

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska
November 10, 2010

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on November 10, 2010, at the Library Commission office, 1200 N Street, Lincoln. The meeting notice was submitted to local newspapers (Lincoln Journal Star, Omaha World Herald) and posted on the Commission Web site.

Members present: John Dale, Charles Gordon, Sherry Crow, Patricia (Pat) Gross, Steve Batty. Staff present: Sue Biltoft, Rod Wagner, Dave Oertli. Public: Brenda Ealey, Kathy Tooker, and Glenda Willnerd.

Chair John Dale 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 and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Steve Batty – aye; John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Pat Gross – aye and Sherry Crow. Motion approved

Approval of the Minutes (September 10, 2010): A motion was made to approve the September 10, 2010, meeting minutes. Motion carried on roll call vote: John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Pat Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye, and Steve Batty - aye. Motion approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

Kathy Tooker stated that the Hooper public library have hired a new interim Director. The past Library Director received two grants from the American Library Association which she used to purchase bilingual material and was teaching English to the local Spanish speaking community.

The City Council believed she was using the funds illegally and did not approve of her teaching English to the Spanish speaking community on what they believed was library time but wasn't. The Director decided to resign due to the controversy.

Brenda Ealey stated that she was advertising for an Administrative Assistant again. The Friends of the Southeast Library System will be hosting a Harry Potter movie showing on November 20. Warren Graham was the Systems preconference speaker which had a great turnout.

Glenda Willnerd stated that Lincoln Public Schools staff has attended a variety of conferences this year. Glenda stated that LPS has applied for an ASL institute to hold an institute for Nebraska school librarians. LPS Administrative Office is housing the Multicultural Book display until November 19.

CHAIR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chair John Dale reported that he attend the NLA/NEMA conference. John stated that today is the 30th anniversary of which Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to provide an operating system which was DOS.

Charles Gordon stated that Fremont is losing their City Administrator so a search for a new Administrator will start soon.

Sherry Crow stated that Kearney public library is currently working on their expansion. UNK library is developing a Learning Commons which is done by bringing the tutor center, writing center and infrastructure under one roof. Sherry stated that the [Kearney Area Storytelling Festival](#) will host Syd Lieberman and Rosie Cutrer on January 17-22, 2011.

Pat Gross reported that the Panhandle is without a Library System Director and still taking applications. The Panhandle author touring group is moving forward to do an author tour in spring 2011 with [Diane deGroat](#). Diane is the well know author/illustrator of a holiday series about Gilbert; everyone's favorite opossum. Rod stated that the Scottsbluff public library has had some problems with their building expansion but things are moving forward. Pat Gross said the building is looking very nice.

Steve Batty reported that he attended the NLA/NEMA conference. Steve is currently working on submitting an LSTA grant for the McCook public library. Steve stated that he attended the RVLS meeting and said they will be trying a Skype meeting next time. Steve said although this may cut down on cost he believes they will miss the social aspect of the meeting which is very important. Steve commended the Library Commission for their success on the broadband project for the 140 libraries who will benefit from the project.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rod Wagner reported that he asked Dave Oertli to report on the transition of the digital talking book. Rod stated that he commended the Talking Book & Braille staff for their quick work in supplying their patrons with a new digital player and cartridges.

Digital Talking Book Transition Report

Dave Oertli reported the Talking Book and Braille department received their first digital books and players from the Library of Congress in August 2009. A year later 1888 digital players have been distributed and there are 3,600 cartridges of which 49 of these are books from our own studio. In July 2010 we began circulating our own studio magazines on cartridge. We are the first or among the first talking book library to begin circulating magazines on disk.

We have taken out three ads in *Nebraska Life* magazine with current information about the digital books and cassettes.

Due to the One Book-One Lincoln book, *I Am a Man* by Joe Starita not being available in audio for individuals with a disability our volunteers and staff tackled the job and were able to expedite the books' production. This project generated several articles in the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

Rod Wagner stated that there are growing numbers of book clubs and discussion groups that can and do borrow book club kits from either us or the regional library system offices.

IMLS Grant – Cultivating Rural Librarians’ Technology Skills

Rod Wagner stated that in the September minutes it was mentioned that we would have a recommendation or we would prepare a proposal for the IMLS grant in regard to scholarship policies. Due to all the events and projects going on this has not been accomplished. We will need to have this as an agenda item in January because we need to get the scholarship policies in place when the IMLS grant officially November 1, 2010.

League of Municipalities Meeting

Rod stated that attended a meeting with League of Municipalities regarding library personnel policies. Sometime ago the League contacted Rod and asked him to identify some library representative to meet with some League people about some library personnel issues on the municipal level. A group of library people including Gary Wright, a former library board member from Broken Bow, Scott Durman, former library board from Papillion, Becky Baker, Library Director from Seward, and Ken Winston, Lobbyist for Nebraska Library Association meet with the League.

Upon discussion from the meeting the League drew a proposal for a statutory change that relates to library personnel policies. The proposal is out for everyone to see and either is supported or rejected. Originally the League wanted the libraries personnel policies to be the same as the municipalities as a whole but it was recognized that the libraries need to have their own policies but should be approved by the city government and be in coordination with the cities policies.

Rod stated that the Seward public library has library personnel policies that have been addressed and seem to work so they have been used as a model many times when the issue of library personnel policies is addressed.

John Dale stated that he would like to see this issue on the January Commission meeting agenda. This would allow the Commissioners to read all the provided information before making a decision. Charles Gordon asked that additional information regarding this issue be supplied to the Commissioners.

Nebraska Center for the Book Events and Projects

Rod Wagner stated the Nebraska Center for the Book held their annual meeting on November 6 and promoted as a Celebration of Nebraska Books. The program included a presentation for this year’s One Book One Nebraska, *The Home Place*, by Wright Morris.

The awards program held the presentation of the Jane Geske Award to the Hastings College literary magazine, *Plain Songs*. The winners of the annual Center for the Book award competition that were present were invited to comment on and read from their books. They all did a great job. The Omaha World Herald did a lengthy editorial about the book awards program.

The 2011 One Book One Nebraska is Ted Kooser's, *Local Wonders*. The book is a past Nebraska Book Award winner. The Humanities Council has asked him to be part of their speaker's bureau so that they can help cover the cost of book related meetings.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rod Wagner reported that he didn't have anything to report. It is noted on the October report that the broadband federal grant funds have been added into the report. Rod stated that the Commission has hired the three people for the broadband project and we believe they will do a great job for us. Audrey York, was hired as the grant Compliance Officer. Audrey comes from the Dept. of Economic Development where she worked in a similar position on a grant that was comparable to this grant.

Rod stated that the LSTA authorization had expired but it is renewed as part of the appropriations process. It is to our benefit if it is reauthorized because there are items that need to be changed due to the restricted position on the use of funds IMLS has taken the last few years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Notice Posting Policy (newspaper)

Rod Wagner stated that our practice of meeting notices is to post a notice in the Omaha and Lincoln newspaper and we feel that it is an unnecessary expense. We do post the meetings on our website as well at the State of Nebraska's public meeting calendar. Rod stated he doesn't think it's required by law to post it in the newspaper.

John Dale stated that as long as we are within the confines of the open meeting law we can do away with the newspaper postings. Rod stated that he would check to make sure that we can legally do away with posting meetings in the newspapers. Eliminating this cost would save us a couple hundred dollars for every public meeting we hold.

Next Meeting Date

Rod Wagner stated that the next meeting date is scheduled for January 14, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair John Dale at 3:43 p.m.

Sue Biloft, Secretary