



MLA Administrative Meeting

Minuteman Library Network Headquarters, Natick MA

November 4, 2011

Draft Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Elizabeth Hacala, (Executive Manager) Ruth Urell (President), Jackie Rafferty (Past President), Dinah O'Brian (Vice-President) Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer), Nancy Siegel (Secretary, via telephone)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jackie and seconded by Bernadette to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting for September 2011. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Ruth reported that the Boston Book Festival was a huge success. MLA was assisting Mass Center for the Book and attendees responded very positively to the activities at the booth. Ruth suggested that MLA participate on a larger scale for next year.

Ruth attended a MMA session on regionalization of selected municipal services. She was the only library person there and believes it's an important topic to watch. Anything we can do to make it known how much collaboration and cooperation libraries are currently engaged in will be beneficial to town government and administrators who are recommending more and more regionalization of services. Ruth wants to keep this on the radar, especially for events like Mass Municipal Annual meeting and perhaps talk about libraries doing a program if we can create an opportunity.

Elizabeth suggested that MLA create a policy paper on the subject, to serve as a resource for Town Managers and anyone interested in collaboration and regionalization efforts.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT Jackie emphasized the need for MLA to maintain its institutional memory. Ruth will check with Sunny Vandermark to determine what policies and historical information will be indexed and retained for future reference.

TREASURER'S REPORT Membership news continues to be good and the Executive Board members will most likely contact lapsed members again, since that effort had such a positive effect.

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT Elizabeth reported that MLA now has over 600 members. Book Expo agreement is ready for review and signatures. Who used the discount passes. Ruth will ask for a volunteer to coordinate the bus to NYC at the next Executive Committee.

MLTA-MFOL ANNUAL MEETING Dinah will be representing MLA at the MLTA-MFOL annual meeting on November 5th. The group discussed outreach strategies to highlight the advantages of collaboration. Joint conferences and meetings are a wonderful opportunity for strengthen ties between groups. Ruth stressed that MLA is working hard to advocate for libraries throughout the year and need Friends and Trustees to help us continue this effort. Bernadette suggested that membership management could be a next logical step in addition to website hosting as a service that MLA could offer to each group. Elizabeth suggested newsletter services as another positive inducement.

Ruth will call Mike Borges to discuss the possibility of facilitating a joint MSLA and MLA board meeting to discuss the future of each organization.

Elizabeth will reach out to MLTA and MFOL to discuss website maintenance and make sure they are comfortable with operations.

Bernadette spoke to Simmons about internships. At present, Simmons has more interested sites than interns but they would be interested in supporting mutual efforts in the future.

MLS AND MLA Ruth spoke with Greg to discuss a mini-conference to be held in the Berkshires in 2012. The Administrative Board of MLA is still very interested in a establishing a mentoring program for new library directors. Recently retired directors are a particular target for participation in this program. No webinars from MLA.

CROSS PARTICIPATION Ruth raised the topic of having MLA Executive Committee members attend meetings for MSLA, MBLC, and Mass Center for the Book; the call for volunteers will go out for before known meetings.

OCCUPY BOSTON – ALA OFFICIAL POSITION ETC Ruth was contacted by a member of the Executive Board to discuss a possible MLA position on the Occupy Boston movement. After a discussion, the Administrative Board concluded that an official position is not warranted as it is not in the midst of MLA's mission. At present, individual members are welcome to participate in any way they wish, but MLA will monitor the situation.

WEBSITE Committee members discussed how the web site would be used by the Administrative and Executive boards. Ruth expressed the desire to have a place to park items for upcoming meetings. It was decided that as of the December 2011 Executive Board meeting committee chairs, or their designees would be asked to post their own reports.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by,
Nancy D. Siegel, MLA Secretary