

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

September 11, 2015

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on September 11, 2015, 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, Susan Warneke, Molly Fisher and Sherry Crow, Patricia Gross, Debby Bloom. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan, Richard Miller, Laura Johnson, JoAnn McManus and Tessa Terry.

Patricia Gross 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 Michael LaCroix and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (July 10, 2015) a motion was made by Sherry Crow and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Sherry Crow said that she had no news to share.

Molly Fisher said that the Crete Public Library had an interesting program this summer called the Migrant Summer Read, which can be read about on the Southeast Library System website or August newsletter. Stromsburg Public Library had a successful military book drive. The Seward Public Library picked Alex George's book, *A Good American*, as its community read. The Southeast Library System held a few workshops, one in early September that was funded by the Library Commission on "Libraries and Public Policy." Upcoming workshops for September are Programming in the Library, and Community and the Library. Molly mentioned several new library staff in the southeast region: the Fairbury Public Library has a new director, Deborah Aden; Wilber Public Library has a new director, Sharon Kastanek, and Nebraska City's new public library director is Rasmus Thøgersen. The Morton-James Public Library (Nebraska City) has a traveling exhibit from the Omaha Children's Museum on dinosaurs. Molly said that Lincoln City Libraries is promoting a new central library and have proposed locating the library at the current Pershing auditorium site. Molly mentioned other local news concerning Lincoln's

“Little Free Libraries” and a recent theft of books from one of them. The University of Nebraska Press donated books to replace the stolen books.

Susan Warneke said that there is a family in Norfolk that recently adopted a Chinese student. They are having trouble finding ESL resources for Mandarin/Chinese speaking students. Susan asked for suggestions on resources. Michael LaCroix mentioned Mango Languages, which are available through the Omaha Public Library. Debby Bloom offered to put Susan in contact with a friend from China who might have ideas. Other ideas were also suggested. Susan said that Norfolk’s local sales tax collections for the public library renovation and expansion project are growing and drawings for the project will be available soon, possibly in November.

Michael LaCroix said that the Three Rivers Library System August/September newsletter is available. Michael mentioned staff changes at the University of Nebraska Omaha Criss Library: Melissa Cast-Brede is now on the UNO School of Education Faculty and Brian Maass has been assigned to the open Reference Librarian position for a one year period. Michael said that the Albion Public Library hired Staci Wright as the Assistant Librarian and Beth Kratochvil as a library aide. Papillion Sump Memorial Library has a new director, Rebecca Sims. Michael said summer reading programs have been active in the Three Rivers System and were coming to a close. A Fall Library Workshop is being held September 30th at the Norfolk Lifelong Learning Center. Michael mentioned that UNO has a library in the Jun Kaneko Center in downtown Omaha. The Center is hosting an information exchange program on September 25. Michael said he received information from Sarah Johns, a school librarian and past president of the American Association of School Librarians, asking people to contact their state’s Congressional representatives and senators about the federal “Every Child Achieves Act.” Michael said the privately funded Do Space will open to the public on November 7. Do Space is an ultra-high end, super comprehensive, maker space. Located in the old Borders Bookstore building on Dodge Street, the first floor is the Do Space funded by the Heritage Foundation and the second floor will be where Metro community college classes and training are held.

Debby Bloom said she hadn’t prepared a report but one interesting story had caught her eye about a Chick-fil-A Reading Storytime for children program taking place twice a month in Omaha and Millard.

Pat Gross reported that she attended the Western Library System’s annual meeting in Gering at Legacy of the Plains, a new museum. The meeting was well attended by school, academic, and public librarians. The speaker was the new museum director. A tour was given of the new museum. Pat said that the City of Chardon has purchased land for the public library’s expansion. Pat said she attended the Western Library System board meeting on September 8. Kathy Terrell, a librarian at Morrill Elementary School, is heading up an author visit by Tim Smith “Buck Wilder.” Smith will be visiting twelve schools and four public libraries. The author tour was made possible with a Library Commission Youth Grants for Excellence grant. Sara Brennemann, a trustee at Grant County Library and Western Library System board member, is preparing for the library’s annual bake sale fundraiser; all proceeds go to the library. Ruth Walker of Mitchell Public Schools told Pat that the School’s parent teacher organization is hosting a fundraiser and proceeds will go the school library. Job Alikes will be held at Alliance Public Library on October 7 and at Hastings Memorial Library (Grant) on October 29 for librarian networking.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that David Oertli, Talking Book and Braille Services director, retired at the end of August after 32 years with the State of Nebraska, most of those years at the Library Commission. Dave retired at the end of August. Scott Scholz was appointed as Dave's successor. Scott has been with the Commission for ten years and is currently working on completion of his master's degree in library science from the University of Missouri. Scott has served as the Talking Book and Braille Service Circulation Coordinator, and oversaw the studio operations as well. Rod also reported that recruitment continues to fill the Cataloging Librarian position. In October, the State of Nebraska recognizes employees for length of state service. The Commission has several employees to be recognized: Scott Scholz has 10 years of service. Christa Burns, Dave Eckmann, Annette Hall are all in their 15th year with the Commission. Janet Greser has 20 years of service. Brad Hauptman and Dennis Klebe have 25 years of service. Mary Geibel has 30 years of service and Kay Goehring has 35.

Library Commission Grant Programs Update – JoAnn McManus reported on completion of the FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) financial education grant. The final project report was submitted to the FINRA foundation at the end of July. JoAnn's report included statistics on the Smart Investing @ your library® program, and conclusion of the financial education two year grant project. JoAnn gave a brief summary of the grant explaining that it was a 23 month grant that ended in June. The Commission, in partnership with the former Northeast Library System, was granted \$100,000 from the FINRA Investor Education Fund. The grant project included 22 public libraries, and had 3 main objectives: to train library staff on financial education and marketing to their patrons, upgrading the resources in the participating libraries with financial education kits (40 books and/or DVDs) including a kit for the Library Commission which is available through inter-library loan and e-books. The project provided financial literacy training at the 22 library sites in the form of online classes, group events, and University of Nebraska extension educators. The online training course was divided into 3 groups: starting out (under 40), pre-retiree, and retiree. JoAnn commented on how she evaluated the success of the grant project with statistics on circulation of resources (books, DVDs and e-books), patron's opinions of the new resources, participant's pre and post-survey results and their rating of the training components. The online training courses remain available on the Commission's website for any Nebraska resident to access. FINRA's representative commented that this was "truly a lighthouse initiative" and inquired about the Commission applying for a new grant so the Commission could teach this program to another state. Margaret Monsour with the American Library Association commented that this was a truly outstanding effort and congratulated the Commission.

Student Library Internship Grant Program - JoAnn McManus reported on the newly re-funded Student Library Internships grant program. The program was previously funded by a federal Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It will now be funded through the Library Commission's annual LSTA state programs grant allocation. The internship grants are intended to expose interns (high school and college age students) to library work and encourage students to consider library service careers. JoAnn said the application cycle opens October 23. The application deadline is December 17, and the grant

awards announcement will be made on February 8. There will be an *NCompass Live* presentation on November 4 about the program. The award for each library or branch can be up to \$1,000 and can be used for as many interns as the library can support. The grant funds must be used as a stipend or wage for the intern. Eligible applicants are accredited public libraries. Libraries are encouraged to partner with other libraries including schools, colleges and universities. Eligible interns are college or high school students who have not been previously employed or interned with a library. The length of the internships will be determined by the libraries but must fall between mid-March and the end of November. JoAnn said that the internships website is being revised and will be available by next week.

Library Development - Laura Johnson introduced commissioners to the newly revised Nebraska Library Board Manual that is now online. The manual will be a resource for public library boards. The new manual is an online version that will be easily updated, more available to trustees and easy to navigate. Richard Miller gave background information about the previous board manual. He said it was written in 2006 by Pam Scott (Laura Johnson's predecessor), himself and a committee. Richard said that the new manual draws some of its content from the previous manual.

Laura Johnson also spoke about the new Public Library Directors Guidebook that is being compiled by Library Commission staff and regional library system directors. Laura said that new library directors often have limited background in library work. Since there is much for them to learn right away the intent is to give them a place where they can find answers to many of their questions. The guidebook is a work in progress. The content is still being compiled and written. The format has not been determined and the system directors are working on a way to make the guidebook easily searchable. September 30 is the goal for organizing the content. A presentation is planned for the October NLA/NSLA conference. An *NCompass Live* presentation is also planned.

NebraskAccess – Mary Jo Ryan reported on marketing NebraskAccess and the newly revised package of online database subscriptions. She's been working with the Commission's Technology and Access Services staff members Devra Dragos, Allana Novotny, and Susan Knisely. Mary Jo said the first thing they wanted to do was create information that could be shared with the public about the new NebraskAccess databases. The databases are available and free for all Nebraskans. Allana Novotny and Susan Knisely are arranging multiple sessions and locations across the state to acquaint librarians with the NebraskAccess databases. Mary Jo said she also had the opportunity to attend, along with Rod Wagner and Sherry Crow, the Symposium on Education in Nebraska convened by Matt Blomstedt, Nebraska Commissioner of Education. There she had access to many people who could connect her with teachers and school librarians all over the state. Mary Jo said they are also using an online resource called Librarian's Toolbox to connect with librarians. They are using the promotional materials section to give librarians access to customizable materials, press releases, business cards, flyers, bookmarks. They've also been gathering information about what the librarians want, and have found the most common need is talking points for librarians to use when patrons ask them a question. The result was a series of testimonial style banner ads that look at the way a user would view databases, and asking what is the best database to answer a specific patron question. Mary Jo said they also found there was a need for lifestyle marketing, not just marketing the databases, but what is in all

the databases that might be useful to a retiree specifically, for example. All of these strategies will be taken into consideration over the next six months as they develop a marketing plan. Materials will be distributed at the NLA/NSLA conference booth as well as posted on Facebook and the Commission's website.

State Legislative Issues – Wagner reported that last May the legislature adopted a number of resolutions that are the basis for some interim studies that the legislature is now undertaking. Two of the interim studies involve public libraries. Legislative Resolution (LR) 288 relates to the relationship between cities of the second class and villages and public libraries within those jurisdictions. Second class cities are those of more than 800 population and less than 5,000). Villages are municipalities of less than 800 population and more than 100). There will be a hearing on September 25 that will include this issue and also LR 290. LR 290 refers to digitization of newspapers, an activity that public libraries, the Library Commission, and the State Historical Society are involved in. Wagner and Richard Miller will attend the hearing and present testimony. Wagner has also had conversations with Mike Smith, Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society, and will meet with Allen Beermann, Executive Director of the Nebraska Press Association, regarding newspaper digitization issues. Last year, the Library Commission, with assistance from State Historical Society staff, issued newspaper digitization guidelines for libraries. The guidelines address processes, copyright information, and standards for projects.

Wagner said he found LR 288 more worrisome. Richard Miller has had experience in his work with public libraries about issues relating to city councils, mayors and village boards in their interaction with library boards. All of the library boards in second class cities and villages have governing authority under state statutes, but those are often compromised by city councils/village boards that believe they have the authority to set aside or challenge the library board's authority. Wagner said he didn't know what had led to the study but knew the League of Municipalities has interest in the study. In the past, the League initiated legislation to modify state statutes to give local elected officials more authority over public libraries in regard to personnel administration. Miller and Wagner have a meeting scheduled with League of Municipalities staff to discuss issues before the hearing. Wagner wanted to alert the commissioners to these issues telling them interim studies may or may not lead to any legislation. Legislative committees conducting interim studies are to report on their studies by mid-December.

Wagner asked Richard Miller if he had anything to add. Miller distributed a document about the Newspaper Digitization Guidelines that the Commission developed last year. Miller said the Nebraska Community Foundation makes grants available through the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Adviser Fund grant. These grants are for public libraries in communities with populations under 3,000. Miller said that money to digitize local newspapers is among the requests received for project funding. The Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund administrators asked the Commission to help vet proposals regarding digitization, thus guidelines were developed. Wagner said newspapers have a lot of interest in copyright and accessibility issues. Wagner said newspaper publishers aren't concerned about people using microfilm in libraries to find past news information, but it's when they're online and people can remotely access news files that they have concerns. Wagner said that more information about the interim studies will be available for the next Commission meeting in November.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner spoke about the Nebraska Center for the Book activities including the Celebration of Nebraska Books to be held on November 14, preceded by the Center for the Book annual membership meeting. Wagner said Mary Jo Ryan has been preparing publicity for those events. Mary Jo said that the Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held in the Atrium building second floor conference room (down the hall from the Library Commission’s second floor offices). She said that especially popular will be the remarks and readings by the award winners. Most are expected to attend. Some will not be able to due to other commitments or travel distances. Wagner said that awards will be given for fiction, poetry, anthology, cover design and illustration. He said non-fiction awards will include several sub-categories. Mary Jo said there will also be a One Book One Nebraska presentation by Thomas Berg, a history professor at UNL. He will be speaking about Beverly Deepe Kever the author of *Death Zones and Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting*. Mary Jo said the Celebration is funded mainly by the Library Commission but some funding will come from Humanities Nebraska to support Thomas Berg’s presentation. Funding will also come from the University of Nebraska Press for the reception. Mary Jo said that news releases will be issued on various aspects of the celebration. The event usually gets good coverage in Lincoln. There will also be posters, email blasts and an *NCompass Live* webinar on September 30 about One Book One Nebraska, and the Celebration. Pat Gross commented that she attended the Celebration two years ago and it was well worth it, and encouraged attendance.

National Book Festival – Mary Jo Ryan reported on her recent trip to the National Book Festival in Washington D.C., held over Labor Day weekend. Mary Jo said it was an amazing event held by the Library of Congress and covered by Book TV. She said she worked in the Pavilion of the States, where every state has a table. Mary Jo said she encourages the people who visit the Nebraska table to look into Nebraska authors. It is an event primarily for children and families. Each child is given a map and encouraged to visit every state’s table, get a stamp and ask questions about that state. Once they’ve completed their map the Library of Congress gives them a prize. Mary Jo attended with Devra Dragos. They get some help from Junior League of Washington D.C. volunteers. The volunteers are a great help given the thousands of people who come to the festival.

Financial Report

August Financial Report – Wagner reported that the Library Commission’s expenditures are in line with the budget at this point in the year. There are some items that exceed, on a percentage basis, budgeted amounts in consideration of time elapsed within the fiscal year. In most cases this is due to expenses that are paid early in the fiscal year for the whole year, such as subscriptions and memberships. Another factor was the purchase of a large quantity of digital cartridges for the Talking Book and Braille Service. The cartridges are purchased periodically in large quantity. This purchase was approximately \$10,000. Wagner also reported on the status of LSTA funds. As usual, Congress had not yet passed a federal budget for the full fiscal year that begins on October 1. He expects a congressional continuing resolution that will extend funding into the new fiscal year, perhaps 60 to 90 days, at which time Congress will either pass a budget for the remainder of the year or pass continuing resolution for an additional period of time. Wagner said the LSTA state program report will be due at the end of December. He said a new

reporting system will be used for the report. Wagner said Richard Miller, Jerry Breazile and he will participate in webinars provided by Institute of Museum and Library Services staff to introduce the new reporting system.

New Business

Travel Request – Wagner requested approval to attend the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting and the Western Council of State Libraries meeting, both to be held in Cape May, New Jersey, October 18-21. Wagner said a majority of the expenses for attending these meetings would be paid by those two organizations. A motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve Wagner’s out of state travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meetings will be held November 13, 2015, January 15, and March 11, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Patricia Gross at 12:15 p.m.

Tessa Terry