

## NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska  
November 9, 2012

### MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on November 9, 2012, at the Library Commission office, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Steve Batty, Patricia (Pat) Gross, Diane Boyd, Sherry Crow, Molly Fisher. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Geibel, John Felton, Mary Jo Ryan, JoAnn McManus, Richard Miller, and Lisa Kelly. Public: Kathleen Tooker (Eastern Library System), Brenda Ealey (Southeast Library System), and Samantha Randell (Clarkson College nursing student).

Steve Batty, chair, 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 Molly Fisher to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Steve Batty - aye; Diane Boyd - aye; Sherry Crow - aye; Molly Fisher - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Minutes:** (November 2, 2012) A motion was made by Steve Batty and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve the minutes. Motion carried on roll call vote: Diane Boyd - aye; Sherry Crow - aye; Molly Fisher - aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross - aye; Steve Batty - aye. Motion approved.

### **Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments**

**Steve Batty** reported that the McCook Public Library's elevator project is again in progress with funding provided by the McCook Public Library Foundation. The Republican Valley Library System board meeting will be held via teleconference on January 11, 2013. Steve attended the Tri-Conference in LaVista in October. He also encouraged commissioners to visit the Nebraska Department of Education's website to view [NeBooks Project](#) information and the eBook's that are currently available.

**Pat Gross** reported that the Gering Public Library held a job-a-like program again this year where school, public, academic and special librarians get together. The City of Gering is checking on property with the hope of building a new library. The city completed a survey and found that the community wants the library to be located close to the main street but there is not enough room for expansion of the library at its current site. Pat reported on staff changes in Panhandle libraries: Dixie Riley retired from the Chappell Public Library and Cheri Leach is her replacement; Jill Ellison retired from her library position at Western Nebraska Community College (Scottsbluff) and has been replaced by Merrillene Wood who transferred from Sidney to the Scottsbluff campus; Donna Maddox replaced Merrillene Wood at the Sidney campus; Terry

Christensen retired from the Alliance Public Schools and his replacements are Allison Weston and Teresa Roderham. Pat said this change allows for a librarian to be in each elementary school building.

**Diane Boyd** reported that while on a visit to the Norfolk Public Library she discovered that the library bundles old magazines and makes them available to patrons to purchase for a small fee.

**Sherry Crow** reported on some current programs in the Meridian region: Focus on Youth Services at Lexington Public Library; Let's Talk About It with Francine Canfield on November 30 at the Gibbon Public Library; E-rate workshop on December 6 at Kearney Public Library; and Keeping Up with Technology on January 4 with sessions on computer troubleshooting and Screen Cast-O-Matic. Sunshine Township Library in Mason City is now only open three hours a week and is being run by board members and community volunteers. Saint Libory Public School has a new school librarian, Linda McKnight; Thomas County Library in Thedford is in transition with long-time director Rhonda Haumann departing and replaced by new director Marcy Andersen. Sharon Osenga will be conducting a week of weeding, January 14-19, 2013.

**Molly Fisher** reported that she attended the Tri-Conference and especially enjoyed the authors' presentation. She also attended the Nebraska Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books event. The Lincoln City Libraries' One Book, One Lincoln selection, is *Destiny of the Republic*, a book about President Garfield. Library changes in the southeast region: the Auburn Public Library recently opened its new children's addition; Seward public library is involved in fundraising activities for finishing the lower level of the library; Lincoln City Libraries submitted a proposal to the mayor of Lincoln to move the main library to the Pershing Auditorium site.

### **Director's Report**

*Personnel Updates* - Rod Wagner reported that recruitment has begun for the Cataloging Librarian position that Emily Nimsakont vacated when she was appointed to the Government Information Services Librarian position. Some news on former employees: Margie Harrison, former Panhandle Library System Coordinator, has been appointed Government Research Services Manager at the Oregon State Library. Shannon White, for Library Commission Network Services Director, is now the Continuing Education Coordinator at the State Library of Michigan.

*Information Services - Lisa Kelly:* Lisa provided information regarding staff changes and updates in the Information Services department. Circulation has declined for a large portion of the Library Commission's collection, but the book club kit section is growing (number of books and use). There are currently over 330 titles in that collection. The Information Services team is available for reference questions via chat, email or phone. They also maintain a Twitter account to post questions received once a week so patrons can see some of the questions that have been asked.

*Data Collection, Reporting, and Analysis - John Felton:* John reported on data collection, reporting and analysis activities including the annual public libraries survey. This collection of data on revenue, expenditures, library usage, collection, programming and staffing are all

different data elements collected that libraries can use for funding and evaluation purposes. The data compilations can also be used to help libraries gain support for programs by comparisons with other libraries of comparable service populations. This survey is required for the accreditation program and also for state aid eligibility. John also assists in supporting data collection activities of national library organizations including the American Library Association.

*21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Project Report – Mary Jo Ryan:* Mary Jo reported that 95 scholarships have been awarded in the amount of \$245,828 and 63 stipends awarded in the amount of \$41,768. Under enhanced learning opportunities there have been 69 in attendance for online webinars, 53 face-to-face trainings, 16 other online trainings, 73 attendances at conferences and 76 online social networking. Mary Jo said that the Commission has received 48 internship applications with 45 awarded in the amount of \$49,750.

*JoAnn McManus – Library Broadband Project (BTOP) –* JoAnn reported on the BTOP grant project and summarized equipment purchases and shipments, software purchases, events, training and communications. JoAnn also reported that \$2,710,452 of the \$3,668,189 grant, or 74 percent, has been expended. There are now 1,159 public computer workstations deployed and involving direct support to libraries on equipment, software, furniture, upgrades, electrical, connectivity and IT contracting. JoAnn commented on the activities of project partners including the Department of Labor, the State Court System and the UNMC McGoogan Library of Medicine. She said that the Commission now has community colleges involved. Central Community College and Southeast Community College have provided training involving project libraries. Mid Plains Community College is starting to schedule classes. JoAnn said that expects to have all community colleges offering training as part of the project. There will be no cost to the libraries or patrons attending the sessions. These activities – those activities supported by the grant – will cease at the end of July 2013 (close of the grant award).

*Tri-Conference (MPLA, NLA, NSLA) –* Rod Wagner reported that he and many other Commission staff participated in the October Tri-Conference in LaVista. There were over 900 participants. A number of Library Commission staff members were involved in presentations and conference support activities. There was a good variety of programs.

*Nebraska Center for the Book “Celebration of Nebraska Books” –* The Celebration of Nebraska Books was held on November 3 at the State Historical Society History Museum. In addition to the annual book awards, the Jane Geske Award was presented. The Geske award was presented to the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation. Joe Starita, author of *I Am A Man*, this year’s One Book One Nebraska selection, was the keynote speaker. Remarks and readings by the book award winners are a highlight of the event. The program also included the announcement of the 2013 One Book One Nebraska selection, *O Pioneers*. 2013 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the book’s publication.

*State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting –* Wagner reported that the next Council meeting will be held in Lincoln on November 16 in the Atrium building conference room. The meeting

will be a chance to reflect on the activities of the past year and discuss activities for the coming year, especially funding advocacy.

*Nebraska Library Advocacy Day* – Wagner said that Nebraska Library Advocacy Day is scheduled for January 30, 2013. Francine Canfield is serving as chair of the Nebraska Library Association's advocacy committee (formerly legislative committee) this year.

## **Financial Report**

*September – October Financial Report* – Wagner reported that expenditures, thus far in the year, are in line with budgeted amounts. However, federal LSTA funds are budgeted at last fiscal year's funding level and that amount is uncertain due to the current impasse on the federal budget.

*LSTA Funding* – Wagner said that, as previously reported, the Commission's request for a state maintenance of effort (MOE) waiver was approved by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Wagner commented that LSTA appropriations have not been made for the full 2013 federal fiscal year. Unless Congress and the President come to an agreement on the federal budget automatic cuts will be implemented in January. Those cuts reduce LSTA funding along with many other federal programs.

*Biennium Budget Timetable* – Wagner reviewed the state budget timetable for the 2013 Nebraska legislative session beginning on January 9, 2013. Governor Heineman is expected to make his annual State of the State presentation in mid-January. At that time he will present his budget recommendations. The governor's recommendations will be considered by the legislature's appropriations committee as part of the committee's development of its budget recommendations. State agency budget hearings will be held in February and March. The appropriations committee must submit budget recommendations to the full Legislature by 70<sup>th</sup> day of the legislative session, which would likely be in late April. Budget debate and action will take place in May preceding adjournment in early June.

## **Unfinished Business**

*Guidelines for Public library Accreditation Status Update* – Richard Miller distributed a draft of proposed changes for public library accreditation policies revisions. The accreditation proposal will be presented for approval in March. Miller also commented on the Nebraska Community Foundation and the grant guidelines for the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised fund (available to Nebraska public libraries serving populations of fewer than 3,000). The fund provides grants for libraries to work toward accreditation. The fund also provides grants for building projects and programs.

## **New Business**

*2013 State and Federal Legislative, Policy and Program Outlook* – Wagner distributed a document prepared by Francine Canfield, NLA advocacy committee chair. The document

summarizes the Nebraska Library Commission's 2013-2015 budget and urges support for the funding request.

As discussed earlier, the LSTA 2013 fiscal year appropriation is currently uncertain and is the most significant federal library program issue for the coming year.

Wagner commented on changes in the legislature. There are some state senators completing second terms and thus not returning in 2013. There will be some new senators beginning terms and there will be changes in committee leadership and membership. Some of the current appropriations committee members may choose to leave the committee and move to a different one. Committee appointments will be determined in January at the beginning of the session. Senator Heidemann has served as chair of the appropriations committee for the past several years and he is among those leaving the legislature. Senator Fulton, from Lincoln, is also completing his second term opening a committee slot for another Lincoln representative. The makeup of the appropriations committee includes two Lincoln senators, three from Omaha, and members from western, central, northeast and southeast Nebraska for a total of nine.

Rod Wagner said that National Library Legislative Day will be held on May 8, 2013. One or two Commission members usually participate. Steve Batty stated he would like to attend.

**Next Meetings Dates** – Commission members agreed to schedule the next meetings on January 4, 2013, and March 8, 2013.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Steve Batty at 11:45 a.m.

Mary Geibel  
Secretary

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