

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska
January 4, 2013

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on January 4, 2013 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, Charles Gordon, Sherry Crow, Molly Fisher. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Geibel, Mary Jo Ryan. Public: Laura Boyd Petty

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

Approval of the Minutes: (November 9, 2012) a motion was made by Pat Gross and seconded by Charles Gordon to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Diane Boyd – aye; Sherry Crow - aye; Molly Fisher - aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

Steve Batty reported about a fundraiser held in Holdrege by the Phelps County Community Foundation titled, "A Gift to Grow a Win." The foundation offered to match donations dollar for dollar up to \$75,000 and the library received \$12,528. He spoke with Denise Harders at the Republican Valley Library System who is planning to visit libraries with new librarians and advocating the services provided by the RVLS and Library Commission. Denise also attended the Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, last fall and was very impressed. The 2013 ARSL conference will be held in Omaha September 25-28. Steve also reported that the McCook Public Library's elevator project is progressing and on track and could possibly be completed this summer.

Molly Fischer reported that she attended the Southeast Library System board meeting in December and had the opportunity to meet with 14 librarians and learn about their libraries and programs. The Seward Memorial Library is in the final stages of its lower level development and Beatrice Public Library will be starting construction soon to complete its lower level space. Molly reported on an intervention program that is offered by the Beatrice High School. The librarian, Carol Oltman, explained that the children that are having trouble with their

assignments can go to the library for assistance. Teachers have become involved and are helping to make sure the kids have the help they need.

Diane Boyd - asked her daughter, Laurie Boyd Petty to attend the Commission meeting and share information about the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries. Laurie is the in-coming Foundation president. The Foundation's major project is building a new main library to replace the Bennett Martin facility. A proposal was sent to the mayor to award the Pershing site to LCL, but he declined. The foundation believes the public isn't convinced a new facility is needed and has questions about libraries' relevance in today's high tech world. The Foundation will approach promotion of a new building with those thoughts in mind.

Charles Gordon wished Laurie good luck with the Lincoln library project. Charles said that Fremont has been working the past twenty years to construct a new library and every time it gets to the top of the list, it gets knocked down to the bottom.

Sherry Crow mentioned that she had her students read "*Libraries of the Future*" and believe it or not, it's a social gathering place. It's becoming more and more important, especially for young adults. The Meridian Library System has several workshops coming up. Sherry said that Keeping Up With Technology is being held today and the Summer Reading Program workshop will be held on March 8th at Oconto Public Library. There will be a Youth Services Day set for April 18th at Grand Island Public Library. The Regional Library Systems have requested funding from the Kiewit Foundation for partial funding of the Library Leadership Institute. Mary Anderson is the new director at the Thomas County Library in Thedford. Michelle Archibeque at Burwell Jr-Sr High School is planning to remodel the library to make it more student friendly. A week of weeding is planned for January 14-19. A new title has been added to their book discussion kits, *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant. The Meridian Library System board is meeting in Lexington on January 11. The University of Nebraska Kearney Learning Commons has set up an advisory board. The Learning Commons is a collaboration among the tutoring center, writing center and the library.

Patricia Gross – The Panhandle Library System is still waiting for a director. The Sidney Public Library started a project the first of December helping patrons file unemployment insurance claims and job searching since the Nebraska Department of Labor closed its Sidney office. The Sidney library had staff workshops and a public workshop on January 8. During the month of December, Chadron Public Library had Santa come into the library and invited families to take pictures and have goodies. The children's librarian is now doing story time using the big screen that they received with the BTOP grant and everyone loves it. She is also working with Marguerite Miller to prepare an ESL (English as second language) program and they are applying for grants to do so. She also received funds to start a mini coffee shop, hoping to attract the 20 and 30 year old crowds. Bev Russell, who retired from the Lied Scottsbluff Public, has agreed to work as the interim director of the Chadron State College library. Nancy Escamilla, the young adult librarian at Scottsbluff public library, is moving to Lincoln. One of the activities at the Scottsbluff public library is the 100 best books program. The library purchased three copies of each book on the 100 best books list for the library collection.

The Scottsbluff library will hold E-reader and OverDrive training on January 15, and anyone with a Kindle, iPad or other device is welcome. The library hosts several book clubs. An adult reading program will begin in late January. The library was granted \$30,000 by their Lied Scottsbluff Library Foundation to update their print collections as well as the DVD collection. This will be a work in progress over the next few months.

Director's Report

Rod Wagner reported that Mary Jo Ryan provided copies of the Commission's Biennium in Review newsletter edition. Every two years the Commission is required by law to present to the Governor a report for the past biennium.

Personnel Updates – Jim Atkins, who worked in the Talking Book area, retired the end of November, which opened up his position; Dave Eckmann who has worked in the reference and interlibrary loan area applied for and moved into that vacant position. Dave's position is open and we are internally advertising for his replacement. Emily Nimsakont had moved from her cataloging librarian position to the government information services librarian position. Later Emily decided that she preferred her former position and is now back to serving as the Commission's cataloging librarian. With that change the government information services position was offered to Mary Sauers. Mary will begin work January 7. Mary is currently on the Lincoln City Libraries staff.

Angela Gonzales, grant compliance officer for the BTOP project, had an opportunity for a position at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in their grants office. Angela started her new position at UNL a month ago. The grants compliance position has been filled by Barbara Caron. Barbara has a library science degree, has served as a public library director, and is a long time experienced instructor. She also has a master's degree in public administration and a PhD in design history. Barbara retired this past spring as assistant director of the International Quilt Museum and Study Center.

Wagner said that the Panhandle Library System coordinator position has been offered to a candidate pending Congressional action on the federal budget. However, since the Congress has further deferred decisions on the budget a decision was made to move forward with the appointment. Eric Green from Aurora, Colorado, has been appointed to fill the Panhandle system position. Eric has experience as a community college library director and has also worked with public and special libraries. He will begin work in late January.

Nebraska Center for the Book Activities and Events – One Book One Nebraska selection, *O Pioneers...* Mary Jo and Rod met with representatives from the Cather Foundation, Nebraska Humanities Council and Nebraska Center for the Book to discuss plans for the year. Since this is the 100th anniversary of the publication of *O Pioneers*, the Cather Foundation has many activities planned for the year – a spring conference in Red Cloud, an essay contest for high school juniors and seniors, and other activities throughout the year.

The Nebraska Book Festival will be held April 5 and 6 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The Friday evening keynote will be by Kurt Anderson, regarding his most recent book *True*

Believers. There is also an activity involving poetry, high school students performing their own original poetry in a semi-final bout for *Louder Than a Bomb*, Omaha Youth Poetry Festival. Matt Mason is the current president of the Nebraska Center for the Book and is very involved in work with youth and poetry.

Library Broadband Technology Project – Rod Wagner commented that JoAnn McManus is working closely with Barbara Caron on getting records up to date for grant compliance and reporting. In regard to Pat Gross’s Panhandle region report, Wagner said that the Sidney Public Library’s work with the Nebraska Department of Labor is a result of the BTOP project. The Labor Department has been a great partner this past year and we’ve also had some good success working with the community colleges. Courses have been offered by Central Community College, Northeast Community College, Southeast Community College, Central and Mid-Plains and Western Community College.

2013 Major Activities and Events – Wagner noted up-coming events and dates: next week is the start of the Legislative Session; Library Advocacy Day is scheduled to be held on January 30; the Library Commission’s budget hearing is set for March 4; March 8 is the Commission and State Advisory Council on Libraries joint meeting in Grand Island; National Library Legislative Day briefing day is May 7 and Congressional Office visits will be made on May 8. The last day of the Legislative Session is June 5. The American Library Association annual conference will be June 28 – July 1 in Chicago. The Association for Rural and Small Libraries conference will be held September 25-28 in Omaha; the NLA/NSLA Conference will be October 8-10 in Kearney.

Financial Report

November – December Financial Report – Wagner reported that we continue to take a conservative approach to expenditures especially due to the fact that federal funds have not been appropriated for the full year and won’t be for another few months, or more. The Commission’s budget is based on the funding level from this past federal fiscal year. Overall, we are under budget in most categories except capital outlay and there are some special circumstances there. State aid to public libraries payments won’t take place until March as we get updated statistics from libraries to verify which libraries qualify and update population information. The amount of money the Commission has for state aid to public libraries payments this fiscal year is the same amount as last year’s budget for these payments.

LSTA FY 2013 Appropriation Status – Wagner shared a comment by David Brooks, a *New York Times* columnist, about the federal budget and after Congress passed legislation dealing with federal tax policies at the end of December, “How is anybody in government actually supposed to plan a budget when the whole thing may blow up again in sixty days?” Wagner said that we have now started the second quarter of the federal fiscal year and don’t have an appropriation for the whole fiscal year yet.

Unfinished Business – none.

New Business

IMLS 21st Century Librarian Grant Timetable Revision – Mary Jo Ryan addressed policies for internships and scholarships and the need to update these policies as a result of the grant's one year extension. The policy changes involve changes in dates.

A motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve the revised internships and scholarships timetable. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow - aye; Molly Fisher - aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Diane Boyd – aye. Motion approved.

Mary Jo Ryan distributed a copy of the grant project report to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Ryan commented that the report is posted on the Library Commission website.

State Advisory Council on Libraries Appointments - Wagner recommended reappointment of one current member, Merrilene Wood, and three new appointments: Beth Kabes, Cecelia Lawrence and John Dale. A motion was made by Patricia Gross and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the State Advisory Council on Libraries appointments. Motion carried on roll call vote: Molly Fisher – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Sherry Crow-aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates – Commission members agreed to schedule the next meeting on March 8, 2013. The meeting location will be determined later.

Out-of-State Travel Request – Rod Wagner requested approval for travel to Seattle, January 23-28 to attend a meeting hosted by the Gates Foundation at the Foundation's headquarters. The meeting will include state librarians and library development heads. Richard Miller, the Commission's library development director, is attending this meeting. The Foundation will cover airfare and lodging. The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies will also meet in Seattle at this time, followed by the American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting. A motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve Wagner's travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Diane Boyd - aye; Sherry Crow - aye; Molly Fisher – aye. Motion approved.

Director's Annual Performance Review (executive session) - A motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Diane Boyd to go into executive session. Motion carried on roll call vote: Steve Batty - aye; Diane Boyd - aye; Sherry Crow - aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye. Motion approved.

Adjournment

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

Mary Geibel
Secretary