

MINUTES

IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES

Date: December 15, 2022
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Commission Members Present: Zach Stier, Brandon Denner, Carrie Falk, Sarah Latcham, Joe Lock, Mindy Reimer

Staff: Michael Scott, Brenda Hall, Emily Bainter

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

Z. Stier called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. **M. Scott** welcomed new commission member Mindy Reimer, representing schools and AEAs.

2.0 Set Agenda

No comments on agenda.

3.0 Action Items

3.1 Receive and Approve September 2022 Meeting Minutes

C. Falk made a motion to approve the September 2022 minutes; **B. Denner** seconded. Motion carried.

3.2 Receive and Approve Financial Reports

M. Scott went over the financial reports through November 30, 2022. Budgets are strong and state accounts are running ahead. The State Library remains in the transition process for Dept. of Administrative Services to take on financial processes. As a result, there may be a correction in December for some budget lines. Other lines may look significantly over budget at the moment, but funding will be shifted on individual budget lines. Overall, expenditures are less than budgeted, so the agency is in good shape. The federal budget overview was not ready ahead of this meeting due to challenges related to reimbursements and delays from IMLS. **M. Scott** shared the federal budget overview during the meeting. ARPA Funding is almost entirely expended and funding is on track for the regular federal appropriation. Things may shift in the next report as FY22 is finally closed out and finalized. The transition to DAS services is going well and DAS staff continue to learn and gain understanding of how the State Library's financial picture and federal processes work. More precise financial reports should be delivered by the DAS team in the future. **J. Lock** moved to approve the financial reports, **C. Falk** seconded. Motion carried.

3.3 Receive and Approve FY22 Enrich Iowa Legislative Report

E. Bainter presented a report on the uses and impacts of the Enrich Iowa report in FY22. The report includes overviews of the three programs under Enrich Iowa: Open Access, Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement, and Direct State Aid. The report breaks down the state appropriation, outlines the number of libraries that participated in each program, and provides more details on how Direct State Aid was spent by public libraries. It also lists the libraries that achieved Accreditation at Tier 3 status at the end of calendar year 2022.

B. Denner moved to approve the plan, **M. Reimer** seconded. Motion carried.

4.0 Public Comment

No public comment

5.0 Communications

5.1 State Librarian's Report

M. Scott presented the following items in the State Librarian's Report:

- The agency is within \$40,000 of having all ARPA Funds spend, and the administration has a plan to have it all expended by the Dec. 31 deadline. Closing out the grant has been delayed due to technology upgrades in Conference Room 310 taking longer than expected, but IMLS granted an extension and that project should be done by mid-January.

- The new Youth Services Consultant, Janeé Jackson-Doering has hit the ground running. She is putting together STEAM kits for public libraries to check out via IA Shares and use for programming. These will be rolled out at the STEM Fairs and Summer Reading Summits happening across the state in March.
- The State Library also used ARPA funding to buy down the holds list in Bridges and renew licenses, add titles, and explore simultaneous use options. Overdrive performed a diversity audit of the Bridges collection and some of those dollars are being dedicated to adding titles related to mental health, mental and physical differences, and authors or characters with Hispanic, Latino, and Indigenous origins.
- The All Iowa Reads selections for 2023 were announced on Iowa Public Radio's *Talk of Iowa* program in November. The titles are: *How High We Go in the Dark: A Novel* by Sequoia Nagamatsu for adults; *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley for teens; and *The Golden Hour* by Niki Smith Book for kids. Book sets will be available in each district for libraries to borrow for their book clubs and titles will also be available on Bridges. A kickoff webinar will happen with the 2023 authors on Jan. 10.
- The State Library offered its annual Learning Circuits in October at six locations across Iowa on Disaster Preparedness. The hybrid format offered virtual presentations in the morning, and local emergency management personnel were on hand at each location for a presentation and discussion. The afternoon workshop allowed participants to start working on a Disaster Preparedness Plan for their library.
- The Iowa Libraries Online Conference is in its 16th year and will be held Jan 26, 2023 with keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and an evening session for library trustees. The theme for this year is *Productive Partnerships*.
- The new People's Law Library of Iowa website launched in October and has been very well received. The State Library will start work again with the team at the University of Iowa Law Library on new legal topics to be added the website next year.
- At the end of October, M. Scott traveled to Montana for the first in person COSLA conference in years. He was elected to serve as a director on the COSLA executive board.

