

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Nebraska Library Commission
1200 N Street, Lincoln, NE
Tuesday, March 10, 2015 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Beth Kabes (Chair), Francine Canfield, John Dale, Susan Franklin, Denise Harders, Sherry Houston, Joann Jackson, Norma Pountney, Vickie Retzlaff, Gayle Roberts, Janet Stoeger Wilke, Matthew Williams, Merrillene Wood. Other members participating online via GoToMeeting: Cecelia Lawrence, Kara Welch, and Abbigail (Abby) Yellman. The following Advisory Council members were absent: Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Jean Hellwege and Julie Pinnell. Also present: Steve Batty, Pat Gross, Michael LaCroix, Commissioners. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Linda Babcock, Laura Johnson and Richard Miller. One guest attending today: Celeste Lux, Blair Public Library.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Beth Kabes opened the meeting with a welcome.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by Francine Canfield and seconded by Sherry Houston to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes (November 21, 2014): Motion made by John Dale and seconded by Merrillene Wood to approve the November 21, 2014 minutes. Richard Miller noted some word change corrections. Vickie Retzlaff requested a correction on page 7 to read: “Some obituary records have been digitized in the museum located on the third floor of the courthouse.” Corrections were approved. Motion approved.

Public Comment: None.

Reports / Discussion:

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner

Rod Wagner thanked the Commission and Council members for accommodating meeting changes. The meeting dates for the Nebraska Library Commission meeting and the State Advisory Council of Libraries meeting were changed to the week of Library Advocacy Day to allow people to attend Advocacy Day as well as the other meetings.

The Library Commission budget hearing was yesterday, March 9, 2015. The Commission requested several items above the current level of funding including a request of \$150,000 over the current funding for Nebraska eReads for the coming fiscal year and more for the second fiscal year. Another request is for state funds to continue summer student internships in public libraries.

A request of \$110,000 the first year and \$117,500 for the second year was submitted for the Edge Initiative, which would support Nebraska public libraries by providing technology assessment tools. When the Edge Initiative funding proposal was submitted in September, it was thought the funding would cover both statewide licensing for Edge and a significant amount of funding remaining to use as incentives to those libraries that use the Edge Assessment tools and data for their community technology planning. The Commission learned that the Urban Libraries Council will be instituting a population based purchase arrangement with Edge, and that Nebraska's annual payment will be \$40,000. That is double the anticipated amount, and there will not be enough funding for statewide incentives. The online self-directed education funding request is a new item. It would allow individuals to access self-directed educational courses through a state subscription. Additional state funding at 3% above current fiscal year funding amounts for the regional library systems has also been requested.

Rod asked the group to share their conversations about libraries and other issues with Nebraska legislative representatives during their time at Advocacy Day. Gayle Roberts, Michael LaCroix, Sherry Houston, Merrillene Wood, Joann Jackson and Francine Canfield talked about their positive and supportive conversations with the representatives

Nebraska Library Association – Gayle Roberts

Gayle Roberts reported that five Blair Public Library volunteers were recognized with awards for their services. NLA is updating association by-laws and handbooks.

Robin Clark, NLA immediate past-president, has resigned to take a position at Emporia Public Library in Kansas. She will not be replaced, and the executive board will take on the work of past-president.

Gayle reported that the NLA budget this year has a \$15,000 deficit. The Service Learning Academy at the University of Nebraska Omaha is organizing a group to look at how to help non-profit organizations increase their membership.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Beth Kabes for Jean Hellwege

Jean Hellwege was not able to attend. Beth Kabes reported on behalf of the NSLA. Beth said that NSLA will co-sponsor keynote speaker Shannon McClintock Miller at the NETA (Nebraska Educational Technology Association) Spring Conference to be held on April 23-24. The AASL national president, Leslie Preddy will also speak at NLA/NSLA Conference.

Betty Meyer is chair of the School Library Month Committee for the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and she is asking for ideas. School Libraries Day is March 21, 2015 at three locations including Omaha, Kearney and North Platte. Kabes encouraged school librarians to register at one of the locations.

Nebraska Library Workforce-Continuing Education-Laura Johnson/All

Rod Wagner said that continuing education is a common interest among all the council members. He asked Laura to speak about continuing education and the various Library Commission educational activities.

Laura asked the members about their education needs. What are the greatest needs for continuing education? Do you think there is a great difference between continuing education for librarian professionals and for library staff? What are your favorite go-to places for continuing education?

Gayle Roberts said she would like to have more information presented on librarian safety training and practices. She said they (Blair public library staff) utilize the free webinars provided via the Commission.

Francine Canfield said that she has certified staff taking Basic Skills classes and many staff members watching the archived free webinars. She said the webinars have changed the conversation among staff members in a positive way.

Norma Pountney said Omaha Public Library now requires all professional staff to be certified through the Nebraska Public Librarian Certification program. The library has also developed, and continues to develop, classes for professional development and leadership for their staff such as the Versal classes.

Laura mentioned that there will be an NCompass Live presentation on April 15 about tips and tricks on presenting a good webinar. [Title: “What we’ve learned: Tips & Tricks for Webinars That Deliver the Goods” with Christa Burns, Michael Sauers, and Laura Johnson.]

Laura said technology has been emphasized a lot the last couple of years, largely due to the Library Broadband Builds Nebraska grant. Many of the small public libraries received computers and technology or upgraded their technology. The Commission is working to make sure libraries and library patrons have support.

Laura explained the process of being certified and participating in the Nebraska Librarian Certification program. The Commission keeps track of continuing education credit for library workers in the program after the participants report. Librarians are required to earn 45 contact continuing education contact hours within a three-year certification period. All participants are required to take the Basic Skills classes if they haven’t completed the equivalent in college credit. All participants’ records are confidential and are not shared with anyone except the individual. Participants may share information about their records if they wish. Librarian certification is part of the requirements of Public Library Accreditation. It is also a requirement for libraries to apply for grants and state aid. The Commission is seeing growth in the certification program. Over the last six years there has been an increase of 300 people in the program. Laura would like to develop other continuing educational programs. The Basic Skills have been offered online for the last four years, and the convenience seems to have made them

well-attended. A new continuing education opportunity the Commission is offering through WebJunction is Skillssoft offering over 500 free classes to improve desktop skills.

Laura provided copies of the “Season Ticket” for the Trustee Academy webinars the Commission has distributed to all Nebraska library boards and librarians through United for Libraries. Additional ones will be sent on request. The information about how to login to the United for Libraries website to view these webinars is also on the Nebraska Library Commission’s website.

Francine Canfield said she opposed the Basic Skills classes being available online at first but now realizes that online classes have been a real answer to a lot of training issues. A positive observation of hers has been the interaction she has noticed with her library staff, as a result of the Basic Skills classes.

Matthew Williams said he had a good experience presenting an NCompass Live presentation on “Extreme Customer Service.”

Council Round Table – Successes and Challenges – Council

Cecelia Lawrence said their challenge is working on the strategic plan. Getting started with it was a success. She also said North Platte Public Library Lego Club is doing great.

Kara Welch said their challenge at Ainsworth Public Library is also the strategic plan. The library is undergoing stage two of its remodeling project, and the library will be closed for a whole week while work is being done.

Abbigail Yellman reported the City of Scottsbluff has implemented a 3% budget cut. Two open positions are frozen, and she is not sure when they will be refilled. The success is the staff is committed and doing a great job with service at the library.

Merrilene Wood reported that on January 1, 2015 a cataloging/technical service librarian was hired at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff. Staff is working on programming for students at the college. They are also working on collection development and continually assessing the library’s services. They and others are developing a student success class that will be offered to all freshmen; a portion of this class is computer literacy.

Pat Gross, Nebraska Library Commissioner, reported that Gering Public Schools recently received \$8,000 for placing eighth in the national Follett Challenge for a video. The elementary school library and middle school library will each receive \$1,000 for books and materials. The high school will receive the rest for e-readers and e-books.

John Dale said that Lincoln City Libraries will be switching to Sirsi Dynix for its ILS. Conn Library at Wayne State College continues to be under construction.

Beth Kabes reported that ESU7 is promoting the tools and resources available to teachers and students. A librarian at ESU7 is tweeting daily about ESU 7 resources, and that has been very successful. Beth also said that the multiple sites for School Librarian’s Day this year were very successful.

Denise Harders reported that she and Sharon Osenga, co-directors of Central Plains Library System, have had great success getting their new regional system going. Their fifteen member board met in January, the first CPS newsletter, *Plain Speaking*, was published, a website has been set up, and a successful two-site Summer Reading Program was offered.

Denise said that the challenge for her and for Sharon Osenga is the wide-open spaces they encounter when traveling in this vast region.

Joann Jackson, library director of the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center in Geneva reported that during the month of March there is a “March Madness” activity between staff and youth to see who reads the most books. She mentioned that NebraskAccess is very beneficial to the Center’s services.

Janet Stoeger Wilke reported that her challenges and successes are establishing a UNK institutional repository. The repository brings information together and makes it visible and accessible. A challenge she faces is getting assistance for the software to make this work and knowing that the staff will have to go through reconstruction at the same time.

Norma Pountney reported that Guadalupe Mier is the Interim Director at Omaha Public Library, during the recruitment and selection process for a new OPL director. The library is working with the Heritage Foundation and others to develop a digital library. The digital library will not be a part of the Omaha Public Library but there is hope that it eventually will. The digital library received a large grant for renovating a former bookstore (Borders) at 72nd and Dodge Streets in Omaha. There are many volunteers in starting this endeavor.

On another topic, Norma said that a sociologist comes to the downtown branch of the library to work with the homeless and others to help them with issues such as housing, education and jobs. A new librarian has been hired at the downtown branch to focus on social issues.

Norma said that Rebecca Stavick developed all the virtual classes and also started a coding organization at Omaha Public Library.

Gayle Roberts reported that the Blair Public Library Foundation has raised \$2.5 million in a year. One of her biggest challenges is realigning staff job duties and descriptions with titles. Richard suggested she talk about the League of Nebraska Municipalities meeting since she was one of the people who staffed the exhibit. (See Francine Canfield’s comments below.)

Francine Canfield reported that 300 people registered for the League of Nebraska Municipalities 2015 Midwinter Conference. Of those people who represent Nebraska local

government in cities and counties, about one-third of them are newly elected. Francine said she has been working on changing things in the Baright Public Library to better utilize space and resources.

Canfield is a member the Three Rivers Library System board. Aneka Ramirez is the new executive director at TRLS. During the month of March the board is doing a lot of analysis and research to tie their service plan directly to the agreement with Library Commission. One of her goals is to implement software that all the systems can use to input data and to have the ability to generate a report to their boards.

Steve Batty, Nebraska Library Commissioner, said that by next October there will be a learning program at McCook Public Library that is designed with the curriculum in mind, through the school system. Volunteers will work with students referred by the local schools (public and parochial) that need help with reading and math. Richard Miller has helped with this effort.

Vickie Retzlaff reported that a staff member at Grant County Library, seeking librarian certification, is enjoying the Basic Skills classes and utilizing the webinars offered by the Commission. More patrons are requesting and using Wi-Fi, and some basic tech classes are being planned. Their holiday book sale was very well-attended.

A challenge for her community is health care coverage. The library is struggling to keep its statistics up. Her challenge is working on the strategic plan.

Sherry Houston reported that Julie Dinville has been appointed Bellevue public library director following Guadalupe Mier's retirement. Sherry said that there are about the 70,000 people residing within Sanitary Improvement Districts (SIDs) in Sarpy County. These special districts are not within the county's municipalities and do not have local tax supported public library services. Sherry noted the 2015 One Book One Nebraska selection is *Death Zones and Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War* by Beverly Deepe Kever.

Matthew Williams said two of his challenges have been the library's strategic plan and Kearney Public Library is very busy. Another challenge has been with services such as Freegal. Because of security issues, the City of Kearney IT monitors the system in such a way that no one can get access to that database.

Michael La Croix, Nebraska Library Commissioner, said that Creighton University is moving from a Sirsi Dynix ILS to an Ex Libris system. The law library, the health sciences library, and the university library are all supported on the one operating system.

Susan Franklin reported that she is the new director of Perkins Library at Hastings College. One of her biggest challenges is a large amount of DVD thefts. Measures have been taken to solve the problem. Another challenge is, with faculty retirements and other instructional staff changes, how to determine in an efficient manner which journals to keep for the collection. The library has sent a brief survey to all instructional staff to gather this information.

New Business

Election of Council Vice-Chair

Francine Canfield was nominated for Council Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations. Francine Canfield was elected as Council Vice-Chair by voice vote.

Recommendations and Resolutions

No recommendations or resolutions were presented.

Special Recognition

Merrillene Wood said that she appreciated Library Advocacy Day and the State Advisory Council on Libraries meeting being held on the same day. She would not have been able to attend Library Advocacy Day if it hadn't been scheduled the same day. She later moved that the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries thank the Nebraska Library Association for its sponsorship of Library Advocacy Day. Susan Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rod Wagner thanked the Nebraska Library Association for a successful Library Advocacy Day.

Next Meeting: July 17, 2015 by webcast.

Adjournment

Motion was made by John Dale to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Gayle Roberts. The Advisory Council adjourned at approximately 3:40 P.M.