

# NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

July 8, 2022

## MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on July 8, 2022. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Beth Kabes, Arun Pondicherry; via GoToMeeting: Lois Todd-Meyer. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Kayla Henzel, JoAnn McManus; 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 Lois Todd-Meyer and seconded by Beth Kabes to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Beth Kabes – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** (May 13, 2022) a motion was made by Beth Kabes and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the minutes. Motion carried on roll call vote: Beth Kabes – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye. Motion approved.

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

**Arun Pondicherry** – no report

**Beth Kabes** – no report

**Lois Todd-Meyer** – no report

### Director's Report

*Personnel* – Rod Wagner reported recruitment is underway to fill the Government Documents staff assistant position. No announcement yet from the governor's office regarding commissioner appointments.

*Library Innovation Studios Project* – JoAnn McManus presented the final report for the Library Innovation Studios Project. The final performance report lists activities that were promised, achievements, and lessons learned. The final report has been turned in to IMLS. It was required to evaluate the project and have information that would be made available so that others could duplicate the project elsewhere. LIS events were held in and outside of Nebraska. A pre-session was held at the NLA Conference that allowed people to use makerspace equipment so that they could gain experience on all the different machines. In addition, there was a panel who discussed

the pitfalls and the work involved in having a makerspace. There was also a presentation at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference in October 2021. At the end of the project's fourth year, there was the 2021 Nebraska Makerspace Conference held at the Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln. This served as an opportunity to share knowledge, encourage and support development of makerspaces, and to encourage the communities going forward.

A makerspace database was created and currently there are 32 listed. Makerspaces can enter information on the database about what kind of devices they have. There is a makerspace mailing list with currently 128 subscribers. The email list allows people to communicate with each other on makerspace related issues and to share information.

Information for the evaluation report came from the Library Innovation Studios Certification Database, Directors' Survey, Makers' Survey, and the Community Action Team Members' Survey. All 35 of the project libraries were surveyed about what happened in their situations, how many people are certified users, what machines were purchased, and what additional machines will be purchased. Community members were also surveyed in order to get their input on what the library is able to contribute to the community.

*Library Development* – Christa Porter reported that Public Library Accreditation has started up again since COVID-19. The process officially opened on July. Accreditation is now valid for five years rather than three years. This year, 35 libraries are renewing and 46 unaccredited libraries have been invited to submit accreditation documents. The Commission website has been updated to list all the libraries in the state – both accredited and non-accredited – and for the accredited libraries, what their new expiration date is.

Christa Porter reported about the Emergency Connectivity Fund. This money from the American Rescue Plan Act was allotted to help schools and libraries provide services elsewhere. \$7.17 billion was allotted to schools and libraries to purchase laptops, tablets, and Wi-Fi hotspots. There are multiple filing windows extended through December 2023. Twenty-three libraries have received funding. The full \$7.17 billion has been claimed and libraries and schools are working on getting equipment out into their communities.

Christa Porter reported that 65 libraries applied for E-Rate this year and 64 have been funded. E-rate is funding through the Federal Communications Commission for libraries to upgrade and provide internet service in their building and add or replace networking equipment. All 65 libraries that applied will be approved, no one denied. There is a special program through E-Rate called Fiber Special Construction. This program offers state matching funds to assist in paying for equipment. The Public Service Commission has allotted \$1 million to help schools and libraries to get fiber internet in their buildings. This year, three libraries applied and all three were approved. There is a list on the Nebraska Library Commission's website of all the libraries that are recipients.

*Nebraska Center for the Book* – Rod Wagner reported that the Nebraska Center for the Book board met recently at Seward Public Library. The National Book Festival is returning this year as an in-person event in Washington D.C. over Labor Day Weekend. Online presentations will also be available. Every state has the opportunity to have an exhibit at the Book Festival. Tessa Terry

and Devra Dragos will be attending to cover the Nebraska exhibit. Laurie Yocom, director of Cozad's Wilson Public Library and a Nebraska Center for the Book board member, will also attend.

Wagner reported that this year's One Book One Nebraska selection has been a popular choice. Author Jonis Agee has been very willing and eager to make presentations all over the state. Nominations for the 2023 One Book One Nebraska were due June 15. Over 20 nominations were submitted. Nominations will be divided among the NCB board OBON committee and a shortlist will be created. Board members will vote on the shortlist and an announcement will be made later this year at the Celebration of Nebraska Books event.

Rod Wagner reported that the Nebraska Book Awards Competition entry deadline was June 30. Over 60 entries were received in this year's competition and winners will be chosen by early September. The Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held in October.

*2023-2025 Biennium Budget Request* – Wagner reported work is still in the preliminary stage. This involves entering program information and data with the current fiscal year budget. The biennium beginning on July 1, 2023 will include estimated state and federal expenditures for agency programs and services. Additional information is required for services and programs that have increased funding requests. The budget request will be further discussed and presented at the September 9 Commission meeting. The request is due at the state budget office by September 15.

## **Financial Report**

*June Financial Report* – Report shows expenditures as of the close of the state fiscal year. There will be changes due to encumbrances prior to June 30. Regarding major categories, the commission came in under budget. State funds were fully expended. The Library Innovation Studios project was fully funded and completed. Federal Fiscal year ends September 30.

*American Rescue Plan Act Budget and Expenditures* – Christa Porter reported that the NLC used ARPA funds for Library Improvement grants, Youth Grants for Excellence, and a special additional formula grant that all public and state institutional libraries were eligible for. The deadline for libraries to submit the grant completion report and invoices for the formula grant and Library Improvement grant was June 30. Youth Grants for Excellence has a later deadline date of September 14. Some of the ARPA funds went to covering the cost of the Kreutz Bennett Donor Advised fund applications. That deadline is September 1. The original deadline to have everything submitted to IMLS was September 30. An extension was requested and the new deadline is December 31.

## **New Business**

*LSTA Five-Year Plan 2023-2027* – Deferred to September 9 meeting.

*Next Meeting Dates* – September 9, November TBD, January 13, 2023

**New Business**

Arun Pondicherry adjourned the meeting.

Kayla Henzel