

# MINUTES

## IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES

Date: March 16, 2023

Location: Online via Zoom

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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

**Staff:** Michael Scott, Emily Bainter

**Guests:** Adam Steen, Director of Iowa Dept. of Administrative Services; Tyler Eason, Assistant Attorney General

### 1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

**Z. Stier** called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

### 2.0 Set Agenda

No comments on agenda.

### 3.0 Action Items

#### 3.1 Receive and Approve December 2022 Meeting Minutes

**J. Lock** made a motion to approve the December 2022 minutes; **S. Latcham** seconded. Motion carried.

#### 3.2 Receive and Approve Financial Reports

**M. Scott** went over the financial reports through February 28, 2023. The state budget has some line items that are over budget due to the way the Dept. of Administrative Services processes payments; overall the state budget is on track for the remainder of the fiscal year. On the federal funding side, all of the ARPA funding was expended at the end of December. The new federal budget was passed and the State Library will receive a new regular allotment from IMLS; the previous federal allotment is still being spent over the allowed two-year period. For the miscellaneous accounts: all monies in the Enrich Iowa account have been dispersed to Iowa libraries for the Open Access, Direct State Aid, and Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement programs; the Westgate Endowment interest will be used to support a conference for Iowa youth services librarians next year.

**J. Lock** moved to approve the financial reports, **C. Falk** 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 State Library received \$2.22 million from IMLS for the new LSTA federal allotment. This represents about a \$200,000 increase in federal funding. The award period begins Oct. 1, 2023 and must be spent by Sept. 30, 2024. The federal funding relies on a 50 percent match of state funding and a three-year rolling maintenance of effort minimum.
- All ARPA funding was expended by the end of December. The remaining funding was used for the Bridges eLibrary consortium to buy down the holds list and renew

licenses. The funding was also used to purchase STEM To Go and Storytime Kits by the Youth Services Consultant to circulate to Iowa public libraries to supplement library programming. A final report on the ARPA funding is being prepared and is due to IMLS at the end of April.

- The State Library will submit a grant proposal for the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian program to continue work with Dr. Beth Wahler of UNC Charlotte. If awarded, the grant will fund a three-year project to implement recommendations from the Psychosocial Needs Assessment for Iowa libraries developed by Dr. Wahler. The initial phase of the project was funded with ARPA dollars.
- STEM Fairs and Summer Reading Summits are happening across the state in March; each district is hosting a two-day event.
- **M. Scott** attended the Congressional Fly-In in Washington D.C. last week for the COSLA spring meeting and to visit with Iowa's congressional delegation on how the State Library uses the federal LSTA funding from IMLS.
- The State Library hit a record milestone with the Bridges digital library consortium: in 2022, more than 2.4 million digital items were checked out by Iowans.
- Legislation to reorganize state government agencies is making its way through the statehouse and has now been passed by both chambers and is expected to be signed by the Governor next week.

## 5.2 Commission Reports

- **J. Lock:** The Cedar Rapids Public Library was awarded the Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize from Library Journal that comes with a \$250,000 award. The prize money will go towards a permanent branch on a 27-acre site on the southwest side of the city. \$12 million of the \$25 million goal has already been secured for the project.
- **B. Gast:** The Iowa Judicial Branch is looking at finding alternative places to hold court hearings. A Remote Proceedings Statewide Task Force was recently created to explore options and will deliver a report to the Iowa Supreme Court by July. The Supreme Court will then create recommendations which may include a formal rules process. Other states have partnered with public libraries to hold proceedings in library spaces.
- **Z. Stier:** As part of a space grant consortium, Boone received three STEM kits that will be unveiled mid-April with curriculum aligned with next generation science standards. The library will also begin offering kits to in-home providers and daycare centers on social emotional learning for checkout. The library is gearing up for summer reading and currently getting through spring break. To acknowledge Mental Health Awareness Month in May, the library's mental health stakeholder group will be hosting programming on mental health throughout the month and a proclamation will be announced by the mayor.
- **S. Latcham:** The Wellman-Scofield Public Library director departed to be a programming specialist for the Cedar Rapids Public Library. The current Assistant Director was promoted to fill the director position and a new assistant director was hired. The new director is familiar with the ongoing grant to renovate the library.
- **M. Reimer:** The AEAs partnered with the State Historical Society to offer "Goldie History Kits" with primary sources for social studies and reading activities to circulate to grade level teachers. There are also digital materials that tie in to the physical kits available to educators.
- **C. Falk:** Shenandoah is one of 11 city/counties to partner for a volunteer engagement initiative. She is working with parks and recreation department and city manager to develop a volunteer program for the city. The library was invited to help start a

community garden; the library currently has a seed library as well. The library remodeled space within the building to provide an additional third meeting room with virtual meeting capabilities.

- **B. Denner:** The West Des Moines Friends Foundation is getting ready to do their sixth annual wine, beer, cheese fundraiser in April with the theme “A Toast to Great Reads.” Trustees are evaluating a book kiosk currently offered in Valley Junction to find opportunities to increase circulation. The Friends Foundation helped purchase small mobile book checkout/programming vehicle that should be delivered later this year.

## 6.0 Discussion: State Government Reorganization

- **M. Scott** pointed out the two versions of the Iowa House and Senate bills that deal with state government realignment included in the meeting minutes. The documents only include the language that is directly related to the State Library and not the entire bill.
- The legislation proposes these main changes to the agency:
  - The State Library moves organizationally from under the Dept. of Education to the Dept. of Administrative Services.
  - The State Librarian will be appointed by and report to the Director of the Dept. of Administrative Services instead of the Iowa Commission of Libraries. This change aligns with other state agency commissions already established.
- **A. Steen:** The DAS Director would most likely be handling the evaluation of the State Librarian but would request feedback from the Commission to get a complete picture. **J. Lock:** Would the DAS Director regularly attend Commission meetings? **A. Steen:** Hopes to develop relationships and find opportunities to collaborate and has found that sitting in on this meeting has already been helpful and anticipates attending meetings when able. **B. Denner** pointed out the legislation looks like it includes DAS director in the Commission membership. **J. Lock:** Assumes Commission would still vote on things and DAS Director would be an ex-officio member. **A Steen:** The next phase is to move into these types of governance conversations so that is to be determined. **S. Latcham:** Would the Commission need to review the Bylaws to align with these changes? **A. Steen:** It’s a possibility. He expressed no desire or design to make wide sweeping changes to disrupt a system that is working. **T. Eason** wanted to make sure the Commission is staying within the agenda item and not discussing possibly changing bylaws today. **M. Scott:** No, that would be for another day. **B. Denner:** The legislation struck subsection 5 for approving and receiving budgets; assumption is that would be something the Commission would no longer vote on. **M. Scott:** That is also to be determined. **A Steen:** DAS already handles state accounting and if the Commission no longer votes on the State Library budget it will still be in good hands. **M. Reimer:** The Commission does not go to the level of receipts and it has always been a high-level overview. **M. Scott** noted that is true, and unlike public library that’s not been the typical purview for this commission. **M. Reimer** noted she recognizes the importance of streamlining and finding efficiencies and asked if there is any opportunity for the Commission to support this process. **A. Steen:** One thing that would be helpful is to hear what the Commission would see as collaborative opportunities with the State Historical Society. He noted communications will be streamlined with the Governor’s office and sees potential to have ideas reach a higher level. He noted he anticipates the State Librarian would be part of the DAS leadership team. **C. Falk** asked about other changes in the legislation related to the State Library Advisory Panel and noted that historically the panel was a compromise when the Library Service Areas came under the State Library in order to encourage cooperation. She appreciates the Advisory Panel provides the opportunity to work together and discuss

issues facing libraries. **M. Scott:** The role of the Advisory Panel is to be determined. The group has been on hiatus since the pandemic but State Library administration is thinking about the structure of the group moving forward and how to best engage with them.

**7.0 Honor Outgoing Commission Member: Sarah Latcham**

**M. Scott** presented **S. Latcham** with a certificate to recognize her eight years of service on the Commission.

**8.0 Adjournment**

Note to include on the agenda for the June meeting a discussion and possible vote on a new Commission chair.

**Z. Stier** adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Emily Bainter, Information Specialist