

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

July 12, 2019

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met July 12, 2019, 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: Debby Bloom, Arun Pondicherry, Sandy White, Lois Todd-Meyer, and Vernon Davis. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe, and Kayla Henzel. Debby Bloom 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 Vernon Davis and seconded by Arun Pondicherry to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Sandy White – aye; Vernon Davis - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (May 10, 2019) a motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Vernon Davis to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Sandy White – aye; Vernon Davis - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Sandy White – commented about an autistic high school student working at the Hemingford public library through the Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation program; this may lead to work through a life skills program at Western Nebraska Community College library. The Museum of the Fur Trade (Chadron) was highlighted in the Western Library System newsletter. Ben Mikaelson, children's book author, will tour the western library system region for presentations for one week in the fall (October 28 – November 1).

Lois Todd-Meyer – no report.

Arun Pondicherry – reported Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) has several programs underway during the summer months. LCL offers a free mobile app – BookMyne (mobile app for library catalog searches, holds, and account management). Arun commented on the Library Commission's Facebook posts including Throwback Thursday and Book Face Friday posts.

Vernon Davis – reported that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's new dean of libraries, Claire Stewart, begins August 1 following Nancy Busch's retirement. Renovations at the C.Y. Thompson Library on UNL East Campus started at the end of the school year.

Debby Bloom – Bellevue University Library celebrated National Library Week. The BU library recognized and honored Dr. Cleve Evans, professor of psychology, as the twenty-fifth "Friend of the Library." The library hosted a talk by Dr. Fred Kader, a Holocaust survivor, in honor of

Holocaust Remembrance Day on May 9. Walthill Public Library celebrated Pi Day on March 14. Hartington Public Library celebrated National Library Week with a Curious George theme. David Marsh and David Seay demonstrated folk instruments and Civil War Songs at Columbus Public Library. Humanities Nebraska supported their program. Three Rivers Library System Annual meeting will be held August 1 at Wayne State College Conn Library. Norfolk Literature Festival will be held July 27 at Norfolk Public Library.

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that Scott Scholz, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, has taken a position with Lincoln City Libraries as manager of the Polley Music Library. Gabe Kramer, TBBS Studio Manager, has been appointed to replace Scott. Nick Westra, TBBS Circulation Clerk, has resigned and recruiting is underway to refill this position. Jan Jolliffe, Western Library System director, is leaving her position on July 12. Kathy Terrell will serve as the WLS interim director.

Library Innovation Studios (LIS) Project – Wagner reported the grant project is in the third and final year. Cycle 5 libraries had initial training in Lincoln in May; once equipment has been moved to the libraries, the project team will travel to the libraries to provide training for library staff and volunteers. Hastings Public Library will hold an Open House on July 13 to show and demonstrate the makerspace equipment. Upcoming installations will be in Laurel, Plainview and Verdigre. Due to limited space, these libraries will have mini-studios with makerspace equipment rotating among them over the several months hosting period. Equipment was recently installed at the Chadron Public library. Wagner reported each of the project libraries is offered a \$1000 internship grant to employ a student worker to help with the makerspace project. The final five project locations will be the libraries in Pierce, Nelson, LaVista, McCook and Superior. At the end of June 2020, 31 libraries will have participated. Project team members will exhibit and demonstrate LIS equipment at the Nebraska State Fair on August 25.

Rural Broadband Task Force – Wagner reported that the Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force was created as a result of legislation enacted in the last state legislative session. Governor Ricketts appointed task force members. The Task Force formed a sub-committee to address rural school and library broadband service needs. The sub-committee will meet on July 19. Holly Woldt, Library Commission Technology Support Specialist, will attend the meeting and comment on library broadband needs and offer recommendations.

2020 U.S. Census – Wagner reported the Library Commission was recently contacted by a representative of the U.S. Census Bureau asking the Commission to provide assistance in the upcoming Census. The Census Bureau encourages census information to be submitted online. Libraries will be a place to submit census information. The Library Commission will be identified as a partner organization of the 2020 Census.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported eighty-four entries were received for the NCB Book Awards program. Judges have started reviewing books. Award winners will be determined by September 13. The One Book One Nebraska nominations deadline was June 15. Committee members will read the nominated books. The committee will then present a short list to the board for voting for the 2020 One Book One Nebraska selection.

Nebraska Book Festival – Wagner reported the book festival will be held September 7 with a children’s program in the morning at Lincoln’s Eiseley branch library (sponsored by Lincoln City Libraries). An adult program will begin at 11:00 a.m. and continue through the afternoon until 6:00 p.m. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln city campus Nebraska union.

NLA/NSLA/ILA Conference – Wagner reported the joint conference will be held October 2-4 in LaVista.

Financial Report

June Budget and Financial Report – Wagner noted that some June expenses would be included in the next fiscal year reports. Personnel expenditures were under budget. In regard to federal funds (LSTA), the House of Representatives enacted appropriations legislation that included a funding increase for LSTA programs. The LSTA Grants to States program funding would increase each state’s base grant amount from \$680,000 to \$1 million. The Senate will not take action on FY 2020 appropriations until September. Differences between the House and Senate appropriations amounts will be reconciled for a final FY 2020 budget.

2019-2021 Biennium Budget Status – Wagner reported that the state’s 2020 fiscal year includes state funds increases for the Commission’s operating budget and state aid to libraries programs – NebraskaAccess subscription database fees, Nebraska eReads (eBooks and digital audiobooks), and regional library systems.

LSTA Grants to States Program Maintenance of Effort – Wagner reported that there was acknowledgment from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that the waiver request was received. A decision should be made within the next six weeks. If the waiver is denied, there is an opportunity to appeal the decision.

Election of Commission Chair – Vernon Davis nominated Debby Bloom to serve as Commission Chair, seconded by Arun Pondicherry. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White – aye; Vernon Davis. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Vice-Chair – Sandy White nominated Arun Pondicherry to serve as Commission Vice-Chair, seconded by Debby Bloom. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White – aye; Vernon Davis. Motion approved.

2019-2020 State Employee Pay Policies - Wagner reported that most state employees received a 2.3% pay increase on July 1. Agency directors and other non-classified personnel are not included in the pay change; their governing bodies determine their pay. Wagner requested a 2.3% pay raise effective July 1. A motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the salary request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White – aye; Vernon Davis. Motion approved.

New Business

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meetings will be held September 13, November 8, and January 10.

Adjournment

Debby Bloom adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe