

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

November 9, 2018

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met November 9, 2018, 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, Charles Peek, Debby Bloom, Arun Pondicherry; Sandy White via phone. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe, Scott Scholz, Holly Woldt, JoAnn McManus. Public: Tom Rolfes, University of Nebraska-Lincoln journalism Students – Madison and Noelle.

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

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

Approval of the Minutes: (September 7, 2018) a motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Charles Peek – reported that a group of Kearney school librarians won the Sound Off for School Libraries Award. Kearney Public Library is collaborating with Kearney Senior College, Kearney's Merriment Performing Arts Center and Prairie Arts Brothers to bring a performance of *My Antonia* to the Merriment stage. Leading up to the performance, Kearney Senior College will sponsor a class, "60s at 60 and *My Antonia* at 100". The Cather Foundation will also sponsor four classes on the Cather Archives and books surrounding *My Antonia*.

Debby Bloom – attended the NLA/NSLA Conference in October. National Opera Week was held October 26-November 4 at Omaha Public Library. Omaha Symphony will visit libraries for story time on November 13. Three Rivers Library System approved continuing education initiatives; they plan orientation for new library directors by mentoring; they are offering a \$1350 scholarship for someone to attend the ALA annual conference in Washington, D.C. A Culinary Conference was held November 3 at the W. Dale Clark library.

Arun Pondicherry – attended the NLA/NSLA Conference in October. He learned about E-rate and heard many good things about the Library Commission's Facebook page and Nebraska OverDrive Libraries. Arun also provided a framed picture of the Governor and the Seal of the State of Nebraska to display at the Library Commission.

Sandy White – attended the NLA/NSLA conference. She will attend the Sparks Grant project open house in Bayard on November 16.

Michael LaCroix –Eric Jones, Three Rivers Library System director, is working with four new library directors in TRLS. TRLS has scholarships available for librarians to attend professional conferences. TRLS held Library Education Days in LaVista October 29 and Norfolk on November 7. There are a few public libraries in the TRLS region working toward re-accreditation. Planning is underway for Summer Reading Programs.

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that Allison Badger has resigned from the cataloging position and recruitment is underway to re-fill the position. Recruitment is also underway to fill the staff assistant position in the administration area. This follows Tessa Terry's promotion to the Communications Coordinator position. Gabe Kramer, Talking Book & Braille Service Audio Production Studio Manager, will receive his master's degree in library science in December from the University of Missouri.

Library Innovation Studios Project – JoAnn McManus reported there are four open spots for Cycle 7 and those applications are due March 9, 2019. So far, there have been 981 individuals trained and certified to use the makerspace equipment in project libraries. Once someone has been trained on a piece of equipment, his or her name is added to a database which can be accessed by the libraries. JoAnn distributed handouts showing results of surveys that were completed project participants.

Sparks Grant Project – Holly Woldt and Tom Rolfes reported that kick off meetings were held with the school districts, library staff and Educational Service Units of each community participating in the grant project. A Request for Proposals was publicized for vendor responses. Two vendors were selected – Hamilton Telecommunications in Aurora and Connecting Point in Norfolk, with installations beginning in July. Internet speeds of 100-300 Mbps will be available to the project libraries. One of the requirements is that each library must have an open house to publicize the project, explain the project's purpose, and demonstrate the equipment. Three open houses have been held thus far – Bancroft, Genoa and Verdigre. Governor Ricketts spoke at the open house in Verdigre. The governor also plans to be at the open house in Bayard. Bayard's open house event will be held on November 16.

Holly Woldt reported that a preliminary proposal was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a three-year grant to build on the initial SPARKS project. If funded, the project will include more libraries (24 are proposed). This project would include fixed base wireless installation or a terrestrial connection and installation of video conferencing technologies in the libraries. The project would again include a connection between a school and library. A response from IMLS is expected in mid-January indicating whether a full proposal will be invited.

