

# NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

November 7, 2014

## MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on November 7, 2014, 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, Molly Fisher, Diane Boyd, Patricia (Pat) Gross, Steve Batty, and Sherry Crow. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan, JoAnn McManus, and Jennifer Wrampe.

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

**Approval of the Minutes:** (September 12, 2014) a motion was made by Steve Batty and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

**Pat Gross** reported Mitchell Public Library received a check for \$2,037 from Mikaela Karpen who chose 4-H for Literacy has her Diamond Leaf Clover Service Project. Mikaela organized numerous fundraising events in the Mitchell community. Pat shared Mikaela's notebook that outlined the fundraising strategies used to raise the funds that benefitted the library (children's section and landscaping). [Sherry Crow suggested sending a commendation to Mikaela for her project work and agreed to send a letter on the Commission's behalf]. Pat attended an E-books workshop in Scottsbluff on September 30. On October 4, Scottsbluff and Gering Public Libraries sponsored author visits by Craig Johnson, whose books are the basis for the Longmire television series. Pat attended the Panhandle Library System Board meeting on November 4. A regional system name change has been approved. The Panhandle system will become the Western Library System to reflect the enlarged regional service area. Pat said that Ruth Walker, Mitchell Public Schools media specialist and a PLS board member, shared pictures of the high school library renovation project. Grant County library finished their annual Halloween fundraiser, raising \$1,100 for the library. Chadron Public Library has a 3-D printer and demonstrated it to patrons. Kimball Public Library hosted an author visit October 19 with British author and filmmaker Tim Slessor. In October, Alliance Public Library offered three free computer instruction classes to their patrons. The Hemingford Public Library is raising funds for an automatic door opener, re-

constructed sidewalk ramp, and installation of a drop box system. Rushville Public Library is having a book signing on December 5 and 6 with Arlene Freesmann, author of *Sibyl's Song*.

**Steve Batty** reported that Republican Valley Library System board is meeting today in Holdrege. Steve said that Red Cloud Public Library is remodeling and the merger of the Meridian and Republican Valley library systems is coming along. RVLS had over \$15,000 in certificates of deposit that they offered to libraries in the region in the form of grants; thirty-four grants were awarded. Jody Crocker, McCook Public Library director, attended the technology training event in North Platte that was provided by the Library Commission and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cooperative Extension Service. Steve said that Jody enjoyed the training and would like to see more.

**Molly Fisher** reported that she attended the Nebraska Library Association – Nebraska School Librarians Association Joint Conference in October. Molly co-presented the One Book One Nebraska: *Once Upon a Town* NCompass Live session with Rod Wagner and Mary Jo Ryan on October 29. The Harvest of Books book drive was held October 5-19. One Book – One Lincoln is having multiple events for their chosen book, *The Light Between Oceans*. Wahoo Public Library will hold a grand re-opening event on November 16.

**Sherry Crow** attended and presented sessions at the Nebraska Library Association – Nebraska School Librarians Association Joint Conference in October. Sherry reported that Central Plains Library System has been chosen as the name for the Meridian and Republican Valley Library Systems once they merge on January 1. Lexington Public Library will host an accreditation workshop on November 17. Summer Reading Program workshops will be held January 23, 2015 at Wilson Public Library in Cozad and March 23, 2015 at Grand Island Public Library. Georgia Waddle is the new media specialist at Elba Public School. Shelton Township Library is moving towards becoming Shelton Public Library; it will be under the village of Shelton, not the township. Ravenna has purchased land for a new library.

**Michael LaCroix** reported that the Eastern Library System will merge with the Northeast Library System on January 1, 2015 and will become the Three Rivers Library System. Wendy Anderson, Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library manager, has retired. Michael attended the eBook workshop at LaVista Public Library on November 6. Yutan has a new public library and held an open house on September 13.

**Diane Boyd** reported that voters approved a three-year half cent sales tax increase to finance a 16,000 foot addition to the Norfolk Public Library. The tax is expected to raise 7.4 million dollars. Pilger has completed the monument constructed from building and house debris from last June's tornado. Columbus Public Library has appointed a new library director, Drew Brookhart.

## **Director's Report**

*Personnel Updates* –Rod Wagner reported that Bill Ainsley, audio production studio manager, will be retiring on December 4. Wagner said that Bill has worked for the Library Commission’s Talking Book and Braille Service for over 25 years and has done an outstanding job. He will be greatly missed.

*NLA/NSLA Conference* – Wagner reported that many Commission staff members attended the conference and some presented at sessions. The Commission’s booth in the exhibit area was busy throughout the conference. South Sioux City representatives worked hard to make the conference worthwhile and enjoyable. The conference seemed well attended. The NLA and NSLA leaders did a great job planning and conducting the conference.

*Cultivating Rural Librarians’ 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Grant Program* – Mary Jo Ryan reported that the four year grant ended as of October 31. Ryan distributed a report summarizing the many successes and highlights of the project.

*Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting and Celebration of Books* – Mary Jo reported that the annual meeting and Celebration of Books will be held November 8 in the new Talking Book and Braille Service area on first floor (west). Since shelving has not yet been moved to that area and the new studios haven’t been installed, this area is well suited to accommodate the Celebration event.

*Smart Investing @ Your Library Builds Nebraska Communities Grant Project* – JoAnn McManus reported on the status of the two-year Smart Investing grant. The Library Commission in partnership with the Northeast Library System received \$100,000 from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) foundation. Each of the 22 participating libraries will receive training on financial resources and 40-50 books on financial related subjects. The grant will also provide customer financial literacy training. JoAnn distributed a project update and noted highlights.

*Digital Literacy Educational Project* – JoAnn McManus reported on the Technology for Librarians project. The technology training project is being carried out in partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cooperative Extension service. Training is being held at locations across the state with good attendance reported for all locations. JoAnn distributed a handout describing the training components.

*Broadband Grant Opportunity* – JoAnn McManus reported that the Library Commission was invited to partner with NebraskaLink on a grant project to provide fiber optic installation for service public libraries. NebraskaLink would also like to work with NLC on providing technology training at public libraries. JoAnn has contacted the community colleges that the Library Commission worked with during the BTOP grant to offer technology related classes.

*Regional Library Systems Update* – Rod Wagner reported that all of the systems are working with a Lincoln attorney to make organizational changes necessary following regional reorganization. The attorney is experienced in working with non-profit organizations and is providing guidance in all the legal requirements necessary for the changes. All of the systems are making progress and the new four-system arrangement will be in place by January 1, 2015.

*Western Council of State Libraries and Chief Officers of State Library Agencies Meetings* – Wagner attended the meetings in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, from October 19-22. The Western Council of State Libraries includes 22 state library agencies that are west of the Mississippi River. The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies includes all states, the District of Columbia, and some U.S. Territories. The Western Council meets twice each year. Meetings are a good opportunity to share information with and among the state library agency directors. There tend to be a good number of common issues and opportunities for collaboration. Among the topics discussed at the COSLA meeting was federal legislation that includes public libraries as eligible partners as part of the Workforce Investment Act administered through state labor departments. The status of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) was discussed. LSTA funding is currently distributed through a congressional continuing resolution that ends in December. Wagner said that Susan Hildreth, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is completing her four year term in January. LSTA statutes provide that the IMLS director's term is limited to four years and is not extended in the absence of a new appointee. The IMLS deputy director will become the interim IMLS director until an appointment is made. LSTA provisions specify that the director appointees alternate between a representative of the library field and a representative of the museum field. The next appointee will be from the museum field. The COSLA meeting included a report that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded COSLA a \$500,000 grant to be used over the next four years for unspecified purposes. The foundation is ending its library program but wants to continue support for initiatives that it has instituted in recent years.

*First Floor Space Renovation* – Wagner reported that work is underway to renovate space on the first floor for relocation of the Commission's lower level Talking Book and Braille Services operations, recording studios, and training/meeting room. The studios are scheduled to be delivered on November 10. Once they are delivered and set up, the move of shelving, talking books, magazines, furnishings and other items can begin.

## **Financial Report**

*September/October Financial Report* – Wagner mentioned that congress has not funded federal agencies and programs for the full federal fiscal year. Funding for federal agencies and programs continues until December 11. Congress will need to make decisions on appropriations that will either extend the funding for several months or appropriate funds for the full federal fiscal year.

## **Unfinished Business**

*Director's Performance Criteria re Facilities, Equipment, Etc.* – Wagner distributed a report relating to these duties. Following discussion, it was agreed that a more detailed explanation of specific duties be developed.

## **New Business**

*Next Meeting Date* – The next Commission meeting will be held January 9, 2015 and the joint Commission and State Advisory Council on Libraries meeting will be held on March 13, 2015.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 11:30 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe