

# NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

November 13, 2015

## MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on November 13, 2015, 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, Susan Warneke, Molly Fisher, Patricia Gross and Debby Whitehill Bloom. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, Scott Scholz and Jennifer Wrampe.

Pat Gross 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 Michael LaCroix and seconded by Molly Fisher to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Minutes:** (September 11, 2015) a motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Debby Whitehill Bloom to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

**Patricia Gross** reported that she attended the NLA/NSLA Conference in October. The conference included an evening reception and tour of the Nebraska Innovation Campus. Pat mentioned conference sessions that she attended. Pat commented on library events and activities in the Western region. Kathy Terrell, Morrill Elementary School, and Allison Roberts, Alliance High School, led the Western Library System committee that organized an author tour: the Buck Wilder adventure series by Tim Smith. Carol Matthews, Media Specialist at Hay Springs Public Schools, does a program called Hour of Code which teaches students computer skills. Hemingford Public Schools recently held a book fair. Grant County Library recently held a bake sale and raised \$2000. Mitchell Public Library had a concert – the Living Roots of Music. The Western Library System will host an e-Rate workshop on November 16 to be conducted by Christa Burns. The Scottsbluff Public Library Foundation sponsored a kitchen tour on October 3 where members of the community volunteer to show their kitchens. Cookbooks from the library were placed in the different locations for people to look through and get ideas.

**Debby Whitehill Bloom** said that the Plattsmouth Public Library conducted a voter information project. Debby commented on activities at the Omaha Public Library's Millard branch. Debby said that the Millard branch teen librarian has an assistant interested in international learning.

The library's teen advisory board has over 80 kids involved. Library staff is encouraging leadership development and working to get the kids to formulate their own goals and interests. The library will have an international games day on November 21. The library has put together literacy book bags for children (birth to 4 years old). The library also supports 13 book clubs at local schools.

**Michael LaCroix** said that Margaret Saxson is retiring as the children's librarian at Ponca Carnegie Library. Patty Goodier will replace her. The Three Rivers Library System held its fall workshop at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk. The Wayne Public Library has a timeline in the library's computer room showing the history of the city of Wayne. Janet Davenport, Keene Memorial Library (Fremont), will be retiring in December. Blair Public Library has found a contractor for the city's new library. Groundbreaking will start in 2016. Omaha's Do Space opened on November 7. The Three Rivers Library System Summer Reading Program workshop will be held on November 20 in West Point.

**Molly Fisher** said that she attended the NLA/NSLA Conference. Molly said that Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries Director, is hosting the "All About Books" program on Nebraska Public Radio. Molly said that the Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) opposes use of Pershing Center as the location for the Lincoln City Libraries downtown library relocation. LIBA cited satisfaction by Lincoln residents for the LCL's services as a reason to not need relocation. The Southeast Library System friends' organization will hold a book fair at Lincoln's Barnes and Noble bookstore on November 24. The library system will receive a portion of the proceeds from book sales. A Summer Reading Program workshop will be held December 4 at Lincoln's Walt Branch Library. Molly said that the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation hosts a Christmas open house this time of year and highlights Aldrich's Christmas book. Molly gave fundraiser suggestions and ideas for libraries this time of year such as a gift tree for a library or a holiday tour of homes. Molly said that Palmyra Public Library had a geocaching workshop in October and the Exeter Public Library held a Romping Stomping story hour with a cowboy theme.

**Susan Warneke** and seven others from the Norfolk area met recently and discussed the Accelerated Reader Program that can be used in a school setting, encouraging children to read and identify books at their reading level. Various topics were discussed with encouragements for librarians, teachers and parents to help children understand what is helpful to them. The Norfolk Public Library renovation and expansion project is moving forward. Plainview Public Library is proceeding with its new building. Susan and another Norfolk Library Foundation member shared information about Norfolk's library building project with some smaller communities that had shown interest. Susan said she has been talking with library staff about piloting a program for children to learn how to get information from newspapers.

### **Director's Report**

*Personnel Updates* – Rod Wagner reported that Allison Badger has been hired to fill the Commission's cataloging librarian position. Allison will start in January. Laura Johnson, Continuing Education Coordinator, will be retiring. Laura's last day at the Commission will be December 11. Recruitment is underway to fill her position.

*Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS)* – Scott Scholz reported that there have been several position changes in the TBBS within the past year – Cecelia Ramsey filled the readers advisor position in July; Nicholas Westra started in March as the book circulation technician; Gabe Kramer moved to studio manager when Bill Ainsley retired. The new ground floor space, referred to by staff as the West Wing, is now open. That project started in October 2013 and moving from the lower level began in late 2014. Scott said that another improvement is equipment upgrades. The TBBS recording studios are now using all of the same equipment. The move from the lower level resulted in a reduction in space from 12,000 square feet in the lower level to 8,000 square feet in the new area. That was possible due to the old cassette collection being returned to the National Library Service. The newer digital books require less shelving space. Scott said that TBBS averages about 30 volunteers on a weekly basis. New software is being acquired for the studios for doing markup, which is a process that adds navigation markers to the recorded audio. The new software is named Hindenburg. Scott said that Gabe Kramer, studio manager, attended training in Washington D.C. on the new software and has already started some in-house training. Scott said that the TBBS also has new circulation software, Web Reads, which was installed 3 months ago.

*Public Library Accreditation* – Richard Miller reported on the Public Library Accreditation process. Miller said there are three levels of library accreditation. A library achieves recognition for one of these levels based on a point system. The highest level is gold, followed by silver and bronze. Miller said that a requirement for accreditation is completion of a strategic plan. In order to get to the accreditation application online, a public library has to be able to answer twelve minimum qualification questions. Richard provided a document with facts and figures concerning public library accreditation. Richard was applauded for his considerable time and effort in working with libraries to complete the accreditation process. In addition to reviewing all application documents, Richard responded to many questions and provided advice via telephone, email, and workshops that he led. Richard acknowledged the assistance of the regional library system directors and their efforts in working with libraries to complete the accreditation application process.

*Nebraska Legislature – Legislative Resolutions 288 & 290* – Rod Wagner and Richard Miller attended a legislative hearing on September 25 relating to legislative resolutions 288 & 290. These resolutions are the basis for interim studies being conducted by the legislature's General Affairs Committee. LR 288 relates to public libraries and the governing authority of library boards. LR 290 relates to the digitization of newspapers and library involvement. Wagner and Miller participated in a meeting at the Nebraska Press Association prior to the hearing to discuss newspaper digitization projects undertaken by libraries. Copyright issues are the basis for the interim study (LR 290). Wagner said that the Library Commission issued guidelines for newspaper digitization projects in February 2014. The guidelines were developed in cooperation with the Nebraska State Historical Society and intended for libraries undertaking digitization projects. The copyright concerns involved projects that did not fully follow the guidelines in regard to copyright assurances. Wagner said that he expects the issues to be resolved as a result of the Library Commission and Nebraska Press Association collaborating on additional guidance for libraries to address copyright issues.

The legislative hearing regarding LR 288 included testimony from some city representatives that spoke about difficulties working with their city’s library boards. Lynn Rex, Executive Director of the League of Nebraska Municipalities, also testified at the hearing. The city representatives and the League want state statutes changed to permit cities of the second class (those with populations under 5000) to operate with library advisory boards rather than governing boards as now specified by statute. Under this arrangement city councils and village boards would have final authority over library policies and administration. Cities of the first class, those with populations above 5000 and under 100,000, have this authority now. Twelve of Nebraska’s thirty first class cities have libraries with advisory boards. The majority have administrative boards. Richard Miller testified on behalf of the Commission and presented testimony and information based on his experiences in working with library boards and with city councils and village boards regarding library policies and administration. Wagner and Miller commented on a meeting they had with Nebraska Library Association representatives on November 12 to discuss the legislative issues. Wagner said that a next step is to seek a meeting with Lynn Rex to discuss the interim study and expected legislation to be introduced in the 2016 legislature. Wagner said that the Commission should support retaining library board authority.

*Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association Conference* – Rod Wagner said that the annual conference, held October 15-16 in Lincoln, was well attended. The Library Commission was among the exhibitors and a number of Commission staff gave presentations and assisted with conference activities. Wagner said that the conference was held at the same time as the Iowa Library Association Conference. As such, exhibitors were split between the two states with the majority going to Iowa.

*Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB)* – Wagner reported that the NCB will hold its annual membership meeting on November 14 prior to the Celebration of Nebraska Books event. The Celebration program will open with a presentation by University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor Thomas Berg. Berg’s presentation will be based on Beverly Deepe Keverer’s book, *Death Zones and Darling Spies*, the 2015 One Book One Nebraska selection. Wagner said that most of the Nebraska Book Award winners will be present at the Celebration event. Molly Fisher commented that the winners will either read from or talk about their book, or do both. Copies of the award books will be available for purchase and authors that are present will sign their books. There will be a reception following the awards presentation. The program will also include presentation of the Jane Geske Award. This year’s award will go to the Lincoln City Libraries for their One Book – One Lincoln program. The 2016 One Book One Nebraska selection will be announced.

*State Advisory Council on Libraries* – Wagner said the next State Advisory Council on Libraries meeting will be held November 20 in Lincoln. A discussion topic for the Council is “The Future of Nebraska Libraries.” That topic came about in consideration of some national studies and reports related to libraries and also the American Library Association’s new Libraries Transform campaign. Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Radio is airing some stories about the future of Nebraska libraries. The library stories involve interviews with a number of Nebraska librarians. The Library Commission assisted NET producers in developing their library story series. Those interviews will be aired in the near future.

*Library Services and Technology Act National Library Leadership Grants* – Wagner reported that a few Commission staff members met to consider ideas for a Library Services and Technology Act National Leadership Grant application. This came about based on the “Idea Box” project and a recent workshop attended by some Commission staff members. Idea Box is an international project involving compilation of library items that are placed in a box and delivered to remote African villages. Wagner said staff is considering a project that will place items in a library for a period of time before rotating on to another location. The “box” or container would include items that might be found in a makerspace area (3D printers, tools, and other objects). The project would involve education, design, demonstration, and promotion. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant application schedule requires a preliminary proposal by February 2, 2016. The IMLS will select from preliminary proposals to invite full applications. Those will be due in June 2016.

### **Financial Report**

*September-October Financial Report* – Wagner said that some Commission expenditures are irregular with some paid out early in the fiscal year, such as subscriptions and memberships. Wagner reminded that appropriations are not line item, but lump sum. At the start of the fiscal year, some expenses are estimated and some are known precisely. Wagner said that the Commission’s budget, overall, is in line with budgeted amounts.

### **New Business**

*Legislature’s Interim Study re Public Library Boards* – A motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Debby Whitehill Bloom to oppose modification of state statutes that would diminish the relative authority of library boards in their governing functions. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Whitehill Bloom – aye; Molly Fisher – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Susan Warneke – aye. Motion approved.

*Next Meeting Date* – The next Commission meetings will be held January 15, March 11, and May 13, 2016.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Patricia Gross at 11:55 p.m.

Jennifer Wrampe