

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska
September 7, 2012

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on September 7, 2012, at the Library Commission office, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Charles Gordon, Patricia (Pat) Gross, Diane Boyd, Sherry Crow, Molly Fisher and Steve Batty (via telephone). Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Geibel, Mary Jo Ryan, JoAnn McManus. Public: Kathy Tooker (Eastern Library System) and Barbara Hegr (Nebraska City).

Vice-Chair Charles Gordon called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. This meeting is in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Patricia Gross and seconded by Diane Boyd to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried on roll call vote: Diane Boyd – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; and Molly Fisher - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (June 11, 2012) Steve Batty stated the minutes should reflect that he participated via telephone as did Diane Boyd. Kathy Tooker requested a correction of the title of Jeff Barnes' presentation, *Texture of the Royal Buffalo Hunt of 1872*. A motion was made by Diane Boyd to approve the minutes as corrected and seconded by Sherry Crow. Motion carried on roll call vote: Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd. Motion approved.

Public Forum

Barbara Hegr, Director of the Morton-James Public Library, commented on Nebraska City's Applejack Weekend. The library is hosting a science discovery day provided by the Edgerton Explorit Center.

Kathy Tooker stated that the Southeast and Eastern Library systems will hold a Youth Services Retreat at Camp Carol Joy Holling on September 20 & 21 with 40 participants registered. Another joint project is a colloquium to be held on November 29 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. The presenter will be Kathy Dempsey, a consultant and author of the book *The Accidental Library Marketer*.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Charles Gordon forwent his report and introduced Molly Fisher, the Commission's newest member filling the position previously held by John Dale.

Molly Fisher said that she retired in 2000 from the Nebraska Humanities Council where she served as Associate Director. Molly said that she met many librarians through her work with the Humanities Council. She is active in libraries and volunteered in the Heritage room at Bennett Martin Library. She has just returned from the west coast where she and her husband volunteer for state parks. They are interested in lighthouses and were recently guides at North Head Lighthouse at the mouth of the Columbia River. Molly is interested in libraries and has a master's in library science and a PhD in English. Rod Wagner added that Molly is one of the founding members of the Nebraska Center for the Book and is an ex-officio member of the NCB board. Molly said that she also serves on the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association board and has been a board member for a number of years.

Steve Batty reported that Denise Harders, Republican Valley Library System director, will be at the McCook Public Library on September 18 to provide hands-on sessions for people using Amazon Kindles. The McCook public library's elevator project is on hold again due to the need for a sprinkler system. Installation of the sprinkler system would involve work with the asbestos found in the basement ceiling. New library directors in the Republican Valley region are: Kathy Hoberg, Logan County Public Library; Joe Vusich, Sutton Memorial Library and Keri Anderson, Hoesch Memorial Library in Alma. Steve said that the Elwood Public Library held a grand opening event in July to celebrate its new library building. Steve commented that eBook reading devices are becoming a more significant part of the library. He said that he received an email message about the need for more Overdrive books.

Patricia Gross reported on the summer reading programs in the Panhandle region and noted a very successful year. The Panhandle Library System board will meet on September 11. The Technology Planning Summer Camp will be held September 11 and 12 in Ogallala. Pat said that Joe Starita will give a presentation at Chadron State College on September 27. Starita is the author of *I Am A Man*, the 2012 One Book One Nebraska selection. A book exhibit will be at the Gering Civic Center on September 18. Duane Munson will provide the many books to be displayed. Pat reported that the Panhandle Library System Coordinator position remains vacant. Pat stated that Milton Wolf, Chadron State College library director, passed away in August.

Sherry Crow reported on new Meridian Library System board members. They are Kathy Swanson, Director of the Lexington Public Library, and Megan Svoboda, Assistant Director of the Broken Bow Public Library. Sherry mentioned new school librarians in the region: Michelle Archibeque, Burwell Jr./Sr. High School; Suzann Christensen at Horizon Middle School in Kearney; Mary Roesler at the Kenwood Elementary School, Kearney; and Trish Heins, Windy Hills Elementary School in Kearney. New public librarians in the region are: Deb Fairbanks at Maltman Memorial Library in Wood River and Jennifer Fowler at Loup City Library. Sherry mentioned an article in the Kearney Hub last week by Kearney public library director Matt Williams about eBooks and the Overdrive library service.

Diane Boyd commented that she likes to visit libraries when she travels to other communities. She said that on a recent trip to Norfolk she visited the Norfolk Public Library. She was given a tour of the library and office areas by Mike Caldararo Norfolk library director. Diane said that she was very impressed with the library, its organization and layout, friendliness of staff, and Mr. Caldararo's courtesy.

Director's Report

Rod Wagner reported on information posted on the Library Commission's website about the Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse. The post, written by Beth Goble, observed that the Clearinghouse was created by an act of the Nebraska legislature 40 years ago in 1972. The Clearinghouse was created as a division of the Library Commission to provide a central place within Nebraska state government to collect publications from state agencies and entities and provide public access to this information. Wagner noted that the Clearinghouse has changed a lot over the years from being inundated with paper publications to now also receiving state and federal government information in digital formats.

Personnel Update

Rod Wagner reported that Beth Goble is now working part-time (20 hours per week) and has moved from her position as Government Information Services Director to Historical Projects Librarian. Beth's former position, Government Information Services Librarian, is under recruitment.

Wagner said that the Panhandle Library System Coordinator's position remains open with no recent applications received. There were interviews earlier this year, but no job offers were made.

State Employee Recognition

Rod Wagner reported that the Library Commission participates in the Nebraska State Employee Recognition program. The program includes selection of an agency Employee of the Year and Manager of the Year. The Commission's 2012 Employee of the Year is Angela Gunther Gonzales, BTOP Grant Compliance Officer. The Commission's 2012 Manager of the Year is Vern Buis, Computer Services Director.

The State Employee Recognition program also recognizes state employees for their years of state service. Several Commission employees are being recognized for length of service this year: 40 years – Mary Jo Ryan (state agencies in addition to NLC) and Rod Wagner; 30 years – Diane Wells; 20 years - Lisa Kelly; and 15 years – Richard Miller. There will be recognition ceremonies at the capitol in October.

Library Broadband Project and Technology Planning Summer Camp 2 – JoAnn McManus reported that two of the three Technology Planning Summer Camps have been held, one in Grand Island and the other in Norfolk. The third and final Technology Planning Summer Camp will be held in Ogallala on September 11 and 12. JoAnn provided copies of the planning camp agendas. JoAnn said there were nearly 80 participants in both Grand Island and Norfolk and 65 registered for Ogallala. Invitations were sent to all public libraries but the only ones eligible for travel expense reimbursement are those libraries included in the BTOP grant. Libraries can bring as many as three people. JoAnn said the camps have been very well received. Presentations were geared toward sustainability of the technology provided to the 147 libraries. The three year grant program will end July 31, 2013. So far, \$1.8 million has been expended to purchase computer hardware and software along with furniture and peripherals for the computer centers. McManus said that one of the significant goals for the grant project is upgrading broadband speed in libraries. This has been accomplished in 78 libraries thus far. JoAnn said that it is expected that

the project will result in increased broadband speed in 90 libraries, double the number stated in the project application. The furniture purchased for the BTOP libraries comes through Cornhusker State Industries. JoAnn referred to the blog created for the Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities project that allows for the libraries and partners to also post news and information. The blog link is: <http://lbbnc.nebraska.gov/>.

Nebraska Center for the Book Programs and Projects – Rod Wagner and Mary Jo Ryan reported that the Nebraska Center for the Book’s annual book award competition has begun. Award categories include fiction, non-fiction, children and youth, poetry, and book design. There has been a very good response with excellent books being submitted for consideration. To be eligible, books must have a 2011 copyright date and have a Nebraska connection (per award competition requirements). The book awards will be presented at the annual “Celebration of Nebraska Books” to be held on November 3 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. This is also the date for the Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting to be held prior to the awards presentations. The Jane Geske Award will also be presented. The Geske award is presented to an organization, agency, school or library that promotes libraries, reading and literacy. The 2013 One Book One Nebraska selection will be announced at this event. The One Book One Nebraska final nominees include: *Oh Pioneers!*; *The Tie That Binds*; *While the Patient Slept*; and *“Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*.

IMLS Program Office Visit – Rod Wagner reported that Michelle Farrell, IMLS Senior Program Officer, recently visited the Library Commission to meet with staff about the LSTA state program. The IMLS has program officers assigned to work with a group of state library agencies. Nebraska is among the states assigned to Farrell. Wagner said that in addition to meeting with Commission staff Michele Farrell also visited a few libraries that were awarded LSTA project funding from the Library Commission’s Library Improvement Grant program.

21st Century Librarian Program & Tech Rodeo – Mary Jo Ryan reported on the IMLS scholarship, internships, stipends and other activities of the Librarian’s for the 21st Century Librarian grant project. Nearly \$246,000 in scholarship funds have been awarded thus far. All of the masters’ level scholarships have been awarded and the program staff has been successful in encouraging students to continue school to receive their master’s degree. Applications are still being accepted from persons wanting to work on undergraduate coursework. Mary Jo shared some thank you notes received from scholarship recipients. Stipends are available for students to get a laptop computer, for conference attendance, or for library association memberships.

Mary Jo Ryan said that as part of the value added learning experiences, Michael Sauers and Susan Knisely have been providing eReader trainings in libraries for students and library patrons. In the classes, there is a lot of intermingling with the students and library staff from public and school libraries. Along with creating and presenting webinars, the Tech Rodeo held this summer, primarily for students, was an opportune time for students to participate in a retreat setting with library staff. Also attending the Rodeo were the regional system administrators and one person from out-of-state. The Tech Rodeo was designed as a learning experience involving work on a project team. Teams were asked to develop a presentation using techniques and resources provided as part of the instruction. Ryan said that the intent was to learn technology fundamentals; create, edit and project video content; learn and practice presentation skills; team

building and communication experience and immersing in the trends and issues of things happening in today's library science world. Ryan said there 45 participants. For further information, including presentations: <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/rodeo/>

Financial Report

July – August Financial Report – Rod Wagner stated that the Commission is in the final month of the first quarter and expenditures are in line with the operating budget. Wagner said that some annual expenses, including some subscriptions and memberships, are paid early in the new fiscal year and those expenses appear high, in percentage, as a result.

LSTA Maintenance of Effort Waiver Request Status & LSTA Funding Outlook – Wagner reported that no decision has been received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on the LSTA state maintenance of effort (MOE) waiver request submitted in May.

Unfinished Business

LSTA Five-Year Plan 2013-2017 – Rod Wagner reported that the LSTA five-year plan was submitted in draft format on the June 30, 2012 due date. After review by the IMLS staff, some changes were requested and made. The five-year plan is now available for discussion and action by the Commission. Wagner explained that the plan includes Library Commission goals, objectives and activities for addressing the state's library service needs. The LSTA state program five-year evaluation submitted to the IMLS in March 2012 is a component of the plan. Wagner recognized Kathryn Brockmeier for her work as the lead staff person for the five-year plan. John Felton contributed significant work to both the five-year evaluation report and five-year plan. Kathryn had primary involvement in compiling, organizing and writing the plan with help and support from a number of other Commission staff.

Discussion was held on the LSTA Plan and Wagner provided explanations to questions raised. Wagner noted some minor text corrections and changes that need to be made. A motion was made by Sherry Crow and seconded by Diane Boyd to accept the plan with allowance for corrections. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; and Patricia Gross – aye. Motion approved.

New Business

2013-2015 Biennium Budget Request – Rod Wagner presented the Library Commission's 2013-2015 Biennium Budget Request with Major Budget Issues and Modifications Summary. Discussion was held and explanations provided by Wagner regarding the recommendations included in the budget request.

It was moved by Patricia Gross and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve the Library Commission's biennium budget request including an increase in regional library system funding of \$90,000 each year; NebraskaAccess funding to include addition of eLibrary for schools and a 3% increase for database subscription fees; and funding for eBook purchases for public libraries in the amount of \$925,000 for each year of the biennium (equal to approximately \$.50 per capita

– based on Nebraska population). Motion carried on roll call vote: Diane Boyd – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Motion approved.

Out-of-State Travel Request – Rod Wagner requested approval for out-of-state travel to attend a Chief Officers and State Library Agencies meeting in Lexington, Kentucky from October 14-17. Lodging expenses will be covered by COSLA. A motion was made by Diane Boyd and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the Out-of-State Travel Request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Molly Fisher – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Motion approved.

November Meeting Date – It was agreed by consensus that the Commission meeting be held Friday, November 9, 2012.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Charles Gordon at 11:37 a.m.

Mary Geibel, Secretary
