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Executive Board Meeting

Westborough Public Library

April 6, 2018
10 a.m.

MINUTES

Attending: Alex Lent (President), Susan McAlister (Legislative Committee), Laurie Lessner (Membership Committee), Esme Green (Conference Committee), Mary Rose Quinn (MBLC), Jocelyn Tavares (PR Committee), Jennifer Pike (Treasurer), Nora Blake (Secretary), Greg Pronevitz (MLS), Aimie Westphal (Archivist), Laura Bernheim (Reference and User Services)

1. Call to order – 10:09AM

**The meeting lacked a quorum, so all matters requiring a vote were tabled until the next Executive Board Meeting which will be June 8, 2018.**

1. Approval of minutes of February 9, 2018 Meeting - **Tabled**
2. Reports

**Treasurer (Jennifer Pike):**

* The organization is doing well right now in terms of income vs. spending levels.
* In the FY19 budget, the expense for the Conference Manager salary has been moved to the conference section of the budget expenses. It was previously part of the general administrative expenses but should be part of conference expenses.
* The FY2019 proposed budget is in balance. It was noted that the membership income might be estimated a little bit high. The Treasurer pointed out that the membership rates are up for a vote by membership to be increased. If the increases pass, they will take effect at the start of the fiscal year. If the rate increases do not pass, then the budget might have to be revised.

**APPROVAL OF FY2019 BUDGET – A vote could not be taken because of lack of quorum. The budget must be approved prior to Annual Meeting, which will on May 23. The Secretary will write up and send minutes and budget to Executive Board via email. The President will then call for a vote to approve via email.**

**RUSS (Laura Bernheim):**

* Section has been in existence for 3 years now.
* Having John McCarthy from US Immigration & Naturalization Office as speaker for their business meeting program at the conference.
* Kristi Lockhart will continue as co-chair with Laura Bernheim. Laura will step away from office at end of FY19.

**MBLC (Mary Rose Quinn):**

* Commissioners Cluggish and Kronholm, Mary Rose Quinn and I met with John Robertson, Legislative Director for Massachusetts Municipal Association the afternoon of our February board meeting. John told us that the MMA had listed the MBLC lines as priorities for funding in the past, but not recently. IF MMA hears from city and town officials that state funding for libraries is a priority, they will include our budget lines in the funding priorities that they submit to the Governor and the state legislature.
* I attended a meeting of the Special Commission on School Library Services in Massachusetts at the State House on Wednesday, February 14th, at which we voted to accept the Commission’s report, *Massachusetts School Library Study: Equity and Access for Students in the Commonwealth.* The report’s recommendations include the following:

*DESE and MBLC, the two key state agencies that work with schools and libraries (in collaboration with MLS) conduct discussions to explore joint funding of statewide databases, e-books/e-text books, and/or other e-content to build on the success of existing programs which capitalize on statewide purchasing power to provide statewide equity of access to a wide range of electronic content to support K-12 curricula throughout the Commonwealth.*

* We will try to schedule an introductory meeting with the new Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Jeff Riley, to discuss areas in which we can work together--including the recommendation above-- once he has come on board and has had time to settle in.
* MBLC staff participated in Library Legislative Day events at the State House on Tuesday, March 6th, including staffing a table and a half of agency information, with a special focus on the Massachusetts Public Library Construction program (MPLCP) (thank you to Matt, Roe and Lauren for all their efforts). I presented briefings on our Legislative Agenda at two sessions, and Mary Rose spoke at the First Time Attendee program. Commissioner Cluggish was the final speaker at the luncheon.
* Commissioner Cluggish and I presented testimony at the Joint Committee on Ways and Means FY2019 budget hearings at Everett High School Library on Tuesday, March 20th. Senator DiDomenico was the Senate Chair and Representative McGonagle was the House Chair. We were unfortunately not able to finish presenting our oral testimony due to timing issues but were told that Committee members would review our written testimony. We will make sure that we have a clear understanding of the time allotted for our testimony in the future and will be prepared to provide a briefer, highlighted version if necessary.
* IMLS’s FY2018 budget was finally passed on March 23rd, despite the current Federal fiscal year starting October 1st, 2017 and the President’s proposed elimination of IMLS. IMLS received an additional $9 million overall, with a $5.7 million increase to the LSTA program, of which $4.7 million is for the Grants to States program. Our FY2018 allotment is $3,283,698, an $87,461 increase over our FY2017 funding.
* The Museum and Library Services Act of 2017, S. 2271, has been introduced by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). The 2017 MLSA reauthorizes the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), showing congressional support for the agency and its programs and services.
* Representatives of the MBLC, MLS and LFC management teams met for information sharing and to review our respective strategic plans and plans of service to identify issues regarding duplication of effort, gaps in service, and appropriateness of roles, as called for in our strategic plan. We primarily discussed areas in which our services overlap, including: strategic planning; BLTs (Basic Library Techniques); Trustees/Friends; and eResources. We also discussed advocacy strategies.
* We have announced our partnership with State Treasurer Goldberg’s Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE) to celebrate Financial Literacy Month during April. We have created materials that are available on MBLC Aware, and also have a page on our public portal that includes a toolkit created by OEE that includes financial online games, apps, and other resources for your patrons to use. In addition to these resources, we are also launching a social media campaign during the month of April called “What Are You Saving For?” We want to hear from library staff and patrons about their financial goals to get people thinking about how to go about saving money and becoming financially literate. We’re using the hashtag #ISaveFor to answer this question.
* **Staff News**: We are pleased to announce that Maura Deedy will be the MBLC’s new Library Advisory Specialist, working with library trustees and friends and the agency’s LSTA program, amongst other responsibilities. Maura most recently was the Assistant Director of Libraries with the Robbins Library in Arlington. She previously held positions at the Weymouth Public Libraries and at the Ferguson Library in Stamford, CT. Maura graduated from Wheaton College and has an MLS from Simmons College. She will start her new position on May 1, 2018. We are very much looking forward to having Maura join us.
* James will be leading the delegation from Massachusetts at National Library Legislative Day. Appointments with all senators and reps have been made.

**President (Alex Lent):**

* Went to PLA.
* Spoke at Library Legislative Day.
* EveryLibrary has expressed to Alex that they would be glad to come to Massachusetts and make presentations regarding ways to advocate for more state budget money.
* The vote to keep the Douglas PL open will be held by the town on June 4.

**MLS (Greg Pronevitz):**

* MLS is in final negotiations with Overdrive for statewide eBook service.
* BiblioBoard, Baker & Taylor’s Axis 360 and EBL will be discontinued.
* In talks with some vendors offering academic eBooks but no firm service is coming forward yet.
* Signed a 10-year agreement with a delivery company (Optima). Agreement can be canceled if necessary.
* Optima seemed to be the best service proposal and offered a fair price.
* Many quality assurance and control measures in the agreement.
* Agreement has a 2% annual cost increase in it. This could be problematic as the MLS budget line has been receiving a 1% or lower increase from the state annually.
* Healthcare costs are going up on average 13% annually.
* MLS has formed a sustainability committee to address long term budget pressures.

**PR (Jocelhyn Tavares):**

* Newsletter has gone out via email to members.

**Membership Committee (Laurie Lessner):**

* Looking for representatives from committees and sections to attend MLA fair during President’s Reception during annual conference. Email Laurie (llessner@sailsinc.org) to let her know who will be representing your committee or section.
* Membership form for new members currently lacks ability to express interest in becoming involved with MLA Committees – only lists Sections. Form will be changed to include all Committees and Sections.
* Laurie wants to seek out more discounts and partnerships to provide more benefits to members.

**Conference (Esme Green):**

* Registration is open.
* A few (6?) exhibitor slots are still open – hope to sell out the room soon.
* Good speakers lined up.
* Social justice is a theme that seems to be running throughout the presentations and programs (not official conference theme though)
* Program descriptions are having a final edit and will be available on website very soon.
* Conference facility is nice but layout is complicated. There will be a lot of directional signs and facility staff on hand to help direct people places.
1. Old Business – **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sections and Committees must provide an annual report to be included in packet for Annual Meeting at conference. These reports need to be submitted BY WEDNESAY, MAY 9. Nora will send out an email call for reports.**

1. Close of Meeting**. Meeting Ended at 11:46am.**

**Susan McAlister moved. Esme Green seconded. All approved.**