overall operating expenses. Capital outlay expenses are slightly over budget. However, personnel cost savings can be used for other operating expense budget categories. State aid to libraries payments were distributed in April. The final quarterly payments to the regional library systems and lender compensation payments to libraries for interlibrary loans have also been made.

## **New Business**

*Regional Library System Funding Allocations* – Wagner presented regional library system funding allocation recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposed allocations are based on a 2.5% increase over current fiscal year amounts.

A motion was made by Julia Tye and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the regional library system payments for the 2020-2021 state fiscal year. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye. Motion approved.

*CARES Act Library Funding* – Wagner reported the Commission was awarded \$174,790 in federal funds to provide help to Nebraska Libraries during COVID-19. Recommendations for use of those funds were presented.

A motion was made by Vernon Davis and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the CARES Act library funding recommendations. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye. Motion approved.

*Next Meeting Dates* – The next Commission meetings will be held July 10, August 28 and November 13.

### **Adjournment**

Debby Bloom adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe