

## NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

September 13, 2019

### MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met September 13, 2019, 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: Debby Bloom, Arun Pondicherry, Sandy White, Lois Todd-Meyer, and Vernon Davis. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Kayla Henzel. Debby Bloom called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

**Approval of Minutes:** (July 12, 2019) a motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Vernon Davis to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White – aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Arun Pondicherry and seconded by Vernon Davis to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White – aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioner's Comments

**Lois Todd-Meyer** – commented about the presentations at the Nebraska Book Festival. The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association held an Author Adventure in Lincoln on September 10 at Constellation Studios. Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries annual book sale will be held at the Lancaster County Event Center. Lincoln's Adult Spelling Bee fundraiser will be held on September 25 with John Baylor as the emcee. Funds support the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Lincoln's Bennett Martin Library.

**Vernon Davis** – reported the atmosphere is good regarding the new UNL Dean of Libraries, Claire Stewart.

**Arun Pondicherry** – noted that the NLC has made funding available for grants such as Youth Grants for Excellence, library internships and continuing education. September is Library Card Sign-Up month. Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason and UNL professor Stacey Waite will be reading poetry at Lincoln's Bennett Martin Library on September 22.

**Sandy White** – reported that libraries in western Nebraska had good participation in their summer reading programs. Author Ben Mikaelson is coming to the Western Library System region for presentations at several locations from October 14-18. Scottsbluff has hired a new library director – Erin Aschenbrenner. Sidney Public Library maintained its budget and funding from the county will continue for bookmobile services.

**Debby Bloom** – reported that the Omaha Public Library debuted a zine collection at the Benson Branch and W. Dale Clark Library; artist Curtis Yabut taught participants how to self-publish zines. Applications are being accepted for 2020 art exhibitions at the Michael Phipps Gallery. Vision and hearing tests for kids were held in August in partnership with Boys Town Pediatrics. Mayor Jean Stothert’s budget proposal prioritizes the new southwest library.

## **Director’s Report**

*Personnel* – Rod Wagner reported that Amy Irons was hired to fill the open position in the Talking Book & Braille Service (TBBS). The position for accountant has been offered to Laura Steuck. Laura will start on September 30. A good number of applicants have applied for the TBBS Studio Manager position. Kathy Terrell is serving as Western Library System interim director; the application deadline for the system director position is September 29.

*Library Innovation Studios Project* – JoAnn McManus reported that the Library Innovation Studios project is going well. The Maker Showcase at Beatrice Public Library had good attendance. The LIS project received an extension and funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for an additional year, ending June 30, 2021. A new component will be an end of project event bringing together representatives from all the project libraries to discuss the project and promote moving forward with library makerspaces.

*National Book Festival & Nebraska Book Festival* – Tessa Terry reported that the National Book Festival was held over Labor Day weekend in Washington D. C. Tessa said that she and Devra Dragos represented the Library Commission and Nebraska Center for the Book at the festival. They participated in the Parade of States, a children’s event that showcases literature from each state. Nebraska’s featured children’s book was Bruce Arant’s *Simpsons’s Sheep Just Want to Sleep*.

Tessa commented on the Nebraska Book Festival. The pre-festival event, Bookwalk, got Lincoln bookstores involved. The Nebraska Book Festival was held on September 7. The festival included a children’s event at Lincoln’s Eiseley Branch library during the morning with author Janice Harrington. The adult event, held from 11am – 6pm at UNL City Campus Union, featured seven Midwest authors. Vendors and exhibitors were also present in an adjoining room.

*Nebraska Center for the Book* – Tessa Terry noted that the Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held on November 9 at the Nebraska History Museum. The book awards ceremony is the last NCB event for 2019. Nebraska Book Award winning authors get the opportunity to talk about their books. The One Book One Nebraska selection for 2020 will be announced at the Celebration event. The annual Center for the Book membership meeting will be held prior to the Celebration program and awards presentations.

Wagner said that the book award winners are not all identified yet, but should be determined within the next week. The NCB has a committee that reads the nominated books for the One Book One Nebraska selection; a short list of 4 or 5 books should be determined in about one month and the Center for the Book board will make the final selection.

*NLA/NSLA/ILA Conference* – Wagner noted that the conference is October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in LaVista.

*Nebraska eReads* – Devra Dragos reported that there are currently 174 libraries participating in Nebraska's OverDrive Libraries Group. Two NLC staff members coordinate the consortium. Consortium participation fees are either \$0.10 per population served or a minimum of \$500 a year, funds go toward purchasing content to add to the collection. The current collection has over 15,000 audiobooks and over 27,000 eBooks, with circulation increasing each year. OverDrive offers an Advantage account which allows libraries to buy copies for their own collection to either retain the copies just for their patrons or share them with the consortium; 38 libraries have Advantage accounts and 22 of those libraries are sharing their purchases with the consortium. Not every publisher will work with OverDrive and not every publisher makes every title available through OverDrive. There are a variety of lending models that publishers use; each publisher has the choice whether they want to allow the libraries to purchase titles or just keep them for a limited time. Buying decisions are based on item circulation, author popularity, and cost.

*Library of Congress National Library Service Site Visit* – Wagner reported that the Commission's Talking Book and Braille service (TBBS) is a regional library as part of the Library of Congress network of libraries serving the blind and print disabled. The Library of Congress has staff that visit the regional libraries every year. For many years, the Library of Congress has supplied talking books to state libraries for distribution to eligible borrowers. There has been a transition to downloadable files that can be copied and distributed on cartridges. This process has reduced housing of massive quantities of cartridges. Gabe Kramer, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, will attend a future Commission meeting to report on the TBBS. Nebraska will host a national meeting in May 2020 of library representatives from across the country that provide this service.

*Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force* – Wagner reported that the Rural Broadband Task Force will next meet on September 20. The task force is working toward its report and recommendations that will go to the governor and legislature.

## **Financial Report**

*August Budget and Financial Report* – Wagner noted that some expenses in the operating budget are one-time expenses paid early in the fiscal year. Some expenses included in the report were incurred last fiscal year and encumbered funds will cover those expenses but are not yet reflected in the budget. The federal fiscal year ends September 30.

*LSTA Grants to States Program Maintenance of Effort Update* – Wagner reported that there is no further update at this time.

*LSTA Grants to States Appropriation Status* – Action on the federal budget has not been completed. It is likely that Congress will adopt a continuing resolution to provide funding at current levels into the new fiscal year for a specified period.

## **New Business**

*Out-of-State Travel Request* – Wagner requested approval to attend the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies fall meeting and Western Council of State Libraries meetings in Hartford, Connecticut, November 3-6.

A motion was made by Lois Todd-Meyer and seconded by Sandy White to approve the Out-of-State Travel Request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Sandy White – aye. Motion approved.

*Next Meeting Dates* – The next Commission meetings will be held November 8, January 10, and March (TBD).

## **Adjournment**

Debby Bloom adjourned the meeting.

Kayla Henzel