

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

January 10, 2020

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met January 10, 2020, 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: Debby Bloom, Vernon Davis, Arun Pondicherry, Lois Todd-Meyer, and Julia Tye. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe, Jerry Breazile. Debby Bloom 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 Vernon Davis and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer 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: (November 8, 2019) 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

Lois Todd-Meyer – commented that the Celebration of Nebraska Books, held on November 9, was well attended. Lois mentioned that the selection for the 2020 One Book One Nebraska was announced at the event. The book selected for 2020 is Donald Stratton's *All the Gallant Men: An American Sailor's Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor*.

Julia Tye – reported on upcoming events in the Central Plains Library System. CPLS is promoting college scholarships offered by the Willa Cather Center. STEAM workshops will be held in North Platte and Holdrege. Summer Reading Program workshops will be held in McCook, Broken Bow and Grand Island. The Kearney Public Library is preparing for the Storytelling Festival at the end of January. Kearney PL has held makerspace workshops for city employees. The Kearney PL is collaborating with the Elks on a coat giveaway.

Arun Pondicherry – no report.

Vernon Davis – no report.

Debby Bloom – reported Bellevue University hosted an escape room event. Gretna Public Library held an All Hallow Read event; patrons received books for trick or treating. Hartington Public Library held a book talk where children recommended books to their peers and developed

their public speaking skills by presenting. Columbus Public Library had Food for Fines. Schuyler Public Library had a book walk.

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported Cynthia Nigh was selected for the information technology support specialist position. The position was restructured following Diane Wells' retirement. The position will provide support for libraries in upgrading broadband services. Chelsea Lemburg was hired to replace Cynthia in the Library Innovation Studios staff assistant position. Cynthia Osborne has been appointed to the Western Library System director position.

Library Innovation Studios Project – Wagner reported the project team will exchange equipment between the Blue Hill and Nelson libraries. The team will also train library staff and volunteers to use the equipment. Training for the next cycle of libraries will be held in Lincoln February 26 & 27. Applications are due February 3 for the remaining two cycles. Larger libraries (serving populations of over 25,000) were initially excluded from the earlier project cycles but will be able to apply for the fourth year cycles.

Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force – Wagner reported that the task force submitted its report and recommendations in early November. The legislature's telecommunications and transportation committee held a hearing regarding the task force report on December 4. Wagner and two other library representatives (Scott Childers and Lola Seitz) testified at the hearing. As recommended by the task force, the Nebraska Public Service Commission initiated an action to create a special fiber construction fund. The fund would supplement monies that are available to support libraries in installing fiber for broadband connections. The fund would be an added incentive that would match federal E-rate funds.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner commented on the Celebration of Nebraska Books event that was held November 9 at the Nebraska History Museum. The 2020 Celebration event will be held October 17. The governor's proclamation signing for the 2020 One Book One Nebraska program will be held January 13.

Big Talk From Small Libraries – Wagner said that the all-day webcast produced and hosted by Christa Porter is scheduled for February 28. The Association of Rural and Small Libraries is a co-sponsor. Christa will be finalizing the daylong program soon.

Nebraska Library Advocacy Day – Wagner reported Nebraska Library Advocacy Day will be held March 5. A briefing will be held in the morning. Following the briefing, participants will have time to visit senators' offices before the noon luncheon with senators at the Cornhusker Hotel.

National Library Advocacy Day – Wagner reported National Library Legislative Day will be held May 4-5 in Washington D.C.

Financial Report

December Budget and Financial Report – Jerry Breazile gave an overview of the Commission’s state and federal budgets and explained the budget process timeline.

LSTA Grants to States Appropriation Status – Congress enacted and the President signed federal budget appropriations for the remainder of the federal fiscal year ending September 30. Included is an increase in funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The appropriation includes a \$6 million increase in funding for the LSTA Grants to States program.

New Business

State Advisory Council on Libraries Appointments - Rod Wagner presented recommendations for appointments (first term) and re-appointments (second term) to the State Advisory Council on Libraries for three-year terms beginning in January 2020 and continuing until December 31, 2022.

New Appointment Recommendation – Three-Year Term

- Sheryl (Sherry) Crow (Professor & Administrator of the School Library Endorsement Program at University of Nebraska Kearney)

Re-Appointment Recommendations – Second Three Year Term

- Scott Childers (Executive Director, Southeast Library System)
- Gail Irwin (Director, Ainsworth Public Library)
- Lori Long (Media Specialist, Gothenburg Jr/Sr High School)
- Dana Morgan (Principal/Media Specialist, Leyton Public Schools)
- Lisa Olivigni (Branch Manager, Lincoln City Libraries – Eiseley Branch)
- Sky Seery (Media Specialist, North Platte High School)

A motion was made by Julia Tye and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve recommended appointments to the State Advisory Council on Libraries. 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 meeting will be held March 5.

Adjournment

Debby Bloom adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe