

## NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

May 11, 2018

### MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met May 11, 2018, 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, Charles Peek, Debby Bloom, Susan Warneke and Sandy White, and Molly Fisher (via phone). Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe, Mary Jo Ryan. Public: Eric Jones, Tom Rolfes

Michael LaCroix called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Debby Bloom – aye; Sandy White – aye; Susan Warneke - aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Minutes:** (March 5, 2018) a motion was made by Charles Peek and seconded by Susan Warneke to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Debby Bloom – aye; Sandy White – aye; Susan Warneke - aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

**Sandy White** – reported that she attended Nebraska Library Legislative Day. Jan Jolliffe is moving back to Texas and will vacate her position as the Western Library System Director at the end of May. Dundee County Library received funds to start a remodel project. Bridgeport Public Library is now hosting the Library Innovation Studios makerspace. Sidney Public Library has had several makerspace training sessions.

**Susan Warneke** – reported that Chelsea Clinton is speaking at an event at the University of Nebraska at Omaha advocating for all librarians. The Norfolk Daily News launched the Literary Corner, a website to give writers a place to publish poetry, short fiction, etc. The Daily News also sponsors, through the library's Summer Reading Program, activities using the newspapers. Fifteen libraries are participating and will receive free copies of the paper. The Norfolk Public Library grand re-opening will be held on May 29.

**Debby Bloom** – The Omaha Public Library now has OverDrive's Libby, an easy to use app for downloading ebooks and audiobooks. A Jane Austen Tea was held at the Omaha Public Library's W. Dale Clark library. The Austen Tea is held annually. Genealogist Tom McFarland was at the Omaha downtown W. Dale Clark Library for a presentation and demonstration. Omaha's Washington Branch Library will host a Nebraska Underground Railroad presentation on June 9. May 1-8 is Choose Privacy Week, Laura Marlane, Omaha Public Library executive

director, wrote an article with tips about keeping web surfing private. Yelp now has reviews for libraries. Rebecca McCorkindale, Gretna Public Library assistant director, was among those recognized by Library Journal as a 2018 Mover and Shaker.

**Charles Peek** – The Central Plains Library System newsletter, PlainSpeaking, has publicized upcoming *My Antonia* events. This is the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the publication of *My Antonia*. Nebraska Library Association Spring meetings were held in Seward, Tilden, Alliance and Lexington. The Kearney Public Library has a new program called PAWS to Read for all ages to come in and read to a dog or cat. Kearney Public Library will host Jeff Barnes who will speak about Omaha landmark buildings. Grand Island Public Library has a Teen Library Core for ages 10-18. This includes a group of teens that get together to brainstorm or plan what the library could be doing for teens and advise on what books, music, or movies the library could have available. Grand Island Public Library held a Dr. Seuss birthday party on March 3.

**Molly Fisher** – Molly expressed thanks to the Commissioners and Library Commission staff during her six years as a Commissioner. The communities of Overton, Bayard, Alma and Morrill were awarded grants for the Letters About Literature writing clinics sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book. The Southeast Library System is working with libraries in support of library summer reading programs. Seward Public Library will hold an in-service conference on May 11 with over 55 in attendance. Seward will also host Golden Sower Award reading day; anyone can come to the library and read books nominated for the award. On June 8, Libraries Coming of Age workshop will be held at Lincoln Public Schools District Office.

**Michael LaCroix** – The Three Rivers Library System has been working with libraries on their community needs assessment. The TRLS newsletter indicated the system will continue with the system peer coordinators. The newsletter has been promoting scholarships provided by the system. TRLS has Golden Sower Award nominee kits available. Michael attended National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.

### **Public Comment**

Tom Rolfes, Education Information Technology Manager, Nebraska Office of the CIO, spoke about and shared a document regarding LB 994, establishment of the Rural Broadband Task Force, <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/floordocs/105/pdf/final/lb994.pdf>. The state legislative bill was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. Work has begun to seek members for the task force. The task force will include 14 members. The legislature declared that residential broadband in Nebraska should be a minimum download speed of 25 megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of 3 megabits per second. Advisory groups may also be appointed.

### **Director's Report**

*Personnel* – Rod Wagner reported (as Sandy White did earlier) that Jan Jolliffe, Western Library System Director, will leave her position on May 31.

*State Legislative Session* – Wagner reported that a result of the 2018 legislative session was across the board budget reductions for most state agencies. For the Library Commission, the

reductions include percentage state fund reductions for both the operations and state aid to libraries programs.

*National Library Legislative Day* – Wagner attended Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C. May 7-8. Briefings were held on May 7 followed by visits to Nebraska congressional offices on May 8. The American Library Association Washington Office chose to focus on a small list of issues concerning legislative and policy issues.

*Museum and Library Services Act of 2017* – Wagner reported there is a growing number of co-sponsors and there is hope that re-authorization legislation will come up during the current legislative session.

*Nebraska Library Association Spring Meetings* – Wagner attended spring meetings in Alliance and Lexington. Other Commission staff attended spring meetings in Seward and Tilden.

*Library Innovation Studios Project* – Wagner attended the Loup City Public Library Maker Showcase on May 2. He said the project has moved forward to the second cycle libraries with installations and training at Neligh, South Sioux City, Broken Bow and Bridgeport public libraries.

*Sparks Grant Project* – Wagner expressed appreciation for Tom Rolfes' and Holly Woldt's work on the Sparks Grant project. The Institute of Museum and Library Services staff gave a report at the Chief Officers of State Libraries meeting in Washington D.C. that Wagner attended. The IMLS staff report mentioned Nebraska's project.

*Nebraska Center for the Book* – Wagner reported the NCB board met at the Kearney Public Library on April 28. Mary Jo Ryan reported on the Letters About Literature letter writing clinics grant. Letters About Literature challenges students by asking that they write to a particular author to relate their response to the work. The grant will help with teaching students how to write the letter. Ryan also said that Nebraska Book Award submissions have been coming in for entry in the book awards competition. NCompass Live will present a webinar on the 2018 One Book One Nebraska: "Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry" on May 16.

*2018 Nebraska Book Festival* – Wagner said that the next Nebraska Book Festival will be held August 25 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln City Campus Union. A reception will be held Friday night, August 24, at the Center for Great Plains Studies. The University of Nebraska Press is the lead organization for planning and hosting the festival.

*The Great American Read* – Wagner distributed a list of books that have been selected for this initiative. NET will air an eight-part program about the books starting May 22. Voting will begin on May 22 and will end in October.

*National Book Festival* – The annual National Book Festival, sponsored by the Library of Congress, will be held September 1 in Washington D.C. Commission staff Devra Dragos and Tessa Terry will attend and will cover the Library Commission/Nebraska Center for the Book exhibit.

## **Financial Report**

*April Financial Report* – Wagner commented that expenditures are in line with budget with anticipation of a 2% state funds reduction for the current fiscal year.

*2019-2021 Biennial Budget Process* – Wagner reported the budget proposal will be prepared through the summer and presented at the September meeting. The proposal will be submitted in mid-September.

### **New Business**

*State Aid to Public Libraries Allocations* – Sam Shaw submitted recommendations for allocation of the state aid to public libraries payments. It was noted that 169 accredited libraries have met the requirements for State Aid.

A motion was made by Debby Bloom and seconded by Charles Peek to approve the proposal for 2018 state aid distribution. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Sandy White – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

*Regional Library Systems Funding FY 2018-19* – Wagner reported the regional library systems allocations for the next fiscal year, starting July 1, are based on payments this made this year. The state portion is reduced by 4% and the federal portion will remain the same.

A motion was made by Sandy White and seconded by Charles Peek to approve the recommended regional library systems' budget allocations. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Charles Peek – aye; Susan Warneke – aye; Sandy White. Motion approved.

*Out-of-State Travel Request* – Wagner requested approval to attend the Western Council of State Libraries meeting in Salt Lake City May 21-23 and the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans June 22-26.

A motion was made by Susan Warneke and seconded by Debby Bloom to approve the travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – 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 July 13, September 7, and November 9.

### **Adjournment**

Michael LaCroix adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe