

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

March 11, 2015

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on March 11, 2015, 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, Patricia (Pat) Gross, Steve Batty, Diane Boyd, Molly Fisher and Sherry Crow. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan, Jennifer Wrampe, and JoAnn McManus.

Sherry Crow 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 Diane Boyd and seconded by Steve Batty to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Molly Fisher – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (January 9, 2015) a motion was made by Michael LaCroix and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross; Diane Boyd – aye; Molly Fisher – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Molly Fisher reported that the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association will hold its annual Spelling Bee on April 23. The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries will hold a sock hop fundraiser on March 28. Nominations are now being accepted for One Book – One Lincoln. Pat Leach, Director of Lincoln City Libraries, will present ALA Notable Books of 2014. University of Nebraska Lincoln Libraries will host its 2015 Visiting Scholar lecture on April 7. The lecture will be given by Trevor A. Dawes, Associate University Librarian at Washington University in St. Louis and past president of the Association of College and Research Libraries. On March 9 Hebron Secrest Library sponsored a book talk at the Courtyard Terrace Activity Room. Beverly Deepe Kever, author of *Death Zones and Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting*, was the featured speaker and more than 130 people attended. Kever's book is this year's One Book One Nebraska selection.

Michael LaCroix reported that Anneka Ramirez is the new director of the Three Rivers Library System.

Diane Boyd reported that a Summer Reading Program Workshop was held at the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College in Norfolk on February 19. The Hartington

Public Library received a \$75,000 donation. Diane expressed thanks and appreciation to Library Commission staff for their efforts. She said, “I would like to acknowledge and thank the staff and librarians who work so hard at putting out the reports and information. I can tell a lot of work goes into the process and they do a good job.” All Commission members joined in supporting Diane’s comments.

Steve Batty reported that Cozad Public Library held a Summer Reading Program workshop on January 23. Grand Island Public Library will host a Summer Reading Program workshop March 23. Steve said that he attended the Nebraska Library Association Advocacy day on March 10. McCook Public Library will host a program that has volunteers working with third, fourth and fifth graders from local schools to help with their reading.

Sherry Crow reported that Denise Harders and Sharon Osenga, Co-Directors of Central Plains Library System, have hosted three of four Meet and Greets. Rock County Public Library and Ainsworth Public Library are installing new carpet. Broken Bow Public Library is raising money for a new addition. Denise and Sharon attended the School Library Day at the ESU in Holdrege. University of Nebraska Omaha has hired Melissa Cast-Brede, she will be head of the undergrad Library Science Program.

Pat Gross reported that she and Merrillene Wood, Library Director at Western Nebraska Community College, were the only Western Library System representatives that attended Library Advocacy Day on March 10. They visited Senator John Stinner’s office and invited him to the luncheon. Doris Jensen, Sidney Public Library Director, will be retiring beginning on April 1. Pat presented a Pinterest workshop to Serenity Garden Club using the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library meeting room and Wi-Fi facilities. She has been asked to give a presentation on “Identity Theft Safety for your Purse or Billfold” in May.

Director’s Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that Beth Goble will retire in May. Beth is a long-time NLC employee serving as the Commission’s government information services director and more recently in a part-time capacity as the Commission’s historical services librarian. There will be an open house reception for Beth on May 7.

Wagner recognized Michael Sauers, Laura Johnson, and Christa Burns for their good work planning, arranging and facilitating the Big Talk from Small Libraries international webinar held February 27. There were over 600 participants from nearly every state and Canadian provinces. The presentations were all recorded for future access.

Nicholas (Nick) Westra has been appointed to the book circulation technician position in the Talking Book and Braille Service. He will begin work on March 23.

Financial Education Grant Project – JoAnn McManus reported on the Smart Investing@Your Library® Builds Nebraska Communities grant project. The project is in its last phase which is

Smart Investing training for customers at the 22 libraries. Nebraska borrowed the curriculum written by Iowa State University Extension and revised it to reference Nebraska equivalents. McManus distributed a report showing that 284 customers participated at 18 library locations to date. The chart also indicated that there are five additional libraries that are to hold kick off events within the next couple of months. JoAnn offered each commissioner a “participant binder” and gave a brief review of the documentation in the binder, including instructions on how to access the online system.

Regional Library Systems Reconfiguration Update – Wagner commented that the Regional Library Systems have made great progress in the transition from the previous six regions to the current four. He commended the system directors and regional boards for their outstanding efforts.

2015 State Legislative Session/Nebraska Library Advocacy Day – Wagner reported that the agency budget hearing was held March 9. In addition to Wagner’s budget testimony, Steve Fosselman and Jake Rundle testified in support of the Library Commission’s budget request. Fosselman is the Nebraska Library Association’s advocacy committee chair. Rundle, Hastings Public Library collections librarian, spoke in support of the Commission’s request for eBook and digital audiobook funding. The budget hearings should be completed by the end of March. After completion of budget hearings the appropriations committee will begin making decisions on biennium budget recommendations to present to the full legislature. Wagner commented on Nebraska Library Advocacy Day held March 10. Wagner commended the Nebraska Library Association leaders and the NLA advocacy committee for their work in organizing and carrying out Advocacy Day. Many senators attended the luncheon. Some senators who were unable to attend sent a staff representative. By tradition, a number of library volunteers were recognized. The volunteers were nominated by their libraries.

State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting – Wagner reported that the State Advisory Council on Libraries met on March 10 following the Advocacy Day luncheon. There was good attendance with a number of members also participating in the advocacy day activities and luncheon.

Nebraska Center for the Book Update – Mary Jo Ryan reported that Hebron Secrest Library sponsored an author talk on March 9, featuring Beverly Deepe Kever, author of *Death Zones and Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting*. The Nebraska Book Festival will be held at University of Nebraska Omaha on April 25. Rod Wagner reported that Center for the Book will soon be accepting nominations for the 2016 One Book One Nebraska book selection. The Nebraska Center for the Book Award competition is coming up. The Library of Congress Center for the book has renewed Nebraska Center for the Book affiliation for the next three years.

Atrium Building Issues and Actions – Library Commission operations are all re-located from the lower level to the first floor. Some surplus property remains in the lower level for removal.

Financial Report

January/February Financial Report – Wagner reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts. State aid to public libraries payments will be distributed to qualifying libraries in April.

New Business

Out of State Travel – Wagner requested approval for travel to attend Library Legislative Day May 4 & 5 and Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting on May 6 in Washington D.C. A motion was made by Diane Boyd and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve Wagner’s travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Molly Fisher - aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Date – The next Commission meetings will be held May 15, 2015 and July 10, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 11:38 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe