

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

May 13, 2022

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on May 13, 2022. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Vernon J., Beth Kabes, Arun Pondicherry, Lois Todd-Meyer, Julia Tye and Kristin Wiebe. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe; via GoToMeeting: Christa Porter. Arun Pondicherry called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and Governor's Executive Order Limited Waiver for Public Meetings.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Vernon J. and seconded by Beth Kabes to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Vernon J. – aye; Beth Kabes – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe – aye. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: (March 11, 2022) a motion was made by Julia Tye and seconded by Kristin Wiebe to approve the minutes. Motion carried on roll call vote: Vernon J. – aye; Beth Kabes – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe – aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioner's Comments

Arun Pondicherry – reported the Lincoln City Libraries 2022 Summer Reading Program will begin May 26. Bike LNK pass will be available again at LCL. Mobile printing is now available at LCL.

Vernon J. – no report.

Beth Kabes – reported South Sioux City Public Library will bring in Jonis Agee for a writers workshop on June 2. Summer Reading Programs will soon start in libraries in the Three Rivers Library System area. Norfolk Public Library will hold its annual Literature Festival on July 30.

Lois Todd-Meyer – no report.

Julia Tye – reported the Summer Reading Program in Kearney will begin June 1. Jonis Agee was at the Kearney Public Library on May 9 for a writers workshop. Kearney Public Library has had an increase in library usage and circulation.

Kristin Wiebe – reported the Western Library System author tour will be held in October featuring Tosca Lee. Scottsbluff Public Library is holding a bike education workshop on May 14. Kristin commented that she is impressed that more libraries have more family offerings such as

Lego Club, board game checkouts, etc. The Western Library System annual meeting will be held July 19 at Papa Moon Winery.

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that Mackenzie Marrow joined the Commission's Information Services department. Mackenzie fills the position Mary Geibel occupied before Mary moved to the Library Development staff. Alisha Baginski has left the Commission's Government Documents staff assistant position to begin a project manager position with History Nebraska.

2022 Legislative Session – Wagner reported LB 1213, the online database services and resources bill, was substantially amended following the bill hearing. The amended bill addressed some but not all of the Commission staff requests. The bill was placed on general file but no action was taken before the legislative session ended. It is likely to be introduced again in the 2023 session. The bill is similar to legislation introduced in other states.

LB 75 is a bill involving township libraries. The bill was introduced last year and carried over to this year's session. Twenty-five Nebraska counties have township organization. When a county determines it wants to discontinue township organization, and if there are township libraries, the legislation provides a process for determining whether the library will be closed or be placed under another local government entity – village, city or the county. The legislation also requires the county to notify the Library Commission and regional library system prior to an action by the county that would affect a township library. The bill was enacted during the session's final days.

Library Innovation Studios Project – Wagner said that the project final report is due following the end of the project. The project report due date is June 30. A lot of work was accomplished over the course of the project and during the final months. Significant was distribution of makerspace equipment and supplies to participant libraries. There was a request to create a database for libraries and other entities that have makerspaces to share information about equipment, resources, and policies. The database has been developed and is being tested by a few libraries before making it available for libraries to input their information.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported that there will be an in-person National Book Festival on September 3 in Washington DC. Tessa Terry and Devra Dragos will staff the Nebraska exhibit along with a Nebraska Center for the Book representative. One Book One Nebraska 2022 selection, *Bones of Paradise* by Jonis Agee, has been popular. Jonis has made numerous presentations. NLC has a number of copies of the book for loan through libraries. Regional library systems also have copies. June 15 is the deadline for OBON 2023 nominations. June 30 is the deadline for the 2022 Book Awards submissions. The Celebration of Nebraska Books and Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting will be held October 22 at the Nebraska History Museum.

LSTA Five-Year State Program Evaluation Report – Wagner said the report was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services prior to the March 30 due date. With responses to a few questions, the report was approved.

LSTA Five-Year Plan 2023-2027 – Wagner reported work is underway on the LSTA 2023-2027 State Five-Year plan. The five-year plan is due at the IMLS office by June 30.

Public Library Accreditation – Christa Porter said that public library accreditation is an annual process but due to the COVID pandemic accreditation was put on hold in 2020 and 2021. The process will resume this year with changes. The current program was instituted in 2013 using a point system. Christa initiated an evaluation of the process with the assistance of an accreditation review committee consisting of Commission staff, regional library system directors and some library directors from across the state. The result was some minor process changes. The most significant was a change from a three-year to a five-year renewal process. Training will be held in mid-June to review the accreditation program process and the recent changes.

2023-2025 Biennium Budget Request - Wagner reported the budget request is due September 15.

Financial Report

April Financial Report – The Commission’s major operating expense is personnel. Personnel expenditures are slightly under budget. Unexpended funds for personnel can be used for other operating expenses and have been applied to a computer equipment upgrade. Federal funds are, overall, significantly under the budgeted amount for operating expenses. The Innovation Studios grant is now completed with grant funds spent or encumbered.

American Rescue Plan Act Budget and Expenditures – Wagner reported all funds have been committed and a significant amount distributed.

New Business

Regional Library Systems Funding Allocations – Wagner presented funding allocation recommendations for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The proposed allocations include a 3% funding increase over current fiscal year amounts.

A motion was made by Kristin Wiebe and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the regional library system payments for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Motion carried on roll call vote: Vernon J. – aye; Beth Kabes – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe – aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates –July 8, September 9, November (TBD), January 13, 2023.

Adjournment

Arun Pondicherry adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe