

## NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Grand Island, Nebraska

March 8, 2013

### MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on March 8, 2013, at the Grand Island Public Library, 211 N Washington Street, Grand Island, Nebraska. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Steve Batty, Patricia (Pat) Gross, Charles Gordon, Sherry Crow. Members absent: Diane Boyd, Molly Fisher. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, Sue Biltoft, Jennifer Wrampe.

Guests: Vicki Retzlaff, Christine Walsh, John Dale, Cecelia Lawrence, Merrillene Wood, Deb Carlson, Nancy Escamilla, Kate Borchman-Hassebrook, Beth Kabes, Francine Canfield, Sherry Houston, Steve Fosselman.

Steve Batty, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. This meeting is in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Pat Gross to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Steve Batty - aye; Sherry Crow - aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Minutes:** (January 4, 2013) a motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye. Motion approved.

### **Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments**

**Steve Batty** commented on the McCook public library's renovation project. The original plan was to install an elevator. The project now includes additional work. The ceiling has been removed due to asbestos and a north entrance has been built. The project cost was budgeted at \$250,000 and has grown to about \$650,000. The elevator will be at the main entrance with a parking lot to the north. New carpeting and book shelves will be installed. Steve said that the Culbertson public library board went to their village council and was successful in obtaining \$100,000 for a new library. Culbertson also held a benefit supper with an auction that raised \$52,000. They are seeking more money for the needed financing of the new library. Steve said that Jody Crocker, McCook public library director, has been actively involved in the state Summer Reading Program, Make and Take, and will be involved in leading the program again this year. The Republican Valley Library System annual meeting will be held on June 1 in Superior. The program will include a tour of some of the historic homes in the area.

**Sherry Crow** reported that the UNK School Librarian Endorsement Program has received national recognition from the American Library Association/American Association of School Librarians (ALA/AASL) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). UNK is the second program in Nebraska to receive this recognition. The University of Nebraska at Omaha's school library endorsement program received this recognition in 2006. UNK is one of the first under the new standards - the 2010 Initial Preparation for School Librarians Standards. Sherry said that Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System director, is arranging a site license for group participation in a Public Library Association Virtual Spring Symposium on March 20. The Meridian and Republican Valley library systems are purchasing the site license for the symposium for viewing at the Lexington Public Library. Last October, Sherry presented at the Library 2.012 Worldwide Virtual Conference. More than 3000 people from around the world participated in the three day conference. Sherry said that the conference will be held again next October. Oconto Public Library held a "Dig into Reading" summer reading program workshop on March 7. Grand Island Public Library will hold a Children's Services Workshop on April 18, 2013. Sharon Osenga completed a "Week of Weeding" project, January 14-19. During that week 3,448 items were weeded by 11 participating libraries. The Meridian Library System has new book club titles: *O Pioneers!*, *The Red Tent*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Secret Garden* and *Saint Maybe*.

**Patricia Gross** reported that the Panhandle Library System has a new coordinator, Eric Green. Pat said that Eric has been out meeting librarians in the region. The Panhandle Library System has 14,000 square miles that he will have to cover. Pat said that Bev Russell is currently serving as the interim library director at Chadron State College.

**Charles Gordon** passed around an article from *USA Today* about libraries checking out such items as tools, seed packets, etc. Charles noted that April is National Poetry Month, something he is very passionate about. Charles said that libraries should have received a poster to display at the library in recognition of National Poetry Month (available for free and can be downloaded or requested via the poets.org website).

## **Director's Report**

*Personnel Updates* – Rod Wagner reported that Peter Worth, publications assistant/graphic designer, has taken full-time employment. Peter started with the Commission as an intern and then as a part-time employee the last few years. He is a graduate of UNL. Peter has been a great asset to the Commission and has helped with numerous publications.

Wagner recognized Michael Sauers, Laura Johnson and Christa Burns for planning, organizing, and conducting the Big Talk from Small Libraries webinar held on February 28. Presenters covered a variety of topics. The presentations were recorded and archived for future access. There were 553 people from over 40 states and Canada registered for the webinar.

*Library Broadband Technology Project* – Rod Wagner distributed a status report from JoAnn McManus on the Library Broadband Project. Wagner noted the work done to help many more libraries than expected with broadband service upgrades. JoAnn estimates that 110 out of the 140 project libraries will be supported with broadband service upgrades. The project budget includes

funds to purchase additional computers and other items that libraries may need. Wagner reminded that the grant project ends on July 31. However, additional time is allowed for project closing and reporting which extends through October 31. Sustainability is an expectation and has been promoted throughout the three-year grant project. Technology provided through the project will need to be replaced over time and libraries will need to pick up the portion of telecommunications costs that have been supported by the project. Use of Universal Service Funds (e-rate telecommunications discounts for libraries) has been encouraged. On-going training and advising on computer hardware and software are needed as well. That need has been noted with Holly Woldt's work in assisting project libraries with computer installations.

Wagner reported that National Library Legislative Day activities will be held May 7 and 8 with briefings on May 7 and congressional office visits on May 8. The Commission will be represented by Pat Gross, Steve Batty and Rod Wagner. The Nebraska Library Association will be represented by Brenda Ealey. Brenda is a member of the Nebraska Library Association's advocacy committee and is the Nebraska Chapter Councilor on the American Library Association Council.

### **Financial Report**

*January-February Financial Report* – Wagner reported that the Commission is in a good position at this point in the year as far as state funds are concerned. Discussion of the biennium budget status was deferred to the State Advisory Council meeting to follow.

*LSTA FY 2013 Appropriation Status* – Wagner stated that LSTA appropriations and allotments have not yet been determined for the remainder of the federal fiscal year (ending September 30). Under provisions of the current congressional continuing resolution funds for federal programs will expire at the end of March. Congress must act to fund programs for the remainder of the year.

**Unfinished Business** – Richard Miller reported on the status of the Public Library Accreditation Guidelines Revision project. Miller presented a memorandum describing the proposals for revision of the guidelines. Discussion followed with recognition of the good work of the guidelines committee members and Commission staff.

### **New Business**

*State Advisory Council on Libraries Appointments* - Wagner recommended reappointment of Kate Borchman Hassebrook to serve a second term on the State Advisory Council on Libraries. A motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Pat Gross to approve the appointment. Motion carried on roll call vote: Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Sherry Crow-aye. Motion approved.

*Out-of-State Travel Request* – Rod Wagner requested approval for travel to attend National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C. May 7-8, followed by a Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting on May 9. Wagner also requested approval for travel to attend the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago from June 27 – July 2. A motion

was made by Pat Gross and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve Wagner’s travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Sherry Crow - aye; Charles Gordon – aye. Motion approved.

*Next Meeting Date* – Commission members agreed to hold the next Commission meeting on May 17, 2013.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Steve Batty at 10:02 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe