

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

September 9, 2016

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on September 9, 2016, 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, Debby Bloom, Molly Fisher, Susan Warneke, Charles Peek, and Sandy White; Staff present: Rod Wagner, JoAnn McManus, and Jennifer Wrampe.

Michael LaCroix 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 Debby Bloom and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: (May 13, 2016) a motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Molly Fisher – reported that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Love Library) received a digitization grant for the Walt Whitman project. Lincoln City Libraries and three Lincoln public schools have joined together for a collaborative project. As part of the collaborative activities, students in these schools will be able to use their student I.D. as their library card. One Book _ One Lincoln book discussions have been held at several Lincoln libraries; Lincoln's One Book selection is Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal*. Lincoln City Libraries will hold its annual book sale in October at the Lancaster Event Center. Each Lincoln City Libraries' branch has a book shelf with books for sale. Book sales yield about \$15,000-\$20,000 annually. The Nebraska Center for the Book's annual Celebration of Nebraska Books event will be held October 29 at the Nebraska History Museum. Karen Shoemaker will be the keynote speaker.

Charles Peek – said that Karen Shoemaker was the speaker for the spring Willa Cather conference in Red Cloud. Kearney Public Library also has a shelf with books for sale. The Kearney public library accepts donations from the public. He noted that during evening hours there are many students using the study stalls in the library. Kearney has a senior college program and a number of those classes meet at the library. The program brings many people into

the library on a daily basis. Authors Gregory Maguire and Gail Tsukiyama will be speaking in Kearney on September 15.

Sandy White – said that Pat Gross is serving as the interim Western Library System director. Abby Yellman, Scottsbluff public library director, is leaving Scottsbluff to serve as Director of Library Services and Cultural Affairs in Broomfield, Colorado. Sandy said that she attended the Western Library System annual meeting in Alliance. Alliance Public Library is celebrating Curious George's 75th anniversary this month.

Susan Warneke – said that there has been a good collaboration between the Norfolk Daily News and the Norfolk Public Library. The Daily News has supplied past issues of the newspaper to the library and the foundation has provided funds for the library to digitize newspapers. For this year's library summer reading program, the Daily News provided copies of newspapers and had a contest for children encouraging them and their families to look through the newspaper to learn more about what a newspaper is about.

Debby Bloom – met with Casey Kralik, Omaha Public Library Swanson branch library manager. The Swanson branch library will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a reception on Saturday, November 5. The Friends of Omaha Public Library volunteer group is housed at Swanson branch library. The friends group holds a book sale every Thursday and each first Saturday of the month. Proceeds go to all the Omaha Public Library locations. Debby also talked with Lois Imig, Omaha Public Library's Millard branch library manager. The Millard branch has five times more circulation than any of the other Omaha branch libraries. The library has a teen board. A recent meeting had 25 in attendance. The library needs a designated teen space. The library is hosting ESL classes and needs volunteers to watch participants' children. The Omaha Public Library's summer reading program has 6800 children signed up. Debby said that Omaha Public Library has added toys to its available checkouts, paid for by donations from the Adah & Leon Millard Foundation. Papillion's Sump Memorial Library recently completed its \$500,000 renovation project. The project included adding a civic engagement nook and a children's space. The library will hold a 20 year anniversary celebration in October.

Michael LaCroix – reported on DISPEL (Directors Sharing Practice Experience Learning). This group meets on a monthly basis throughout the Three Rivers Library System area. The Three Rivers Library System is in the process of hiring four system peer coordinators. Each peer coordinator will have four or five counties that they will serve as a resource person to assist Aneka Ramirez, the regional system executive director. The Northeast Nebraska Networking Consortium and the Three Rivers Library System will hold a Fall Library Workshop on September 21 at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk. The Youth Services Retreat was held in August. Michael said that the Omaha area library directors have a monthly luncheon meeting. At a recent meeting he talked with Laura Marlane, Omaha Public Library Director. Michael said that Laura is excited about the Omaha Public Library's collaboration with the Omaha Public Schools. The Omaha Public Library and the School District are planning collaborative services of benefit throughout the metropolitan area.

Director's Report

Personnel Updates – Rod Wagner reported that recruitment for the Western Library System Director position continues.

Sheehan Family Donation – Wagner said that the Library Commission received a \$500 donation from the Sheehan Family Foundation. The donation will be used for support of the Talking Book and Braille Service volunteer program.

National Science Foundation and LSTA National Leadership Grant Proposals Update – JoAnn McManus reported on two grant projects. The first grant involves continued work on an application for an LSTA National Leadership Grant project to support public library makerspaces in 30 locations. An earlier application did not result in an invitation to submit a full grant application. However, the Commission was encouraged to resubmit the project proposal. Review comments from the earlier application have been taken into account in developing a revised proposal. The preliminary proposal was submitted on September 1. It is expected that the Institute of Museum and Library Services will determine by late November or early December whether to invite the Library Commission to submit a full application. If so, the application will be due by mid-January. The Commission's earlier proposal included funding that was higher than the typical grant amount awarded. The revised proposal includes a funding request that is \$170,000 less than the previous request. As before, the Library Commission will partner with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and Nebraska Innovation Studio on the project. If funded, the project will begin July 1. The second grant application was submitted in August to the National Science Foundation. This application was submitted by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension with the Library Commission as a partner. The project is comparable to the other project but includes four public libraries that would be equipped with makerspace technologies and that would be focused on STEM learning with middle school age level target audiences. The project, however, would include all age groups for participation. Unlike the IMLS grant project, this grant would fund permanent maker spaces at libraries in Grand Island, Nebraska City, Sidney and South Sioux City. If funding is approved, the project will start mid-year in 2017.

Nebraska Center for the Book - Wagner reported the annual membership meeting and Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held October 29 at the Nebraska History Museum. Nebraska Book Awards will be presented at the Celebration event, as will the Mildred Bennett and Jane Geske awards. Karen Shoemaker, author of *The Meaning of Names*, will give a presentation. Wagner said that the University of Nebraska Press is leading planning for a Nebraska Book Festival to be held in Lincoln in July 2017. The Library Commission and Nebraska Center for the Book are represented on the planning committee.

Audit Update – Wagner provided an update on the audit follow-up. One issue involves regional library system funding. The audit indicated that there was not sufficient administrative oversight of regional library system finances. Wagner said that a Commission staff member attends regional library system board meetings and receives financial reports prepared by the regional systems. Those reports are reviewed and filed. The audit recommends periodic reconciliation of the financial reports. The additional review required is such that it will be best to require the

regional systems to have a complete audit performed. The regional library systems currently all use the same CPA for their annual financial reviews. This CPA previously said that a compilation of financial statements was sufficient and that an actual audit was not warranted. Another audit issue concerns the several Commission staff members who receive compensation from both state and federal funds and how their work time is documented. Jerry Breazile, has created an additional form to use to document work time. This additional documentation appears to fulfill the audit recommendation. The other audit issue concerns the LSTA funds administrative expense limit of 4 percent of the annual federal state program grant. The fund allocations that are now in place address this limit and appear to satisfy the audit recommendation.

LSTA Reauthorization, Five-Year Evaluation Report, & Five Year Plan – Wagner said that the LSTA is in its final year of authorization. Legislation has been introduced in the Senate to reauthorize the LSTA. The reauthorization legislation would amend the Museum and Library Services Act. The legislation has bi-partisan sponsorship. Wagner said that state library agencies must complete a five year LSTA state program evaluation. The evaluation report is due by March 31, 2017. State library agencies must also submit new five-year plans. Those plans are due by July 1, 2017.

Financial Report

July-August Financial Report – Jerry Breazile reported that expenditures are in line with budgeted amounts.

New Business

2017-19 Biennium Budget Request – A handout was distributed summarizing the Library Commission's 2017-2019 Biennium Budget Request. Discussion was held. Wagner and Breazile provided explanations regarding the recommendations in the budget request.

A motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the recommended biennium budget request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Chair – Molly Fisher nominated Michael LaCroix to serve as Commission Chair, seconded by Debby Bloom. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

Election of Commission Vice Chair – Susan Warneke nominated Debby Bloom to serve as Commission Vice-Chair, seconded by Molly Fisher. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

Out of State Travel – Wagner requested approval to attend the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and the Western Council of State Libraries meetings in Minneapolis, Minnesota

October 23-26. Wagner said expenses for attending these meetings will be paid by those two organizations. A motion was made by Debby Bloom and seconded by Charles Peek to approve the travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

Director's Annual Salary – Wagner requested approval for a 2.4% pay increase. Most state employees received this pay increase automatically on July 1, but agency heads' salaries must be approved by their appointing authorities. A motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Sandy White to approve Wagner's pay increase request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sandy White- aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meetings will be held November 10 (Thursday) and January 13, 2017.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Michael LaCroix at 12:11 p.m.

Jennifer Wrampe