

Nebraska Center for the Book
Annual Membership Meeting
October 29, 2016
Nebraska History Museum
131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska

Board Members present: Scott Abels, Pat Leach, Becky Faber, Nancy Johnson, Molly Fisher, Mary Ellen Ducey, Christy Walsh, Kate Borchman, Rod Wagner, Chuck Johanningsmeier, Erika Hamilton, Sherry Houston, Donna Marvin, Lois Meyer.

Members: Diane Downer, David Scharff, Chuck Peek, Nancy Peek, Sharon Bishop, Oliver Pollak

President Sherry Houston called the meeting to order at 1:40.

Minutes from November 14, 2015 annual membership meeting, submitted by Lois Meyer, were presented for board approval. Mary Ellen made the motion to approve, and Becky seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Donna Marvin presented the financial report – the current account balance for NCB is \$10,097.39.

President's Report:

The 2017 Book Festival will be held July 15, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Antelope Valley Union Plaza in Lincoln. The Board members of the Nebraska Center for the Book had accepted the proposal presented by the University of Nebraska Press in 2015 to work together to expand the Nebraska Book Festival for 2017.

President Sherry Houston expressed the Board's thanks to members who are going off the board: Chuck Johanningsmeier and Cathy Mohnike are choosing not to run for another term, and Julia Kennedy is moving from the Lincoln area.

The next NCB board meeting will be held via Webinar on January 21, 2017. President Sherry Houston also asked us to consider travelling to the Neihardt Center in Bancroft, NE for our August meeting.

The National Book Festival in Washington, DC:

Christine Walsh represented the NCB board at the National Book Festival held September 24, 2016. She shared what she called her fabulous experience with the membership, recounting that the festival was quite large and very successful. She encouraged everyone on the board to take the opportunity to experience this wonderful opportunity to meet many people who love reading and who understand how important books are to our society.

Member's Comments:

Scott Abels reiterated Sherry's call for the board to consider travelling to the Neihardt Center for our August meeting.

Erika Hamilton announced to the membership the financial support that Humanities Nebraska will give Nebraska Center for the Book in 2017. \$2000 will support the One Book One Nebraska program, and \$1500 will support a pilot program to hold clinics in public schools and libraries in Nebraska to encourage students (and teachers) to participate in Letters About Literature. The membership had a positive response to the concept of this pilot program, and look forward to Mary Jo Ryan providing more details about this effort to increase participation in Letters About Literature.

New Business:

The suggested changes in the Nebraska Center for the Book by-laws were discussed. Chuck Johanningsmeier made a motion for an additional change in Article III, Membership: Such membership policy shall not discriminate **on the basis** of race, . . . instead of **against**. Chuck Peek seconded this motion. All changes to the wording in the bylaws were approved by the membership.

The nomination of new members of the board was heard:

Diane Downer (Gering)
Thomas Dean Tucker (Chadron)
Laura Wiseman (Lincoln)

The membership approved the election of all three as new membership to the board.

Returning board members elected for a new term: Donna Marvin and Christine Walsh.

Christine Walsh made the motion to adjourn, with a second by Pat Leach. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.