

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
Friday, November 16, 2018 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Cecelia Lawrence(Chair), Jessica Chamberlain, Scott Childers, Pat Gross, Gail Irwin, Joann Jackson, Beth Kabes, Dana Morgan, Lisa Olivigni, Courtney Pentland, Julie Pinnell, Charlene Rasmussen, Sky Seery, and Matthew Williams. Also present: Rebecca McCorkindale. Present via GoToMeeting: Council member Noelle Thompson. Advisory Council members absent: Andrew Cano, John Dale, Lori Long, Laura Marlane. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, and Linda Babcock.

Welcome and Introductions

Cecelia Lawrence welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes of July 20, 2018: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None.

Reports / Discussion

Nebraska Library Commission – Commission Staff

One Book One Nebraska – Rod Wagner reported that the Nebraska Center for the Book and Iowa Center for the Book collaborated to choose a book for the two states' 2019 one book programs – One Book One Nebraska and All Iowa Reads. They selected “This Blessed Earth” by Ted Genoways. The book represents a connection to both states (farming). The author, Ted Genoways, lives in Lincoln and received his PhD from the University of Iowa.

Library Innovations Studios Project – Wagner reported that currently the project is in cycle three, which involves libraries at Norfolk, North Platte, Ravenna, and Scottsbluff. Cycle 4 will include libraries at Wayne, Geneva, Central City, and Kimball. Morrill, Plainview, and Verdigre will participate in a mini installation. Other libraries scheduled to participate in the project are Chadron, Nebraska City, Blue Hill, Laurel and Grant. March 1, 2019, is the deadline to apply for the five spots still available.

Sparks Grant – Wagner reported that the Library Commission partnered with the State of Nebraska's Office of the CIO in applying for and receiving an LSTA Sparks Grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The project title is “Nebraska Schools and Libraries – Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships.” Holly Woldt is the Library Commission's lead staff member on the project. This one-year project will include six libraries (Verdigre, Genoa, Wymore, Bayard, Bancroft, and Imperial) that are working with rural school districts to increase Internet speeds at the public libraries using fixed wireless technology to provide additional internet access in the library for students during after-school hours.

The Sparks Grant has led to a proposed preliminary application submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for \$249,000 to support for a larger project. This proposal includes twenty-four public libraries. The grant would provide for additional school – public library internet connections, equipment and technology improvements. A new feature would be installation of teleconferencing technologies for educational programming.

Wagner mentioned that a Rural Broadband Task Force was created by Governor Ricketts to review “issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska.” The task force will present a report to the governor and the legislature by November 1, 2019.

Rod Wagner said that there is a proposal to support increased federal funding for library services. The “One Dollar Per Capita” campaign promotes a funding increase in the Library Services and Technology Act Grants (LSTA) to States program. The funding increase would nearly double the amount states receive through the program.

Steve Fosselman, Jessica Chamberlain, and Holly Woldt are members of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission Community Council. Jessica Chamberlain said there are many Nebraska libraries that have low broadband speeds. Jessica said Nebraska libraries need and should receive adequate broadband service.

Celebration of Nebraska Books – Rod Wagner reported that the Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held on Dec. 1, 2018 at the Nebraska History Museum. Twyla Hansen, current Nebraska State Poet, will be honored. She is completing her five-year term and does not wish to be considered for re-appointment. Wagner said that the Nebraska Arts Council, Humanities of Nebraska, and the Library Commission are working together to invite nominations for the next Nebraska State Poet. The three organizations recruited a selection committee to consider nominations and make an appointment recommendation to the governor.

Nebraska Library Association – Rebecca McCorkindale, NLA President, reported that reviews from conference attendees of the 2018 NLA/NLSA Conference indicate the conference was a success. She and other organizers have learned a lot on how to proceed with future conferences.

McCorkindale said that Angela Kroeger can be contacted for questions about the 2019 ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference. The joint conference will be held at the La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center October 2-4, 2019. Call for proposals will be open through February 8, 2019.

Nebraska School Librarians Association- Courtney Pentland, NSLA President, reported that the NETA Spring Conference will be held March 28-29, 2019 at the CHI Health Center in Omaha. Keynote Speaker is Gwyneth Jones, The Daring Librarian. Nebraska School Librarians Day is scheduled to be held April 6, 2019.

Pentland said that NSLA conducted a survey last year asking members what their needs were. Adjustments are being made to meet the needs for professional learning including additional scholarships being offered. She noted the difficulty for school librarians to get time off during school hours for professional development. Some of the future opportunities will be on weekends or during the summer. Following the NLA/NSLA/ILA conference, NSLA will offer an additional day in the same city for school librarians to attend.

The *Library Journal & School Library Journal* “Stronger Together: Finding Literacy Rich Communities” conference was held in Omaha on May 9-12, 2018. Omaha Public Schools and Omaha Public Libraries collaborated to gather public and school libraries from across the country to have conversations on how to better serve the needs of children in their communities. Chelsea Clinton was the event keynote speaker. Christa Porter said that she attended the conference. Pat Leach and Laura Marlane contacted Christa Porter suggesting that the conversations from this conference should be continued locally in Nebraska. “Nebraska Stronger Together Continuing the Conversation” was held in Lincoln October 17, 2018. Christa said there was good conversation from a “World Café” style discussion. There is interest for the discussions to continue. E-book subscriptions was a topic that came up frequently. How to make information accessible to all students is an issue they would like to resolve.

Christa Porter said that the Library Commission plans to work with NSLA to provide training and Basic Skills classes.

Gail Irwin asked if the Nebraska Educational Service Units lend any resources to public libraries. She said that she used to receive videos for story time. Beth Kabes said most ESUs would probably not be able to provide any specific resources. Kabes also said that the ESUs could potentially create a collaboration for libraries that want to purchase digital resources together. The Department of Education is promoting a project called “Materials Matter” to provide instructional materials to students. The Future Ready Librarians, an expansion of National Future Ready Initiative, is raising awareness among districts and school leaders about the value of the librarian’s role in schools. They are including input from school librarians across the state.

State and Federal Legislative and Budget Outlook – Rod Wagner reported that funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Grants to States was increased for the FY 2019 federal budget. The Institute of Museum and Library Services received a \$2 million funding increase, mainly for administrative expenses and research. The LSTA Grants to States program, which is the majority of the IMLS budget, is funded at the same level as last fiscal year.

Wagner said that Senator Jack Reed from Rhode Island has recruited other senators to co-sponsor an initiative to increase funding through the LSTA Grants to States program. The initiative requests an increase in each state’s base grant amount. The formula for the state grants includes a base amount of \$680,000 with the remainder based on the state’s population. Senator Reed’s proposal increases the base amount to \$1 million. The current congressional session will end in a couple of weeks, and the proposed legislation will expire at that time. Wagner It is unlikely that this legislation will pass during this session.

Wagner said that the Nebraska legislative session that will convene in January will have many new senators. The 90-day session will begin with voting to approve leadership positions and committee assignments. Especially important is the legislature’s Appropriations Committee, which will recommend state funding for the 2019-2021 state biennium budget.

Wagner mentioned a citizen’s effort to introduce legislation in the Nebraska legislature to discontinue EBSCO database service. EBSCO’s services have been challenged in some other states with the contention that they provide access to resources “harmful to children.” Wagner said that EBSCO databases are valuable educational assets. EBSCO database services are offered through NebraskaAccess.

Council Conversation Topic: *Libraries and Librarians as Community Engagers – School, Public, College / University*

Rod Wagner started the conversation by asking council members about their experiences and observations in their communities involving community engagement. He asked what kind of programs in the library or partnerships with libraries have been successful to bring people together. He mentioned the Kettering Foundation’s National Issue Forums with free resources for community groups to discuss current topics and major policy issues. The foundation provides free discussion material and training for facilitators, all the resources are available free to download.

Gail Irwin said the Library Innovation Studios project involved many people coming together in Ainsworth. A community committee was created consisting of the school shop teacher, school superintendent, economic development leaders, extension and other groups. They visited the Ainsworth public library makerspace, which was part of the Library Innovations Studios project. After visiting the makerspace, the shop teacher suggested the school purchase a laser cutter for their new shop building. The community committee suggested interest in inviting the public to come into the shop and use the laser, once a week, twice a month, or on Saturdays.

Cecelia Lawrence reported that several years ago Humanities Nebraska sponsored a statewide six-session program to discuss democracy and whether the United States should force their democratic ways to other countries. She said the program brought a diverse group of people together because they wanted to share their opinions.

Julie Pinnell reported that for two years Wesleyan University has hosted a library learning commons as a part of their programming. One of the student projects is to lead in community dialogue and to facilitate at the dialogue sessions.

Jessica Chamberlain hopes to start a “Meet Your Neighbor” program for newcomers and those returning to Norfolk to bring diverse discussions into the library. In the past, Norfolk Public Library and the Norfolk community received a Created Equal Grant from The Gilder Lehrman Foundation. The grant provided resources for discussion of American history. Senior citizens and college students met and discussed history that the senior citizens had experienced, while college students were just learning about. This program was very successful in Norfolk.

The Human Library program at Omaha public libraries offers individuals with particular expertise or experiences to be “checked out” for a one-on-one conversation with patrons.

Council Round Table – Successes and Challenges

Courtney Pentland

Courtney reported that funding is a challenge in her school libraries. As school budgets decrease, library budgets decrease.

Rebecca McCorkindale

Funding for a new library in Gretna has been challenging. A success for her is that she has great community support. They have received a grant for author visits for students and school librarians. The Kitty Café program started five years ago has been very successful in providing kittens for adoption.

Noelle Thompson

Noelle said that the Innovation Studios project at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library has been very successful, yet challenging. It has been fun and exciting, while challenging for staff. Noelle was on maternity leave during project training and installation. Noelle will return to work full time starting September 18. McKensie Watson is the new teen librarian at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. She said her biggest challenge is keeping up with public demand and funding.

Joann Jackson

Joann said that York’s Kilgore Memorial Library funding has been reduced 60% (from more than \$72,000 to \$28,500). As a result of decreased funds, Deb Robertson, library director, has lost staff members and purchases have been reduced drastically. Scott Childers, Southeast System Director, added that the reduced funding is not a direct attack on the library. Other city budgets have also been cut significantly. There have been newspaper articles concerning the lack of city funds in York but it is not clear what caused the shortfall. The library’s early childhood program continues to very successful.

Gail Irwin

Gail said that after the Innovation Studios project was completed in Ainsworth, the library conducted a community survey to find out which pieces of equipment the community would like to have in their library. A garden walk and “Sink Your Teeth Into Reading” event, both sponsored by the library, provided funds to purchase a button maker, a heat press and printer, and supplies. The library plans to raise funds for a vinyl cutter.

Sky Seery

Sky said that she eliminated book fines at the North Platte High School to remove the shame associated with book fines. More students are coming into the library. One challenge is making the high school an inclusive campus for students of all sexual orientations, by organizing a GSA Club to support all students.

Jessica Chamberlain

Jessica said that the Innovation Studios project is installed at the Norfolk Public Library. Getting the project installed has been a challenge but it has been very successful for community engagement. The makerspace brings more non-traditional library users into the library. She said that with the library renovation and expansion, there is more time and more resources for planning. Jessica said she enjoys that challenge, and she will be working on a new community needs response plan.

Charlene Rasmussen

Charlene said that the Wayne public library is focused on starting community programs. Some of those programs include coloring book nights, craft nights, Toddler Reading Time, and trivia night. A challenge at the Wayne library is the loss of staff due to budget cuts two years ago. The Wayne public library foundation will start using interest funds from a bequest to the library. This year they plan to use the extra funds to provide a Spanish-English section in the library.

Dana Morgan

Dana said that she is back in the Leyton Public Schools as Principal/Media Specialist. She said her biggest challenge is to rebuild relationships and trust that was lost in her absence. She is working on getting activities and programs back in the library.

Lisa Olivigni

Lisa said that her biggest challenge is a leaky roof at Lincoln City Libraries-Eiseley Branch. A big success at the library has been a “Dad Up and Read” program to encourage fathers to read to their children. One hundred sixty-five attended that program.

Scott Chiders

Scott said that his challenge at Southeast Library System is educating new city officials. Two successes are the summer reading program and groundbreaking for a new Crete Public Library.

Matthew Williams

Matt said that he added two new positions at the Kearney Public Library. He said the library's makerspace has been popular. The library's friends and foundation groups have purchased most of the materials for the makerspace. A challenge for Matt is engaging city administration to have an interest in the library's activities.

Pat Gross

Pat is retired and volunteers at two libraries. Gering Public Library has started their process to build new library. Pat said that Governor Ricketts is at Bayard Public Library today for a Sparks Grant project open house. Jill Hurtt, media specialist at Hemingford Public Schools, appeared on the Jeopardy show and missed winning that day as a result of the final question. Pat said that she is pleased that Jan Jolliffe, Western Library System director, has returned to that position.

Beth Kabes

Beth reported that a success is that Nebraska is creating a "hub" for education resources. The challenge involved with the "hub" is to determine who sets and evaluates the quality of information available.

A virtual field trip workshop was held in Lincoln recently. Providers throughout Nebraska offer virtual connections for virtual field trips. Some examples of the field trips are Henry Doorly Zoo, UNL's Morrill Hall, and Agate Fossil Beds. Morrill Hall and Henry Doorly Zoo combined efforts to create a virtual field trip webinar about elephants. They had a goal of 1,000 to view the webinar, and they had 5,900 participants throughout the United States. Beth suggested more could be done with virtual field trips as the Sparks Grant will increase internet broadband in libraries.

Cecelia Lawrence

Cecelia said that she was contacted by Newsbank, microfilm provider for the North Platte Bulletin. As of January 1, Newsbank is no longer providing microfilm. Newsbank would provide digital access for a year for nearly double the cost but the North Platte's library budget would not support the cost. There are years where there is no access, and Newsbank will not provide it. Cecelia said that she is binding newspapers again.

Cecelia said that her staff decorated a tree with items made in their makerspace (Creation Station). Making ornaments with the machines helped promote interest in the makerspace equipment usage.

Cecelia contributed to an NCompass Live program about jigsaw tournaments as a fundraiser. Cecelia said that a Kiwanis organization member in Cape May, New Jersey, contacted her about the presentation. Cecelia was pleased that they asked her to look through their outline for a tournament that they are hosting in 2019. Other organizations have shown interested as well.

Julie Pinnell

Julie reported that the chief academic officers of Nebraska's small independent universities met last spring. They decided that they wanted all the university interlibrary loan departments to combine as one. They also proposed consortium buying. Julie does not agree with combining library

interlibrary loan departments but believes consortium buying would be beneficial. When the libraries were discussing consortium buying, many of the libraries expressed interest in a digital commons group. Wesleyan Cochrane-Woods Library and three other university libraries requested a quote from ePress. They offered to provide a 50% discount for the four requesting libraries.

New Business

Recommendations and Resolutions

A motion was made and seconded to present a letter of support to the Rural Broadband Task Force. Cecelia and Rod will draft a letter to indicate that the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries supports and encourages inclusion of all libraries and to recognize the need for faster and more reliable broadband services. When the draft has been completed, copies will be provided to this council.

A motion was made and seconded to support increased federal funding for libraries. The proposal will include the “One Dollar Per Capita” campaign to increase funding for the Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States Program.

A motion was made and seconded that the Nebraska State Advisory on Libraries recommend to the Nebraska Library Commission consideration to expanding all current digital collections available to all libraries for Pre-K through 5th Grade.

Special Recognition

Rod Wagner expressed appreciation to the members leaving the council at the end of their second term. Beth Kabes, Cecelia Lawrence, and John Dale were presented Nebraska Admiralships and certificates of appreciation. Wagner also expressed appreciation to Cecelia Lawrence for her contributions the past two years serving as advisory council chair.

Next Meeting:

The next council meeting will be in March (TBD, contingent upon Library Advocacy Day). Other proposed dates are July 19, 2019 and November 15, 2019.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.