

## NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

May 15, 2015

### MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on May 15, 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, Patricia (Pat) Gross, Steve Batty, Diane Boyd, Molly Fisher and Sherry Crow. Staff present: Rod Wagner and Jennifer Wrampe.

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

**Approval of the Minutes:** (March 11, 2015) a motion was made by Molly Fisher and seconded by Steve Batty to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Michael LaCroix – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross; Diane Boyd – aye; Molly Fisher – aye. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report and Commissioners' Comments

**Sherry Crow** reported that she has been appointed to a new position as the Associate Dean of the College of Education at the University of Nebraska Kearney. Sherry said that she will continue coordination of UNK's school library program, but will be teaching less. Sherry commented on her participation in National Library Legislative Day activities in Washington, D.C. (held May 4 and 5).

**Molly Fisher** reported that the Center for Great Plains Studies was holding the Center's 2015 symposium "Standing Bear and the Trail Ahead" on May 15. Seward Public Library was hosting the Southeast Library System's Training Extravaganza on May 15. The public libraries in DeWitt, Fairbury, and Hebron did not suffer any flood damage despite flooding in their communities. The Southeast Library System Friends organization held a fundraiser at the Junto Winery raising about \$500. The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association sponsored the annual spelling bee fund-raiser for the Lincoln City Libraries Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors on April 23 with over \$4,000 raised. Milligan will open a storefront library, which used to be a drug store. Deshler and Byron public libraries will both move into larger buildings. The Southeast Library System has re-named its newsletter – *Southeast Signal*. Lincoln City Libraries will soon announce three book finalists for One Book One Lincoln.

**Michael LaCroix** said that the Three Rivers Library System's newsletter is now called *Trails*. Brian Maass, former Eastern Library System assistant, is now the Education/Reference Librarian at the University of Nebraska Omaha Criss Library. Michael said that Norfolk Public Library will hold its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Literature Festival on July 25 featuring the Nebraska Golden Sower nominees. Michael said he has accepted appointment as Interim Library Dean at UNO effective May 26.

**Steve Batty** said that he attended the Nebraska Educational Technology Association conference in Omaha, held April 23-24. Steve said that the McCook Public Library's renovation and facility improvements are now complete. The McCook library received \$3500 from the McCook Community Foundation to purchase tables and chairs. The library celebrated poetry week with 33 people, ranging from kindergarten to adult, participating. Steve thanked the Commission for giving him the opportunity to be a part of the Library Commission for the last six years.

**Diane Boyd** reported that Norfolk voters approved a ½ cent sales tax increase with the intent that funds from the tax increase be used to support the public library's renovation and expansion. Norfolk Public Library is offering a one day pass to the Elkhorn Valley Museum to library patrons that have a library card. Diane said that the Columbus Library Foundation is raising funds for a new library and cultural art center. Kate Ostenrude, formerly director of the Neligh Public Library, is now director of the Brunswick Public Library. Genoa, Neligh, and Walthill public libraries are receiving funds from the Kruetz Bennett Donor Advised Fund. Stephanie Heinemann is the new director of the Karlen Memorial Library in Beemer. Nancy Black is the new director of the Lied Tekamah Public Library. Judy Hagen was elected Vice-President of the Central Plains Library System board. Diane also thanked the Library Commission for the opportunity to serve as a Commissioner for the last six years.

**Pat Gross** attended the Sidney Public Library open house for Doris Jensen on April 1. Doris retired after many years on the Sidney library staff and most recently as director. Andrew Sherman was appointed to fill the Sidney public library director position following Jensen's retirement. Pat said that she attended the Western Library System board meeting on May 12. The WLS annual membership meeting will be held July 22 at the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering. The WLS is planning an author visit at the end of September. Pat said that she decorated bulletin boards for the Scottsbluff Public Library's summer reading program. Three people were recently elected to the WLS Board – Carol Matthews, Hay Springs; Jull Hurtt, Hemingford; and Roberta Boyd, Scottsbluff.

## **Director's Report**

*Personnel Updates* – Rod Wagner reported that Beth Goble retired on May 8. Michael Sauers has left the Commission staff to begin a new position with the Omaha Digital Library as Director of Technology. Diane Wotipka left the Commission staff for a higher level accountant position with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Applicants have been interviewed for the Commission's vacant accountant position. Interviews are being held to fill a staff assistant I position. Aimee Owen will move from her Reader's Advisor position in the Talking Book and Braille Service to fill Beth Goble's position. Recruiting is underway to fill Michael's and Aimee's positions.

*Technology and Access Services* – Devra Dragos reported that the Technology & Access Services staff has been working with one of the database vendors to change the lineup of the NebraskaAccess statewide subscriptions. The current set of licensed databases has been in place since 1998. EBSCO approached the Commission with an offer for a database package that has broader coverage and includes subscriptions for resources for elementary and middle school grade levels. The Commission’s online resources have not been sufficient in serving the elementary and middle school levels. The cost for the EBSCO subscriptions is less than the cost for the current licensed services. Devra provided a document listing the new database package.

*National Library Legislative Day* – Wagner reported that he, Michael LaCroix, Sherry Crow and Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library Director, participated in National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C. Next year’s National Library Legislative Day briefings and congressional office visits will be held May 2 and 3, 2016.

*Nebraska Center for the Book* – Wagner reported the Nebraska Book Festival was held April 25 at the University of Nebraska Omaha Civic Engagement Center. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 One Book One Nebraska selection. The selected book will be announced at the Celebration of Nebraska Books event with the location and date for that event yet to be set. The Nebraska Book Awards entry deadline is June 30. The National Book Festival will be held in Washington D.C. on September 5.

*Library Commission Grant Programs Update* – Wagner distributed a document noting the dates and grants available to libraries from the Library Commission.

## **Financial Report**

*March/April Financial Report* – Wagner reported that the Commission is coming to the end of the current biennium and any remaining state funds do not carry over to the new biennium if not encumbered by June 30.

*2015-2017 Biennium Budget* - Wagner reported the legislature passed the mainline budget bill and sent it on to the governor. The Library Commission’s general fund appropriations were increased by 3.1%. The legislature is scheduled to adjourn June 5.

## **New Business**

*Out of State Travel* – Wagner requested approval for travel to attend the Western Council of State Libraries meeting in Bismarck, ND June 10-12 and to attend the American Library Association annual conference in San Francisco June 24-29. Travel expenses for the Western Council meeting will be reimbursed by the Western Council. A motion was made by Diane Boyd and seconded by Michael LaCroix to approve Wagner’s travel request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Michael LaCroix – aye; Patricia (Pat) Gross – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Molly Fisher - aye. Motion approved.

*Special Recognition* – Rod Wagner recognized Steve Batty and Diane Boyd for their two terms of service to the Library Commission. They were presented with Admiralships in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska (provided by Governor Ricketts) and Michael Forsberg’s book *Great Plains: America’s Lingerin Wild*.

*Next Meeting Date* – The next Commission meetings will be held July 10, September 11 and November 13, 2015.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Sherry Crow at 11:16 a.m.

Jennifer Wrampe