

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

March 20, 2024

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on March 20, 2024. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Tiffany Carter, Diane Downer, Beth Kabes, Arun Pondicherry, and Lois Todd-Meyer. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Geibel.

Beth Kabes called the meeting to order at 10:15 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 Tiffany Carter and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Tiffany Carter – aye; Diane Downer – aye; Beth Kabes - aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: (January 12, 2024) a motion was made by Lois Todd-Meyer and seconded by Diane Downer to approve the minutes. Motion carried on roll call vote: Tiffany Carter – aye; Diane Downer – aye; 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

Diane Downer no report

Tiffany Carter – no report

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported Bailee Juroshek was appointed to the Public Information and Communications Office Specialist position that Kayla Henzel vacated with her new position with Lancaster County.

Jo Mezger was appointed to fill the TBBS Readers Advisor position vacated by Hollin Attendola following Hollin's appointment as Senior Readers Advisor.

Trey Porter resigned from the TBBS Studio and Book Circulation Support position. Recruitment is underway to fill this position.

Recruitment continues for the cataloger position. Interviews are expected soon following the application deadline.

State Legislative Session – Today is day 47 of the 60-day session. Current library related issues are LB441 and LB635. There are no current state budget issues; those will come in the 2025 session.

COSLA Meeting & Congressional Office Visits – Wagner reported that he attended the COSLA membership meeting at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. A day of legislative briefings was held at the DC Martin Luther King Branch Library. He met with representatives from the offices of Senator Deb Fischer, Representative Don Bacon and Representative Mike Flood. The significant item discussed was funding for the LSTA and LSTA reauthorization with the act reaching its current authorization sunset date at the end of FY 2025.

Library Commission Grants – Wagner noted grant awards have been issued for Youth services, Continuing Education, Library Improvement, and Library Internships. Grants were approved for nearly all applications. News releases will be distributed soon to publicize grants.

Medica – Community Engagement Funds – Wagner reported Medica, a multi-state insurance company, contributed \$63,500 from the company’s community engagement program for NLC to work with libraries to upgrade broadband services. Andrew Sherman has been working with many libraries to help plan broadband and networking equipment upgrades. These libraries are also eligible to receive E-Rate funding support. E-rate does not cover some expenses such as switches, routers, and some other networking devices needed to achieve faster connections. On average, the Medica funds will provide \$400 per library for the networking components.

NCompass live and Big Talk From Small Libraries – Christa Porter hosted the annual *Big Talk from Small Libraries* conference held February 23. There were hundreds of participants from across the country and some Canadian provinces. The presentations are now available online for anyone who would like to view them.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported that meetings were held to consider merging the annual Nebraska Book Festival and Celebration of Nebraska Books events. Planning is moving forward toward a full day event on Saturday, October 12. The Nebraska Celebration of Books event will be held at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln City Campus Union.

Entries for the Book Award competition have been coming in steadily. Due date for entries is May 31. There is also time remaining for 2025 One Book One Nebraska nominations. Due date is August 15.

Financial Report

February Financial Report – Wagner reported that agency state funds expenditures overall are a couple percent under budgeted amounts at this point in the state fiscal year. Personnel expenses are slightly under budget; that savings can be applied toward other operating expenses. Overall operating expenses are slightly above budget. Federal funds expenditures are under budget at near halfway through the federal fiscal year. The significant state funds expenditure coming up is State Aid to Public Libraries. The state aid payments recommendation will be included on the May meeting agenda.

LSTA FY 2024 Appropriations Status – Federal operating funds expenditures are below budgeted amounts at this time. A current issue is that Congress adopted a continuing budget resolution that expires on Friday. Congress is working toward appropriations for the remainder of the federal fiscal year.

New Business

Next Meeting Date – May 17, July 12

Adjournment

Beth Kabes adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe