MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : April 21, 2017

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Board of Library Commissioners

 Boston, Massachusetts

Present : Mary Ann Cluggish, Chairman; N. Janeen Resnick, Vice Chairman; Roland Ochsenbein, Secretary; Carol B. Caro; George T. Comeau; Francis R. Murphy; Gregory J. Shesko; Alice M. Welch

Via phone : Mary Kronholm

**Staff Present:**

Dianne Carty, Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Amy Clayton, Administrator Coordinator; Terry D’Angelo, Administrative Assistant; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operation & Budget; Ann Downey, EDP Systems Analyst; Susan Gibson, Accountant V, Business Office; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Uechi Ng, Administrative Assistant; Matthew Perry, Outreach Coordinator; Shelley Quezada, Consultant to the Unserved; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/ Government Liaison; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist; Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Preservation Specialist; Ruth Urell, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Rosemary Waltos, Library Building Specialist; Erin Williams Hart, Trustee/Friends Information Specialist; Sharon Zitser, Library Advisory and Development Assistant

**Observers Present:**

Maria McCauley, Director, Cambridge Public Library; Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; Sarah Sogigian, Consulting & Training Services Director, Massachusetts Library System

**Call to Order**

Chairman Cluggish called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed the attendees.

She stated that the purpose of this Special Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners is to interview for the position of the Director. She relayed that when Director Dianne Carty announced her retirement, the Board established a Search Committee to screen candidates for the position. Commissioners N. Janeen Resnick, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chair of the Search Committee, Roland Ochsenbein, Secretary of the Board, and George T. Comeau represented the Board on the Search Committee. Other members of the Search Committee and their affiliation include: Deborah Conrad, Administrator, SAILS Library Network; David Leonard, President, Boston Public Library; Greg Pronevitz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System; Molly Fogarty, Director, Springfield Public Library; Karen Mellor, Chief of Library Services, Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services; Charlotte Canelli, Director, Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood; Shelley Quezada, Consultant to the Unserved, MBLC Staff.

**Interview session with James Lonergan for the position of Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library**

Chairman Cluggish welcomed candidate James Lonergan for his interview. Commissioners, staff and observers introduced themselves. Following introductions the Commissioners asked Mr. Lonergan the following questions:

1. As Director of MBLC, you would have a platform to articulate a vision for libraries in Massachusetts and to demonstrate leadership in how the state supports libraries through funding, support of essential programs and services, support of collaborative and shared services, innovation, equity, and efficiency.

After the first year in the position, what impact do you expect to make, directly or by influence, both internally and externally?

1. Please explain how you see your role in working with the Commissioners on the Board.
2. Tell us about your management style. What should agency staff expect of you and what will you expect of agency staff?
3. Tell us about a time when someone whom you supervised brought an idea to you and you helped him/her to develop the idea and turn it into a successful program. Please describe specifically how you worked together and what support you provided.
4. Tell us about a time when you successfully advocated for an agency or a program. How do you see yourself advocating for the MBLC with regard to the state budget process?
5. Describe a time when you successfully resolved a complicated political situation, either in your agency or at the state level.
6. How would you approach working collaboratively with the various statewide entities with whom the MBLC has a relationship?
7. **What characteristics do you have that you believe will make you an effective leader?**
8. **What appeals to you about this position as Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners?**

After responding to these questions, Mr. Lonergan then presented a ten-minute prepared response to the following presentation question which was requested in advance by the Commissioners.

“Looking ahead five years, what do you envision for Massachusetts libraries in terms of:

Organizational structure? Funding? Programs and services? Advances and changes in technology? What role would the MBLC play in realizing this vision?”

Chairman Cluggish then offered the candidate an opportunity to ask questions of the Board.

Following Mr. Lonergan’s presentation and question period, the Commissioners thanked him for interviewing for the position of Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

**Chairman Cluggish called a recess for lunch at 11:30 A.M.**

**Chairman Cluggish reconvened the meeting at 1:32 P.M.**

Chairman Cluggish welcomed all attendees who decided to return after lunch. Chairman Cluggish noted that she and the Commissioners reviewed the notes/observations that were submitted to them by the staff after the interview.

The Commissioners engaged in discussion of Mr. Lonergan’s responses to interview questions and his qualifications to become Director of the Board of Library Commissioners.

Following the discussion:

Commissioner Caro moved and Commissioner Shesko seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners offer the position of Director to James Lonergan.

**Board voted unanimous Approval.**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Cluggish adjourned the April 21, 2017 special meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners at 2:06 P.M.



Roland Ochsenbein

Secretary