

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries
Nebraska Library Commission, Atrium Conference Room 206
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present in Lincoln: Sky Seery (Chair), Jessica Chamberlain, Scott Childers, Susan Franklin, David Graber, Pat Gross, Gail Irwin, Joann Jackson, Lori Long, Laura Marlane, Rebecca McCorkindale, Lisa Olivigni, Courtney Pentland, Tom Pfeifer, Julie Pinnell, Allison Reisig, Noelle Thompson. Joining via GoToMeeting: Charlene Rasmussen. Also present were Nebraska Library Commission members: Debby Bloom, Michael La Croix, and Lois Todd-Meyer. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, Scott Scholz, and Linda Babcock.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sky Seery welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2018 Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The Minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None.

Library Advocacy Day Comments

Rod Wagner thanked Rebecca McCorkindale (NLA President and SACL Liaison) for the success of Library Advocacy Day. Rebecca said it would be helpful to have had a Chair for planning Advocacy Day. Jessica Chamberlain commented that the Library Commission provided a helpful information sheet.

Reports / Discussion

Nebraska Library Association – Rebecca McCorkindale
McCorkindale reported that her recent focus had been on Library Advocacy Day. She is working on speakers for the 3029 ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Courtney Pentland
Pentland reported that there is an additional day of sessions following the ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference planned for school librarians to attend. Courtney continues to work on professional development opportunities for schools librarians.

Nebraska Library Commission

Rod Wagner

Wagner reported that the Library Commission's budget hearing before the legislature's appropriations committee is scheduled for March 19, 2019. The committee will present its budget recommendations to the legislature after budget hearings are completed.

Wagner said that the Senate and House of Representatives enacted the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) with overwhelming support. The MLSA was signed into law before the end of December.

Christa Porter

Christa reported that Youth Grants for Excellence were awarded to 25 libraries with a total of \$23,254. Continuing Education Grants were awarded to five libraries with a total of \$12,164. The Internship Grants were awarded to 47 libraries with a total of \$44,800 (including 12 Library Innovations Studio participants).

Big Talk from Small Libraries was held via GoToWebinar on February 22. Porter said the online event was very successful with over 300 logging in. The number of participants was far higher since many locations had multiple attendees. There will be recordings of each session available soon.

Scott Scholz

Scott presented slides showing the evolving history of the Talking Book and Braille Service as technology changed from physical to electronic usage. Scott explained that Duplication on Demand service is available for patrons to obtain reading materials. He demonstrated how patrons use the new player/cartridge system. Two significant advantages of the new system are that patrons have more options for obtaining recordings and that there is more physical space in the Talking Book and Braille Service area. Replacing the physical recordings with electronic access has resulted in extra shelf space.

Unfinished Business

Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force Recommendations – Rod Wagner

At the last SACL meeting members agreed to provide an endorsement statement supporting improvement of broadband service in rural libraries. The Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force was receptive when presented the endorsement. Wagner thanked council members for supporting the rural broadband effort.

LSTA Grants to States Program - \$1 Per Capita Campaign – Rod Wagner

Wagner reported that the reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act included an increase in the Grants to States program base grant. The reauthorization legislation increases each state's base grant amount from \$680,000 to \$1 million. The Institute of Museum and Library Services calculated that a \$17 million appropriation increase for the Grants to States program would result in full allocation of the base grant to \$1 million per state. If that increase becomes fully implemented, it could be an additional \$320,000 for Nebraska. A longer-term goal is reaching a funding level of \$1 per capita or nearly double the current funding level for the Grants to States program.

Council Round Table – Success and Challenges

Susan Franklin – Susan reported that the Hastings College Board of Trustees Innovation Program is offering grants every six months to any student who would like to apply. The library has new furniture, a coffee center, upgraded stress relievers, and a bubble sound light fixture. The Student Association plans to update the outdoor appearance of the library. There are students at the college who show interest in becoming an archivist. The college has been without an archivist for a long time and without a cataloguer for nearly two years.

Susan's biggest challenge is buy-in from the administration, stressing the importance of the library is in providing academic resources for faculty and students.

Laura Marlane — Laura reported that Omaha Public Library- Southwest Branch will be located at 204th and Q Streets, next to the Millard Horizon High School. The library has an interlocal collaborative agreement with the Omaha Public School district to purchase databases. The library is currently conducting a pilot project with OPS to make student ID cards also their OPL library card.

Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, Omaha Public Library, and Council Bluffs, Iowa public Libraries have a partnership offering free zoo tickets to library members. The passes are free. The passes will admit two adults and up to six children. Free passes are also being offered for Omaha Children's Museum, Lauritzen Gardens, and Fontenelle Forest.

Laura also reported that the library has been level funded for 2020.

Courtney Pentland — Courtney reported that the Nebraska School Librarians Association membership renewal date has changed to September 30. She is pleased with the increase in membership this year, and she continues to encourage school librarians to join.

Scott Childers — Scott reported that one of his challenges is the loss of knowledge and skills of library directors that retire or move to another job or community. Filling those positions with qualified replacements is often difficult and especially in smaller communities. Many times the library must essentially start over because they lost their skillset.

Scott said that Rising City Community Library is adding hours, and he has noticed successes for their library board. Two libraries in Southeast Library System (SELS) that have never been accredited are currently working on achieving library accreditation.

David Graber — Dave reported that the newly renovated Conn Library at Wayne State College has transformed from what it was one and one-half years ago. Before the renovation, the library had issues such as water damage, mold, and a need for a new air conditioning system. Student usage of the library has increased due to the improvements and suitable space for studying.

Dave's challenge is the declining population in the communities where many of Wayne State's students come from. The college is moving toward more online classes to reach population centers. This has led to a change in campus culture, and it has challenged the college to provide research assistance to undergraduate students who do not come to the campus.

Allison Reisig — Allison reported that Western Nebraska Community College is currently implementing a renovation project to include a library, bookstore, theatre, and student services. A challenge is the reduced stack space that was needed to accommodate student study space. Allison is currently going through the library collection to determine what to keep in the library and what to place in storage.

Lisa Olivigni— Lisa reported that a challenge at Lincoln City Libraries-Eiseley Branch is the ongoing problem of roof leaks. The roof is now leaking in the children's area.

Lisa also manages the Williams Branch at Arnold Elementary in Lincoln Airpark. More open hours are planned during summer months at the Williams Branch. Another success is that the Lincoln City Libraries Board voted not to charge overdue fines for children and young adults

Pat Gross — Pat reported a success is the new state-of-the-art Media Center/Library Student Commons area at Gering High School. Pat was a volunteer for the Innovations Studio Project at Scottsbluff public library. She thanked the Library Commission staff for receiving and implementing the grant. She also reported that Jan Jolliffe has returned as Director of the Western Library System.

Noelle Thompson — Noelle reported that the Innovation Studios Project was completed at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. Patrons and staff are excited to have a permanent makerspace in the future, which is a challenge and success for the library. She is excited that the library has added teen fiction books to its collection. The library is celebrating the kindergarten program's twenty-five year anniversary. Noelle said the program is still going strong. One of Noelle's librarian staff received employee of the year recognition from the City of Scottsbluff.

The leaky roof at the library has been a challenge. The library's new carpet was not installed properly, and now the carpet is curling. It has been a challenge to resolve this issue. A teen library advisory council has been established. It has been a success and a challenge, as the members are young and need more focus.

Julie Pinnell — Julie reported that the Acklie Hall of Science opened with a new student study space. There will be a new president at Wesleyan University beginning in July. A head of electronic resources and access services was hired recently. Terri Raburn is leaving the Cochrane-Woods Library for a position at Bryan College of Health Sciences.

Jessica Chamberlain — Jessica reported that Norfolk Public Library hired a strategic planning consultant. The Innovation Studios project was very popular at the library. There has been a lot of interest for makerspace equipment in the library. Jessica said that an embroidery machine has been donated. Since the renovation and expansion project completion last May usage for all ages has increased. There is a sense of community and a positive atmosphere towards the library. The Philanthropy Council of Northeast Nebraska awarded \$1,000 to the library to be used for purchasing board games for checkout.

Gail Irwin — Gail reported that it has been a year since Ainsworth Public Library was involved with the Innovation Studio Project. Since then the library has purchased a button maker and heat press, and funds have been raised for more makerspace equipment. The fireplace has been very popular with the cold winter this year. The local Internet service provider, which provides free services to the library, installed updated internet services in January.

A challenge for Gail this winter has been the snow and ice buildup, resulting in ice jams on the outside of the building. When the ice melts, the sidewalks need to be cleared of the ice. Another challenge is that a new mayor and three new city council members have been elected. She encourages library board members and library staff to make connections with them to keep the city officials up-to-date regarding the library.

Joann Jackson — Joann reported that McCool Junction School library has acquired \$47,933 from the estate of Waldo A. Johnson. The library now has a fireplace, and they are planning to update the

checkout system. Joann also said that she read the One Book One Nebraska 2019 book, *This Blessed Earth*, by Ted Genoways. She found it especially interesting as it has connections to her family.

Rebecca McCorkindale — Rebecca reported that a Gretna Public Library challenge is making the cataloger's position full-time. A success was the "Kitty Cafe," with ten out of twelve kittens adopted.

Lori Long — Lori is pleased that her paraprofessional will be working for two additional weeks this summer. Lori's focus will be on updating signage and weeding. Two of Lori's challenges are the new superintendent's views on the library's budget, and the addition of more than sixteen new staff members at Gothenburg Jr/Sr High School.

Sky Seery — Sky reported that one of her successes is good feedback from the superintendent at North Platte High School. Sky reported that the library is weeding and has started shifting the collection to make space for new furniture.

Charlene Rasmussen — Charlene reported that the open house for the Library Innovation Studios project at Wayne Public Library was very successful. Twenty training classes were offered through the project, with the laser cutter and 3-D printer being the favorite equipment items. There has been good attendance for the early reading and toddler programs at Wayne Public Library.

New Business

Recommendations and Resolutions

There were no Recommendations and Resolutions brought before the Council.

Special Recognitions

There were no Special Recognitions brought before the Council.

Election of the Council Vice-Chair

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

Upcoming Meetings

The next meetings will be July 19, 2019 (online via GoToMeeting) and November 15, 2019 (Lincoln).

Adjournment at 3:30 pm.