

# NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

November 10, 2016

## MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on November 10, 2016, 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, Debby Bloom, Molly Fisher, Charles Peek, and Sandy White; Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan and Tessa Terry.

Michael LaCroix 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 Debby Bloom and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Minutes:** (September 9, 2016) a motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

**Charles Peek** – The Central Plains Library System's will publish a special edition of the system's newsletter, *Plain Speaking*, highlighting information and ideas from recent library association conferences (NLA/NSLA, and MPLA). CPLS has sponsored two recent workshops. The first was a users' group meeting on November 1 for libraries participating in the Pioneer Consortium; libraries interested in joining the consortium were invited to attend. On November 4, Richard Miller presented a strategic planning and library accreditation workshop for library directors and board members. Both workshops were held in Cozad. Denise Harders, CPLS co-director, was in O'Neill to give a presentation to their library friends group on fundraising strategies. Christa Burns will be in Kearney November 17 to lead an E-Rate workshop. CPLS is coordinating a group purchase of puppets. This will allow schools and libraries to buy high quality Folkmanis puppets at half-price. On December 2, a workshop on NebraskAccess databases will be held in Kearney.

**Sandy White** – visited the Scottsbluff Public Library and met with co-interim directors Deb Carlson and Judy Oltmanns. They are excited about being in the running for a \$25,000 State Farm grant. The Sidney Public Library received a grant from the Western Library System. The grant funds will be used to purchase a 3-D printer and some drawing pads. The library will hold programs for community residents to try different technologies and learn how to use them.

**Molly Fisher** – attended a presentation at Lincoln’s Bennett Martin library that featured four authors based on Ladette Randolph’s book, *Something Plain*. Molly attended and assisted with the Celebration of Nebraska Books event on October 29. Molly said that Joe Starita gave a presentation on his book, *A Warrior of the People*, at Lincoln’s Bennett Martin library. The Southeast Library System recently completed a summer reading workshop. The 2017 summer reading program theme is “Building a Better World.” Plans are underway for workshops on customer service and strategic planning. The Southeast Library System’s CASTL meeting will be held in David City on November 17. The topic will be How to Handle Donations. Molly mentioned that Laureen Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library Director, received the Beatrice Business Person of the Year award and Gayle Froeschl at Falls City South School Library received a \$500 grant from the Shopko Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase nonfiction signage from Libraryskills.com.

**Debby Bloom** – attended the NLA/NSLA joint-conference in October. Debby said that one of the speakers at the pre-conference, Eric Kaplan, president of the Omaha Maker Group, is the leader of the Omaha Mini Maker Faire, which will be held April 15, 2017 at Do Space. There are more than 11 maker groups in Omaha. They serve as a resource for the public libraries, Omaha World Herald, the Strategic Air Command Museum and Children’s Museum. Derek Dibbern with the Creative Center also gave a presentation at the pre-conference based on music and improvisation. Jamie LaRue, Director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, was one of the keynote speakers at the Conference. LaRue talked about court cases involving minors’ rights to read. Debby said that Larue also talked about library self-censorship. Debby said that other conference sessions she attended included the Best New Children’s Books session and three sessions on consortiums: The Librarians for UNCL: The Evolution of a Library Consortium; ICON: A computer symbol: A religious image? No – it’s a library consortium; and Pioneer Consortium Innovation with Bibliovention. The last keynote speaker was Shannon McClintock Miller, Teacher librarian and Technology Integration Specialist. Miller’s presentation was “Be the Change.” Miller’s presentation included remarks about partnering with other classrooms in another state or around the world to develop a broader view of what’s possible technologically.

**Michael LaCroix** – reported the Three Rivers Library System continues to seek an additional System Peer Coordinator. Two have been hired and one is in the process of being hired. Aneka Ramirez, TRLS Director, has traveled around the region doing consultations and workshops for public library accreditation. Michael talked about the DISPEL group (Directors Sharing Practice Experience and Learning). These meetings are held in different locations within the region. Librarians earn continuing education credits for attending. TRLS is working with Southeast Library System to hold a strategic planning workshop in January. TRLS has funds set aside for scholarships. Recent scholarships were given for people to attend the NLA/NSLA joint-conference, the ALA Annual conference, and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries conference. Michael said that UNCL (University of Nebraska Council of Libraries is considering licensing databases as a consortium and working together cooperatively to share costs and resources to benefit the students and faculty of all University of Nebraska campuses.

#### **Director’s Report**

*Personnel* – the Western Library System director search is on hold until January. Pat Gross continues to serve, part-time, as the system’s interim director.

*Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association Joint Conference* –Rod Wagner said that conference attendance was good and there were many good sessions covering topics of interests for all types of libraries. The conference is always a great opportunity to see many Nebraska library colleagues. Wagner said that the 2017 joint conference will be held in Kearney October 11-13.

*Nebraska Center for the Book* - Wagner said the Celebration of Nebraska Books, held at the newly renovated Nebraska History Museum, went well with many in attendance. Unfortunately, the auditorium didn’t have enough seating to accommodate all that attended. Many of the award winners were able to attend and offered interesting remarks about their books.

*Library Commission Social Media Strategies, Branding and Marketing Initiatives* – Mary Jo Ryan and Tessa Terry reported on the social media being used by the Library Commission. Tessa explained how they implemented a plan to spread out blog posts on Facebook and Twitter so each blog would get as many people to see it as possible. She also shared a document showing the statistics related to comments and likes of the Commission and Center for the Book Facebook pages.

Mary Jo reported that the Commission’s Biennial Report is almost done and will be sent to the printer in a week. The report will be delivered to the Governor’s office by December 15 (per state statutory requirement) and to the NCompass distribution list.

Mary Jo commented on the new Nebraska State brand and how state agencies could receive authority from the governor’s office to imprint with this brand their own specific agency related information. The Library Commission has authorization for the library imprint of the State’s brand for use by all Nebraska libraries: “Good Life. Great Stories.”

*LSTA National Leadership Grant Proposal and National Science Foundation Grant Updates* – JoAnn McManus reported on the status of grant applications. The first grant, a preliminary proposal for Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities, was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on September 1. This project, if approved, will provide for four makerspace kits that will rotate among thirty Nebraska libraries during the three year grant period. The IMLS will notify applicants in late November or early December whether they will be invited to submit a full application. Full applications are due January 13. If approved, the project will begin July 1.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension is the main applicant for the second grant, Nebraska Innovation Network. The Library Commission is included as a partner organization. That application was submitted in August. A decision is expected by February or March. The funding source is the National Science Foundation. This grant will fund four permanent makerspaces at public libraries in Grand Island, Sidney, Nebraska City, and South Sioux City. One new staff position is included in the grant application for the Commission and the University of Nebraska Extension to work with, train, and support library makerspace locations.

*Library Internship Grants* – JoAnn McManus distributed the 2016 Nebraska Library Internship Grant Program Wrap-Up Report and reviewed project highlights. Funds to support the internships came from the annual LSTA grants to states program through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Commission awarded \$31,600 in internship grant funds to 26 libraries.

*Nebraska Library Advocacy Day* – Rod Wagner said that Nebraska Library Advocacy Day will be held March 21, 2017.

*National Library Legislative Day* – Wagner said that National Library Legislative Day will be held May 1-2, 2017 in Washington D.C.

*LSTA Reauthorization, Five-Year Evaluation Report, & Five Year Plan* – Wagner said that the LSTA is in its final year of authorization. Legislation was introduced in the Senate to reauthorize the LSTA. The reauthorization legislation amends the Museum and Library Services Act. The legislation has bi-partisan sponsorship. Wagner said that state library agencies must complete a five year LSTA state program evaluation. The evaluation report is due by March 31, 2017. The evaluation must be done independent from those that administer the program. John Dale has been asked to lead the five-year evaluation project. State library agencies must also submit new five-year plans. Those plans are due by June 30, 2017.

*Capitol Area 20 Year Master Plan* - Wagner reported that he and a few other Commission staff members met with the State Building Division Administrator and a representative from the consulting firm that is preparing the Capitol Area 20 Year Master Plan. They discussed needs and ideas for long term facility planning. A Commission staff meeting is scheduled discuss current and future facility needs and ideas. The Commission's current office space lease agreement ends in November 2017. Either a new lease will be negotiated for the current space or options will be considered for another location.

## **Financial Report**

*September October Financial Report* – Wagner reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts.

*State Budget Outlook* – Wagner reported that the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Board lowered state tax revenue projections for the current fiscal year and through the next biennium. Governor Ricketts will present his budget recommendations in January. State agencies continue to monitor expenditures and reduce spending where possible.

*Audit Update* – Wagner reported that audit issues and recommendations have been resolved.

## **New Business**

*Next Meeting Dates* – The next Commission meetings will be held January 13, and March 20. The March meeting will be an afternoon meeting beginning at 1:30 pm.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Michael LaCroix at 11:53 p.m.

Jennifer Wrampe