Talking Book and Braille Services – Scott Scholz reported that Duplication on Demand transition has begun. Typically, one book is on one cartridge. Duplication on Demand will offer the flexibility to add more books to a cartridge. This will reduce mail volume and simplify keeping

track of materials for many patrons. Over the course of 18 months all of the physical circulation will transition to this system. All machines have been updated with a firmware update that will make it easier for patrons to play multiple books on the cartridge. A limited amount of remotes are also available for the machines, these are reserved for patrons who have mobility limitations.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) has been pilot testing a new braille e-reader device this year at the Perkins Library in Boston. Assuming that testing goes well, the NLS plans to purchase a number of these braille e-readers that can be loaned to patrons just like talking book players.

The *Marrakesh Treaty* was signed by the President on October 10. The treaty is intended to facilitate access to published works for people who are blind, visually impaired or print disabled. The European Union also recently ratified the global treaty, bringing the membership up to 70 nations. The international agreement allows for will exchange of specialized format materials. NLS will coordinate the implementation of the treaty in the United States. Scott reported that NLS has been running a national ad campaign on TV and radio outlets since February. Individual states don't have control over when and where the ad is aired. However, NLS is making sure that the whole country is covered. Scott said that the National Conference for the national network of libraries serving the blind and visually impaired will be held in either Lincoln or Omaha in 2020. Scott is assisting NLS staff with planning and arrangements for the national conference.

Stronger Together Project – Wagner reported that Nebraska participants of the May 2017 Stronger Together: Building Literacy-Rich Communities' national conference were invited to a meeting held in Lincoln on October 16. The meeting also included regional library system directors. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss collaboration among school and public libraries. Christa Porter coordinated planning and facilitated the meeting. The meeting was held at the Don Clifton Professional Learning Center.

2019 Federal and State Legislative Outlook – Wagner reported that reauthorization of the *Museum and Library Services Act* is still pending. Senator Jack Reed, primary sponsor of the reauthorization legislation, is working on an amendment that would increase the base funding for the Grants to States program from \$680,000 per year to \$1,000,000. Wagner distributed a question and answers document about a proposal that would increase funding for the LSTA Grants to States program from its current funding level to "One Dollar Per Capita." That funding level would approximately double the amount of funding that is currently appropriated for the federal library Grants to States program.

Wagner commented the Nebraska legislature will undergo significant change in January with many new senators following the November election. The Legislature will reorganize with new committee membership changes and committee chair elections.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported the Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held December 1 at the Nebraska History Museum. The day will start with the Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting. Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell, editors of *Nebraska Presence*, the 2018 One Book One Nebraska selection, will be keynote presenters. Presentation of the Mildred Bennett Award and Jane Geske Award will follow. After those awards, Nebraska

book awards will be presented with remarks and readings by the award winners. The museum store will have award books available for sale and book signings.

The 2019 One Book One Nebraska selection will be announced at the meeting, *This Blessed Earth* by Ted Genoways. A Nebraska and Iowa committee selected the book. The 2019 selection is in recognition of the Nebraska and Iowa joint library associations' conference in October 2019.

Wagner reported on the Nebraska State Poet nomination process. Charles Peek serves on the nomination committee. Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Arts Council, and the Library Commission are coordinating the nomination process and working with the nomination committee. The committee has selected nominees for interview. Following the interviews, a recommendation will be presented to the governor. Twyla Hansen completes her term as Nebraska State Poet in November. Twyla did not wish to be considered for re-appointment.

Financial Report

October Financial Report – Wagner reported state expenditures are slightly above budget for the year thus far. Personnel expenses from state funds are above budget; however, those expenses are offset on the federal side. Commission staff members are paid from state or federal funds. Some are paid with a combination of state and federal funds. Wagner said that some expenses are paid early in the year for the full year (e.g., subscriptions, memberships, assessments for accounting, auditing, insurance, etc.). Wagner reported the LSTA Grants to States program appropriation has been made. The grant award is expected to be issued in December.

New Business

Out-of-State Travel Request – Wagner requested approval to attend a Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting and American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, Washington, January 25-29.

A motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meetings will be held November January 11, March 8 and May 10.

Adjournment

Michael LaCroix adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe