

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

November 16, 2017

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met November 16, 2017, at the Atrium building, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Michael LaCroix, Debby Bloom, Molly Fisher, Charles Peek and Sandy White. Staff present: Rod Wagner and Jennifer Wrampe.

Michael LaCroix called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting is in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (September 9, 2017) a motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Charles Peek reported that Kearney Public Library held its annual Author Talk; William Kent Kruger was the speaker. The Kearney area Storytelling Festival will be held in January. The Senior College has classes held in the Kearney Public Library. The Central Plains Library System and the Western Library System collaborated in bringing Christa Porter to Kearney, McCook and Scottsbluff for E-Rate training. Librarians in the area attended the Read Aloud Nebraska workshop in Seward. Planning is underway to bring the Read Aloud Nebraska workshop to the Kearney area in the coming year. Broken Bow and Ravenna public libraries will host makerspace equipment from the Library Innovation Studios grant. The CPLS board met in Cozad on October 22 and expressed interest in providing high tech equipment for libraries not able to participate in the grant. Libraries in Bassett, Kearney, North Platte, Ord and Valentine are providing Wildlife Education Trunks designed to provide hands on resources needed to help educate students about a wide variety of natural history studies.

Molly Fisher attended the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association board meeting on November 15. Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries director, discussed plans for a new downtown library. Lincoln library facilities financing will be on the November 6, 2018 election ballot. Among considerations for the downtown library is space the Heritage Room will occupy in the library. Lincoln City Libraries hosted the annual book sale October 26-29. Seward Public Library held a Non-Profit Workshop for friends and volunteers of libraries on November 9. Lincoln City Libraries will have a summer reading workshop for this year's theme "Libraries

Rock” on December 1. Conversations Among Small Town Librarians (CASTL) will have a Wrap-Up on makerspace December 7 at the Ashland Public Library.

Sandy White attended the NLA-NSLA Conference. The Western Library System has requested a bookmark or ornament from libraries in the region for the Legacy of the Plains Museum Christmas Tree. Sidney Public Library staff decorate a room at the Fort Sidney Museum. Scottsbluff Public Library is holding a makerspace workshop. Bridgeport and Morrill public libraries are doing escape rooms. An article was published in the Sidney newspaper about the library’s makerspace; the library will hold an open house on December 5. The Sidney public library will also host an open house On December 9 for families. Hay Springs School had a mobile makerspace unit for one week from the Nebraska Public Power District. The Ogallala school district received a grant from Safeway to purchase drones.

Debby Bloom reported that Emily Getzschman, Omaha Public Library, was on a morning news program talking about the Llama Llama events at various locations in Omaha. Omaha’s Saddlebrook and Swanson library branches held retirement income workshops. A grant was received from the American Library Association and Public Broadcasting Service for the eighteen hour Vietnam documentary that is available to check out from the library. Laura Marlane, Omaha Public Library director, spoke about the future of fines at the library. The Omaha Public Library might eliminate fines in the future, but for now there is a collection agency contract that needs to be renewed. Fines in the past seven years have totaled \$1.5 million and around \$250,000 is collected annually. A Food for Fines program was held and 5500 pounds of food was received. The main goal is to get materials returned to the library.

Michael LaCroix reported that Three Rivers Library System (TRLS) offered scholarships to attend the NLA/NSLA conference and other conferences. Tammy Thiem, Genoa Public Library director, received a scholarship to attend the Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference in Utah. Central Community College is offering Library and Information Services courses online. TRLS is in the recruitment process for a new director.

Director’s Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that Craig Lefteroff is leaving the Commission staff for a new position in Indiana. Wagner thanked Craig for his service and contributions on the Commission staff. Commissioners added their appreciation and best wishes to Craig in his new position.

Library Innovation Studios Grant Project Update – Wagner reported training for the first group of libraries was held October 24-25 at Nebraska innovation Studio (Nebraska Innovation Campus). The first installation was at Plattsmouth Public Library on November 7-8. The Plattsmouth library will hold an open house on November 18. The second installation is at Ainsworth Public Library on November 14-15, and the third installation will be made at Ashland Public Library the week of November 27.

NLA/NSLA Conference – Wagner commented on the NLA-NSLA conference held in Kearney October 11-13. Kearney has good conference facilities and is situated well to attract attendees from across Nebraska. Wagner reported there was a good response to the innovation studios presentation and demonstration. The conference planners and organizers were especially

helpful in arranging space for the innovation studios equipment within the exhibit area and co-locating the Commission's exhibit.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported that the Celebration of Nebraska Books was held October 21 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. The program followed the Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting. Tim Anderson, author of *Lonesome Dreamer: The Life of John G. Neihardt*, was the keynote speaker. Many book award winners were present to receive their award. *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry* was announced as the 2018 One Book One Nebraska selection. Wagner also reported that the Letters About Literature contest is underway and winners will be announced in March.

State Advisory Council on Libraries – Wagner reported the next meeting will be held November 17 in Lincoln. Two positions need to be filled in the coming year due to Sherry Houston's term ending and Drew Brookhart's resignation due to his appointment to a library director position in Colorado.

Financial Report

October Financial Report – Wagner commented that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts; travel expenses are expected to decline in November and December.

2017-2019 State Biennium Budget – Wagner commented that there is expectation that further state budget reductions will be enacted during the 2018 state legislative session due to lagging state tax revenue collections.

LSTA FY 2018 Appropriation Status – Wagner reported that the U.S. House of Representatives approved appropriations for the current federal fiscal year that funds LSTA at the past fiscal year level. The Senate has not acted on appropriations but the Senate's appropriations committee included funding for LSTA at slightly higher than last fiscal year. The appropriation differences will be reconciled between the House and Senate.

Unfinished Business

Office Space Lease – Wagner commented that the Department of Administrative Services is in the final phase of approval on the lease agreement. Lease terms include no increase in lease rates for the next two years.

New Business

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meetings will be held January 12, March 9 and May 11.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Michael LaCroix.

Jennifer Wrampe