

Nebraska Library Commission

Lincoln, Nebraska

March 9, 2012

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on March 9, 2012, at the Kearney Public Library, 2020 First Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: John Dale, Charles Gordon, Steve Batty, Sherry Crow, Patricia Gross. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Sue Biltoft.

Guests: Matthew Williams, Pat Leach, Merrillene Wood, Deb Carlson, Denise Harders, Francine Canfield, Christine Walsh, Frank Zimmerman.

Chair John Dale called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. This meeting is in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion called on roll call vote: Steve Batty – aye, John Dale – aye, Charles Gordon – aye, Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (January 13, 2012) – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion called on roll call vote: John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye. Motion approved.

Public Forum - There were no public comments.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments:

John Dale reported that he was in Lincoln for the appropriations committee budget hearing on January 31st in regard to the request made for the NLC budget. Rod Wagner will be making a report on the status of the request. John attended Nebraska Library Advocacy Day on February 27th at the State Capitol and the Women's Club in Lincoln and had the opportunity to speak on library advocacy to attendees. He has completed Rod's annual evaluation. John has been asked to serve on the planning committee for the development and renovation of the U. S. Conn Library at Wayne State College.

Patricia Gross reported on the Library Job-a-Like event recently held at Western Nebraska Community College. This event hosted special, public and school librarians for a fun evening with a program and networking. Lied Scottsbluff Public Library will be the host for the next event on March 27th.

She attended the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) open house at Morrill Public Library and it was well attended. This was her childhood library and she enjoyed seeing how the library had changed. Pat thanked the Library Commission and the BTOP program for

providing computers including one with ADA software and programing that is very impressive. She passed out a copy of the *Scottsbluff Star Herald* with articles about the library summer reading program workshop that Sally Snyder and Jody Crocker recently held. There were 34 attendees and the program was really good.

Applications are still being taken for the Panhandle Library System Coordinator position with hopes in getting the position filled soon.

Steve Batty reported that the McCook library has two vacancies to fill. Judy Titman left after 12 years and Ronni Harding is leaving soon. They have received 64 applications for the position that Judy held and have six interviews scheduled. The Library is still without an elevator but is getting closer to having that completed. Steve remarked that he had listened to the South Sioux City Public Library NCompass Live recorded session done at the Commission on February 15th and was very impressed with some of the great ideas South Sioux City has used.

Sherry Crow mentioned that the Kearney Public Library's grand opening is coming up on April 15, 2012. She received a report from Sharon Osenga that the Meridian Library System had a "week of weeding" project and apparently 19 libraries participated and 5,393 items were weeded. The summer reading program workshop is today at Oconto Public Library. Lexington Public Library has chosen AutoGraphics for their new automation vendor and they are the first Nebraska library to use this program. There are three librarians retiring in the Meridian region: Loup City Public Library, Caroline Chilewski; Ord Jr/Sr High School, Jan Weber and Overton Community Library, Nancy Purintun. Loup City's new director is Jennifer Fowler and Chrissy Purintun will take over the Overton Community Library. Plans are to redecorate the Overton library and purchase a new computer for their online catalog, and Sharon Osenga has helped with weeding the collection.

Crow brought up a discussion about the books that are weeded and how some of the libraries are disposing of them. Pat Gross mentioned that she is helping some librarians in the Panhandle region with their book disposal. A friend of Pat's is a teacher in Omaha at a poverty level school and she is has started a Bingo for Books program and each child receives five books.

Charles Gordon commented about a library he discovered while on a vacation cruise. The two librarians on the ship had college degrees but not a library degree. He was very impressed with the way the books were sorted and the checkout procedure used. The internet connection for the ship was in the library, along with a coffee bar, so it was always full of people using the library.

Director's Report

Cultivating Rural Librarians Scholarship/Internship Program Update - Rod Wagner asked Mary Jo Ryan to speak about the Cultivating Rural Librarians Scholarship/Internship program. Ryan reported the internship application period is over and 19 of those applications have been approved for internships this summer. That project is going very well. Kathryn Brockmeier is the staff person who does a lot of work on this grant project and will be traveling to Philadelphia to the Public Library Association Conference. She is also a library science student through the UNL program and will be the lead person among five or six students attending that conference. This should be a very good learning experience for them.

Broadband Project – Wagner passed out an up-to-date summary report on what has been accomplished with the grant project. The technology part has gone very well and the computers, furnishing and all the related equipment has been ordered, received and operating in nearly all the libraries now. Staff and Commissioners have attended several open houses that libraries have held showcasing the new computers and equipment. There will be many open houses held in April and including some as part of National Library Week activity. It will be a challenge to have staff present for all of these but the Commission will certainly make the effort. Also presented was a listing of all the BTOP libraries and the delivery dates for the equipment and also a report that came in from the Valentine Public Library which was especially interesting.

LB 470 (public library personnel policies) & Personnel Policies Training - Wagner reported on LB470, the legislative bill that pertains to public library personnel policies and requiring public libraries to have their personnel policies approved by their village board or city council. The legislature passed the bill on final reading around March 1st and the Governor signed it into law. There are plans to provide training for librarians, library directors, and library trustees on library personnel policies. Richard Miller is working with the regional library system directors to plan that activity. Dates have yet been decided but this is a project that will fit well with the new requirement. It won't affect some of the libraries, but some might find challenges in terms of having their policies aligned with their municipalities or county government.

Next quarter (April-June) events and activities – Wagner spoke about activities that have involved Library Commission staff. On February 28th, Michael Sauers and Laura Johnson, with help from Christa Burns, coordinated and managed a presentation “Big Talk for Small Libraries.” Wagner didn't have a definite number of attendees reported for this event, but there were participants from other states and Canada with over 500 involved. The presentations were also recorded for later viewing and listening. The organizing involved an array of presenters, some who had not given public presentations of this type before, and covered a lot of topic topics. The Nebraska Book Festival will be held in Lincoln on March 31st at the Nebraska History Museum. The format is similar to past festivals with a keynote speaker, workshops and presentations by authors with books published this past year (including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry). The keynote speaker will be Ron Hansen, a notable Nebraska writer who lives in California now but is from the Omaha area. There will be a reception, books sales and also the presentation of the Mildred Bennet Award.

Wagner noted the Legislature is scheduled to adjourn their session on April 12th and there are many items left to be voted on. There have been a number of workshops held around the state by Commission staff on the subject of e-books and e-book readers and they have been well attended. These have seemed to help a lot of people become more comfortable in using the devices with that technology. Also in the month of April will be the annual National Library Legislative Day. The Nebraska Library Association will be holding spring meetings beginning later in March and going into April and May. The regional library systems have several workshops and activities coming up and they will each be holding annual membership meetings within the next few months. There has also been training provided by Devra Dragos and Allana Novotny for the use of the ADA workstations that a number of libraries received through the BTOP project. The ADA training has been well received by library staff.

Financial Report

January – February financial report – Wagner commented that the Commission's operating

budget is in a good position at this time of the year and operating within the major budget categories.

LSTA Funding and Maintenance of Effort Status – Wagner reported that the LSTA funding was determined by Congress in December and the Commission's funding is reduced from last year's level by about \$17,000. Last year's reduction was even larger at about a \$70,000 reduction. The Commission recently received a notice from the Institute and Museum of Library Service that the maintenance of effort level was not reached based on our state expenditures reported at the end of December. Wagner commented that the Commission was not aware that due to the LSTA appropriations being reduced over the past year, this is also factored in terms of any reduction a state may have as a result of the maintenance of effort. This could result in the potential loss being far less than estimated earlier. Wagner said that Maintenance of Effort waiver requests must be submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) by May 25. IMLS is providing a format for preparing, compiling and presenting that information to them. Wagner also noted that even though the legislature's appropriations committee did not recommend the budget deficit request submitted for additional state aid funds, this won't be factored into the waiver since the waiver will be based on budget actions that occurred last year. Other state library agencies have been affected and some have not applied for a waiver due to not meeting the criteria. Other states, like Nebraska, have submitted waivers and been approved.

John Dale stated that July 1st will begin the second half of the biennium budget for the State of Nebraska. The next legislative session beginning in January will be a budget session with the effective date of July 1, 2013.

Deficiency Appropriations Request Status - Wagner reported that even though the appropriations committee did not support the recommendation of additional state-aid funds they did include funding for the digital talking book supplies and included \$12,500 for the coming fiscal year. It was also noted that the intent is for the additional funding to be an ongoing level of support to be included in the base budget and not just a one-time expenditure.

Unfinished Business

LSTA Five-Year Program Evaluation & Plan 2013-2017 – Wagner reported that a Library Commission staff team has been working on the LSTA five-year program evaluation and team leaders for this report are Kathryn Brockmeier and John Felton. They have sent out surveys to libraries asking questions related to our agency programs and services. The evaluation is due March 31 and the next LSTA Five-Year Plan is due June 30 with the effective date beginning October, 2013.

New Business

National Library Legislative Day, April 23 & 24 – Wagner presented the dates and information for the National Library Legislative Day to Commission members for selection of Commission representation. John Dale recommended to members who had not attended in the past to seriously consider attending this year. Patricia Gross commented that she has gone in the past as a school representative and would like to go in her new role of Commissioner, but had a conflict with the dates for NLLD. Sherry Crow indicated her interest in attending. Charles Gordon will be in touch with Rod Wagner after checking for date conflicts.

Out-of-State Travel Request

Wagner submitted a request to attend National Library Legislative Day and a COSLA meeting to be held the day after National Library Legislative Day. A motion was made and seconded to approve the request. Motion called on roll call vote: Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye; John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date - The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2012, at the Nebraska Library Commission office.

Adjournment - John Dale adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Mary Geibel, Secretary