5.2 Commission Reports

- **S. Latcham:** The Wellman-Scotfield Public Library received a \$600,000 grant to complete building renovations. A presentation banquet for the grant occurred in November. They have reworked the design to complete all renovations in a single phase and the library will be moved to a temporary space for about four months while construction happens.
- **C. Falk** has been busy presenting the Shenandoah Public Library's Annual Report to the library board, city council, and the county board of supervisors. Page County libraries invite their state legislators to each library in the county annually to meet them and give a tour and overview of what the library offers. Over winter break, the library will offer several programs for youth, including a stuffed animal sleepover, craft day, and a Polar Express party.
- **B. Denner:** The Friends Foundation for the West Des Moines Public Library kicked off their annual membership drive. The library brought in University of Notre Dame football player and Iowa author John Mahoney and held a successful event. The library also held a book sale and brought in just under \$2,000 for the Friends group.
- **M. Reimer** introduced herself and went over her background. She currently serves as Media Administrator at Keystone AEA in northeast Iowa.
- **Z. Stier:** The Ericson Public Library's pilot project with Iowa State University, called Little Engines, is going very well. The project researches how libraries can mobilize service through family engagement. Families watch videos and receive materials and books. The project started in Boone but has now expanded to Nevada. Zach will work with ISU to analyze the data and then present a webinar to gain interest and hopefully expand statewide by partnering with four Iowa libraries. The library also recently received significant grants related to social-emotional learning and STEM projects.

6.0 Discussion: A Year of Change and What the Future Holds for the State Library

- **M. Scott** and **B. Hall** led a discussion on how the Commission can stay engaged with the work of State Library and be informed with progress on the new 5-year strategic plan. They reviewed recent State Library activities including:
 - Projects that resulted from the ARPA grant funding from IMLS
 - Some recent significant changes at the State Library with new staff members and the transition to DAS for contracting, accounting, and HR services
 - The different ways District Staff provide support to libraries
 - Staff presentations at the ILA Conference in October
 - The new Disaster Preparedness toolkit stemming from the Learning Circuits
 - Two space planning workshops offered in November led by a nationally known expert
 - The upcoming 2023 All Iowa Reads program
 - The Iowa Libraries Online Conference happening in January
 - STEM Fairs and Summer Reading Summits happening across the state in March
 - Updating a pay equity toolkit for librarians in 2023.

Commission members then participated in a discussion to look at the new 5-year plan and provide thoughts on what the initial priorities for the State Library should be, specifically asking the following questions:

What project or projects are you most excited about from the new Strategic Plan?

What does success look like for that project?

- **C. Falk** is excited about the social work project with Dr. Wahler and the possibility of mental health first aid training for librarians, having received it years ago and finding it one of the most useful trainings she has received. Providing library staff with tools to help the community is very important, but they also need to know it's okay to take a step back and know when they need to take care of themselves.
- **S. Latcham:** Providing mental health resources for library staff as well as patrons. There's a huge need for those resources in our state; some pockets of Iowa are not covered by mental health crisis services, especially more rural counties.
- **Z. Stier:** Echoes the importance of mental health and social work services. In thinking of all the work that libraries are doing, how do we get the message about mental health and social work services in libraries to people that aren't aware? How can we connect with legislators, healthcare providers, stakeholders on a continuous basis? Boone is set to hold equity conversations in the spring: visibility matters and equity matters. Getting the information to those that can make those important decisions and direct where resources go is crucial. We need to improve the conversation and marketing of these services in libraries.
- **M. Reimer:** Feels very passionate about the institutional capacity components of the strategic plan; being responsible for the challenges that libraries see every day and investing in them. The literacy component of the plan is also important and the AEAs recognize early literacy is a need in Iowa; the potential to partner with the State Library for those efforts is great.
- **B. Denner:** Sees increasing connectivity and internet access in public libraries as very important. There's a potential to partner with statewide initiatives to increase broadband access across Iowa. And the spotting and responding to emerging trends and access to technology in libraries is a good way for libraries to continue to remain relevant.

M. Scott noted changes over the past few years with the pandemic and the need to respond to new needs and challenges in libraries. The new plan addresses some of these needs but also includes opportunities beyond the current challenges and moves the State Library, Iowa libraries, and the communities they serve forward. One item in the plan that he is looking forward to is examining the organizational structure of the State Library to ensure that it is a foundational piece in place to support the work of the overall plan. Asking: what does our organization look like? What skills does our staff have and what new skills do we need to bring on? He noted this is an opportunity to strengthen the agency overall to meet the changing needs of libraries and have overall success with the new strategic plan.

9.0 Adjournment

Z. Stier adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Submitted by: Emily Bainter, Information Specialist