

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

November 8, 2019

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met November 8, 2019, 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: Debby Bloom, Arun Pondicherry, Lois Todd-Meyer, Julia Tye and Kristin Wiebe. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Jennifer Wrampe, Holly Woldt, JoAnn McManus. Public: Lauren Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library Director; Frank (last name not known), UNL student. Debby Bloom called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

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

Approval of Minutes: (September 13, 2019) a motion was made by Arun Pondicherry and seconded by Lois Todd-Meyer to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioner's Comments

Lois Todd-Meyer – invited everyone to attend the Celebration of Nebraska Books on November 9. Lois attended the ILA/NLA/NSLA joint conference and spoke about one session that stood out for her about making the library vibrant in the community.

Arun Pondicherry – attended the ILA/NLA/NSLA joint conference and met with many of the vendors. One of the vendors was Legal Aid of Nebraska and they asked if the Library Commission could put up a flyer publicizing their services.

Kristin Wiebe – Kristin was welcomed as a new Library Commission member. Kristin commented on her involvement with the Scottsbluff public library.

Julia Tye – Julia was welcomed as a new Library Commission member. Julia commented on her involvement with the Kearney public library.

Debby Bloom – commented about a television segment that reported on Omaha Public Library services and activities. November 13 is the Grow with Google event to be held at Omaha's South Branch Library. Debby commented on an annual genealogy program at Omaha's W. Dale Clark Library to help people research family histories. The Omaha Public Library has a survey on the

library's website about a new branch in southwest Omaha. Omaha Public Library will receive \$15 million from the City of Omaha capital improvements program in 2020.

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported that NLC is a Grow with Google program partner and will have access to Google's training resources. Laura Stueck joined the Commission staff in the accounting position. Matt Hier is the new Talking Book and Braille Services studio manager. Following Diane Wells' retirement, the information technology support specialist position was restructured to include support for libraries in upgrading broadband services. Wagner said that there will be two interviews coming up for the Western Library System director position.

Library Innovation Studios Project – JoAnn McManus reported that the Library Innovation Studios project is going well. The grant project was originally funded for three years. The Institute of Museum and Library Services invited the Commission to apply for an additional year and the application was approved. The project is now scheduled to operate through June 2021. Laureen Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library director, spoke about the makerspace at the Beatrice public library. Beatrice is among the LIS project libraries and recently hosted the makerspace equipment. Laureen said that many library patrons came in to use the equipment. Laureen commented about the grants and donations the library has received to purchase makerspace equipment for a permanent installation in the library.

Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force – Holly Woldt reported that LB994 was introduced by Senator Curt Friesen during the 2018 state legislative session. The bill was enacted and Governor Ricketts signed the legislation into law. The legislation addresses broadband service needs in unserved and underserved rural Nebraska. The legislation included creation of the Rural Broadband Task Force for reviewing issues related to availability, adoption and affordability of broadband services in rural areas. The Task Force is also considering how Nebraska Universal Service Funds can be used for service improvements. The task force is also assessing alternative technologies and different ways to deploy broadband. The Legislature's Transportation and Telecommunications Committee is holding a hearing on December 4 regarding the Task Force's report and recommendations. Library Commission staff will present testimony at the hearing.

NLA/NSLA/ILA Conference – Wagner noted that the library association joint conference with Iowa was well attended with a good variety of programs. There were also numerous exhibitors present. The 2020 NLA/NSLA conference will be held in Kearney. 2020 is the Nebraska Library Association's 125th anniversary year.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner commented on the Celebration of Nebraska Books event to be held the following day, November 9, at the Nebraska History Museum. The Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting will be held prior to the program. The 2020 One Book One Nebraska selection will be announced following the awards presentations.

Financial Report

October Budget and Financial Report – Wagner reported that the federal fiscal year closed on September 30 with federal LSTA grant funds expended. State aid to public libraries and other grant funds are typically spent later in the state fiscal year with the exception of state funds that pay for purchase of ebooks and audio books (Nebraska eReads program), which are paid throughout the year. The exception is the portion of the Nebraska eReads appropriation allocated to the Lincoln, Omaha, and Ralston public libraries.

LSTA Grants to States Appropriation Status – Federal funds are currently appropriated through a Congressional continuing resolution that will expire in November. Congress will need to appropriate funds for the remainder of the fiscal year or extend the continuing resolution.

New Business

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meeting will be held January 10. The March meeting date will be determined based on the date for Nebraska Library Advocacy Day to be held in March.

Adjournment

Debby Bloom adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe