

# NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

January 14, 2022

## MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on January 14, 2022. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Vernon Davis, Beth Kabes, Arun Pondicherry, Lois Todd-Meyer and Julia Tye; via GoToMeeting: Kristin Wiebe. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe, Sam Shaw; via GoToMeeting: Christa Porter. Arun Pondicherry 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 Beth Kabes to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Vernon Davis – aye; Beth Kabes – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe – aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** (November 19, 2021) a motion was made by Julia Tye and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Vernon Davis – aye; Beth Kabes – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe – aye. Motion approved.

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

**Arun Pondicherry** – No report.

**Beth Kabes** – No report.

**Kristin Wiebe** – reported the Scottsbluff Public Library had a Wrap It Up event where supplies were provided for patrons to come in and wrap presents. The library has been active with the maker hub and STEAM clubs for teens. Kristin has been impressed with the NCompass Live offerings and has heard from several libraries that appreciate them for staff. Gering Public Library continues efforts toward an updated facility. The Department of Health and Human Services building in Gering is moving and would be a possibility for the library to use.

**Lois Todd-Meyer** – No report.

**Julia Tye** – reported Kearney Public Library is collaborating with University of Nebraska Kearney for a Brown Bag History speaker series. Central Plains Library System has Train the Trainer workshops. The CPLS also has a pre-school STEAM story time and activities. UNK collects discarded juvenile literature to archive. Kearney Public Schools implemented a parent permission form for library checkouts.

**Vernon Davis** – No report.

## **Director's Report**

*Personnel* – Rod Wagner reported the application deadline for the office specialist position was extended to January 28 to seek additional applicants. Alisha Baginski has been hired to fill the federal documents staff assistant position.

*Nebraska Center for the Book* – Christa Porter hosted an NCompass live event with Jonis Agee, author of *Bones of Paradise*, the 2022 One Book One Nebraska selection. Tessa Terry, Erika Hamilton and Becky Faber also joined the program. Funds provided by Humanities Nebraska were used to purchase 100 copies of the book for the Library Commission's book club collection. Books were also sent to the regional library systems for lending.

*Library Innovation Studios Project* – Wagner reported the LIS grant project officially ended December 31. JoAnn McManus distributed a survey to the 35 participating libraries asking about interest in the project's equipment and supplies. The survey asked libraries to list and prioritize items they would like to have. From the responses, JoAnn developed a distribution plan and schedule to deliver equipment and supply items. Deliveries began in December and will continue in February. JoAnn will be working on the final project report. An NCompass live session will be held in March to share project observations and results.

*2022 Legislative Session* – The legislative session began January 5 with many bills introduced. Senators have until January 20 to introduce bills. A bill introduced by Senator Albrecht would place requirements and restrictions regarding online educational resources provided by the Library Commission and K12 schools.

*LSTA Five-Year State Program Evaluation* – Sam Shaw reported that the five-year evaluation report is due March 30 with the LSTA five-year plan due June 30. A survey was sent to public and school librarians with 422 responses received. The survey sought responses regarding the services the Library Commission offers that are supported with LSTA funds. Sally Reed will use the survey results as part of her evaluation work and report.

## **Financial Report**

*December Budget and Financial Report* – Wagner reported that state general fund appropriation expenditures are within budget. The major operating expense is personnel and expenditures thus far are below budget. Some items are paid on an annual basis and payments made early in the fiscal year. Travel expenses are below budget and due to health safety policies over the past nearly two years. The capital outlay budget includes some major expenditures due to replacing workstations throughout the agency. Replacements were needed due to operating system and other software updates.

*LSTA FY 2022 Appropriation Status* – Wagner reported that there has been no further action on federal appropriations. The congressional continuing budget resolution funds federal agencies

and programs until February 18. By that time Congress will need to either further extend short-term funding or appropriate funds for the remainder of the fiscal year.

*American Rescue Plan Act Budget and Expenditures* – Sam Shaw reported that January 14 is the last day for public libraries to apply for the formula payments. As of today, 234 grants have been approved for \$1,284,646.

Christa Porter reported on the ARPA funds budgeted for Library Improvement Grants and Youth Grants for Excellence. Applications were due in October and approved in November. There were 79 Library Improvement Grant applications approved for \$299,972. There were 78 Youth Grants for Excellence applications approved for \$115,466. Traditionally, these grants are for accredited libraries only, but since ARPA funds are being used unaccredited libraries are also eligible.

Porter reported that state funds are budgeted for public library Internship Grants and Continuing Education (CE) and Training Grants. Internship Grants are available for public libraries to employ high school or college students. Internships range from \$500 to \$1,000. The deadline for applications was November 15. All 35 applications were approved for a total of \$34,040. The CE and Training grants are for library workers to participate in educational programs and events. The deadline for these grants is January 14.

## **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 2022 and continuing until December 31, 2024.

### *New Appointment Recommendations – Three-Year Term*

- Laura England-Biggs (Fremont) – Director, Keene Memorial Library, Past President, Nebraska Library Association
- Kimberly Endicott (Wayne) – Wayne Public Library Board of Trustees President
- Lisa Irwin (Kearney) – Librarian, Youth Rehab & Treatment Center-Kearney
- Rachel Steiner (Omaha) – Assistant Director, Omaha Public Library

### *Re-Appointment Recommendations – Three-Year Term*

- David Graber (Wayne) – Director, Conn Library, Wayne State College
- Allison Reisig (Scottsbluff) – Librarian, Western Nebraska Community College

A motion was made by Beth Kabes and seconded by Vernon Davis to approve the State Advisory Council on Libraries appointments and re-appointments. Motion carried on roll call vote: Vernon Davis – aye; Beth Kabes – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe – aye. Motion approved.

*Big Talk from Small Libraries Conference* – Christa Porter reported that the conference will be held on February 25. January 14 is the deadline presentation proposals.

Library Commission Meeting Minutes January 14, 2022

*Next Meeting Dates* – March 11, May 13, July 8.

**Adjournment**

Arun Pondicherry adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe