MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : February 2, 2017

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Board of Library Commissioners

 Boston, Massachusetts

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

**Staff Present:**

Dianne Carty, Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Amy Clayton, Administrative Assistant; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations and Budget; Paul Kissman, Library Information Specialist; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Matthew Perry, Outreach Coordinator; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/Government Liaison; Deborah Roth, Contracts Specialist; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist; Ruth Urell, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Erin Williams-Hart, Trustee/Friends Information Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Patricia Feeley, Collaborative Services Librarian, Boston Public Library (BPL); Sarah Sogigian, Consulting and Training Services Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Minutes- January 5, 2017**

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Caro seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the minutes for the monthly business meeting January 5, 2017 as corrected.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Cluggish reported that she spoke at the Swampscott Public Library’s 100 Birthday. Chairman Cluggish spoke of the Future of Libraries; Lauren Baker spoke of the Library in the Present. The local historian spoke of the library in the past.

Chairman Cluggish noted that there is no vote in February for Massachusetts Center for the Book Program & Budget because Dianne Carty, Tracey Dimant, Sharon Shaloo, and Em Claire Knowles and she will be meeting to discuss how to present the Program and Budget.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Carty presented the following:

Meetings since the last Board meeting.

* January 10 –Meeting with DCF Fund staff and Bruins staff
* January 11 –Director Search Orientation Conference call
* January 12 –State Aid Review Committee Meeting
* January 18 ­–Meeting with Senator Rosenberg, Representative Paul Mark and Representative Solomon Goldstein-Rose regarding the concept of a hub library and the public library construction program
* January 20 –Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting in Atlanta
* January 24 –Staff meeting with Strategic Planning Consultant, Alan Brickman
* January 25–Retreat of Library Leaders with Strategic Planning Consultant, Alan Brickman
* January 26 –Meeting with Director and staff from Social Law Library
* January 30 –Meeting with Libraries in the “All Aboard the Greenbush…” LSTA project
* February 1 –Bruins PJ Drive Kickoff at the Boston Public Library

Through our meetings with the DCF fund and the Bruins, we have made connections with Lauren Baker, the Governor’s wife. She is very involved with the DCF Fund and was at the Bruins PJ Drive kickoff yesterday. In addition, staff helped Ms. Baker with talking points for the 100 anniversary celebration of the Swampscott Public Library.

The position of Director of the MBLC has been posted. The search committee is poised to review resumes. Unfortunately of the 31 application in the state system, no one has the education and experience required. We are planning to send the information out more broadly to solicit applications.

The State Aid Review Committee is working hard and is striving to complete recommendations to the Board about the MAR waiver calculation and process on time. These recommendations should come before the Board in April.

Director Carty, Rosemary Waltos, and Lauren Stara had a meeting at the statehouse with Senator Rosenberg, Rep. Mark and Rep. Goldstein-Rose to discuss the concept of a ‘hub’ library and how it would relate to the Public Library Construction program--specifically with regards to the libraries in Greenfield and Amherst. Staff will discuss options and the concept more completely and share ideas with the construction team and the Board.

A full-day session with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies was held in Atlanta. It is a time for ‘chiefs’ to share information and here reports from IMLS, ALA Washington office and other topics.

* The Federal budget is expected late March or early April, there is a continuing resolution until then.
* Libraries Ready to Code, is an initiative of ALA’s Office for Information Technology Policy (OTIP) and made possible through the support of Google, Inc. It launched in April of 2016. At the end of the Libraries Ready to Code project, the team published a set of findings and recommendations for next steps. These may lead to a variety of initiatives, including: expanding the selection of resources in [The Connectory](http://theconnectory.org), a website geared to helping people find STEM resources and community locations for STEM learning; support for developing coding curricula, training, and partnerships; and working at the local, state, and federal levels to help ensure libraries have the funds they need to build and sustain these types of programs.
* The Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS) selected 23 individuals from 13 Indiana libraries to receive a scholarship from MCLS to attend the 2015 Harwood/ALA Public Innovators Lab in Detroit Michigan, October 14-16. The Harwood Public Innovators Lab is a 2.5 day experience to help libraries learn what it means to turn outward – to use the community as your reference point for choices and action.  The Lab is part of the American Library Association's “Libraries Transforming Communities” initiative, a national plan to help librarians strengthen their role as core community leaders and change-agents. MCLS is committed to continuing to support the community engagement efforts of Indiana and Michigan libraries beyond the Lab, and will offer communication forums through social media, community engagement roundtables, and coaching calls to libraries as they begin to put the Harwood tools into practice in their community. **About MCLS:** MCLS is a non-profit, member driven organization whose mission is to facilitate sharing resources and to collaborate with other organizations to benefit Indiana and Michigan Libraries.
* There was a sneak peak of the Knight Foundation News Challenge Winner—Visualizing Philanthropic Funding for Libraries. The goal of this project--Helping libraries find funding opportunities, increase understanding of funding sources, and track funding trends through a data visualization tool and capacity-building training. While there is a long history of philanthropic funding for libraries in the United States, most public libraries rely on government funding for financial support. Local funding accounts for nearly [85 percent of public library funding](https://www.imls.gov/research-evaluation/data-collection/public-libraries-united-states-survey), and state funding has decreased nearly 43 percent over the past decade. [Foundation Center](http://foundationcenter.org/) will develop data visualization and mapping tool, along with training, for libraries to find and track funding opportunities and increase understanding of funding for both libraries and library supporters. The tool will allow users to search and see funding sources at the national, state and local levels and answer key questions about regional funding trends. Data visualizations such as maps, network connections and partnership pathways will highlight key networks of funders and recipients as well as individual grants. Foundation Center will also deliver grant-seeking training, in-person and online, to build libraries’ capacity to effectively tap new funding sources. Foundation Center will partner with the Digital Public Library of America to leverage its extensive combined national networks to disseminate this tool and training.

After several telephone discussions with the executive director of the Social Law Library, Robert J. Brink, Ruth Urell, Paul Kissman, and Director Carty had a meeting last week with staff from the Library to begin work on giving public libraries access to their proprietary databases and training in legal research.

Our strategic planning process is still on track with the timetable. Last week there was a session with the MBLC staff and a Retreat of Library Leaders. Both sessions were very productive. Director Carty shared with you materials that were sent to the participants. As soon as the consultant has written notes for the sessions, I will distribute them. We have an in-house conference call with him next Wednesday and Alan will be in town for a face-to-face meeting with the planning group after the March Board meeting, on March 2.

On Monday, Ruth, Erin and I met with directors from the four libraries (Cohasset, Weymouth, Scituate and Hingham) participating in the LSTA funded program, “All Aboard Greenbush”, a one book one train initiative. The kickoff is planned for March with a finale in South Station in May or June. An invitation has been sent to the Governor and we will inform Commissioners as soon as the details are finalized.

**Construction**

* On Saturday, January 28, the Sherborn Public Library held its ground breaking for its 25,000 square foot addition/renovation. Commissioner Ochsenbein represented the Board at the event.
* On Saturday, February 4, the Eastham Public Library will dedicate its new 17,000 sf building.  Commissioner Cluggish will represent the Board at the event.  Eastham received a construction grant in 2013 for $4,331,923.  It qualifies for a Green Library Incentive award between $100,000 and $151,617.
* Thirty-three construction grant applications were received on January 26.  Funding recommendations will be presented for the Board’s approval at the July meeting.

**LSTA Grants**

The LSTA team conducted three in person grant-writing workshops across Massachusetts in January and presented a new grant-writing webinar, which continues to be available on line for additional guidance or refresher. Thirty three Letters of Intent (one has been withdrawn since December) have been assigned to consultants, and draft proposals are due at end of February. The slightly revised new Grant Application has been released and is on MBLC website, and consultants have been advising applicants about their grant proposals and providing guidance and direction as appropriate.

There were 33 applications received for the position of Director. I have sent 2 of the applications on to the Search Committee. All of the other applications were not viable—no library education or experience. I also had one telephone inquiry about the position.

I asked our Senate budget analyst about the Ways and Means hearings and he responded, “Unfortunately, committee assignments have not been fully completed yet. As per joint rules, I believe the hearing schedule and locations have to be approved by the joint committee before they can be finalized. At the moment, we are in a bit of a holding pattern until those assignments are made. Once they are, I suspect we will move to publish the hearing schedule as quickly as possible. I hope we will have all of these details ironed out in the coming week or two.”

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Governor Charlie Baker released his FY 2018 House 1 budget on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, the day after his State of the Commonwealth Address. All MBLC budget lines received a 1% increase over the current FY 2017 budget numbers. The Governor’s budget reflects an increase of $251,671 over current spending but is $3,363,969 below the MBLC request in the Legislative Agenda.

The MBLC Budget News Release which followed the announcement included a chart with the current budget year numbers, the legislative agenda “ask”, and the governor's House 1 one percent increase. <http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/news/releases/past-releases/2017/nr170127.php?current=yes>

### FY 2017 - 2018 Budget

| **Item No.** | **Item Name** | **FY 2017 Budget** | **FY 2017 LegislativeAgenda Request** | **FY 2018 Governor's Budget** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7000-9101 | Board of Library Commissioners | $1,077,431 | $1,225,000 | $1,088,205 |
| 7000-9401 | State Aid to Regional Libraries | $9,883,482 | $10,948,670 | $9,982,317† |
| 7000-9402 | Talking Book Library (Worcester) | $441,715 | $450,115 | $446,132 |
| 7000-9406 | Talking Book & Machine Lending (Perkins) | $2,487,893 | $2,562,528 | $2,512,772 |
| 7000-9501 | State Aid to Public Libraries | $9,000,000 | $10,127,412 | $9,090,000† |
| 7000-9506 | Library Technology & Resource Sharing | $2,076,564 | $3,259,000 | $2,097,330 |
| 7000-9508 | Center for the Book | $200,000 | $210,000 | $202,000 |
| TOTAL: | $25,167,085 | $28,782,725 | $25,418,756 |

According to the Noah Berger's Mass Budget and Policy Center, the Governor's budget proposal calls for a $91 million increase in education local aid and a $40 million increase in unrestricted local aid to cities and towns. In this year's state budget, Chapter 70 aid rose by more than $116 million, or 2.6 percent, and unrestricted aid by $42 million, or 4.3 percent. The report also noted that state library funding since 2001, when adjusted for inflation, has dropped nearly 50%.



With unemployment at a 16 year low and job growth continuing to expand, the Governor's budget is based on a projected revenue increase of 3.9 percent in FY 2018 beginning July 1, 2017. The Massachusetts economy grew at a much slower pace in the fourth quarter of 2016, however, and slower growth is expected to continue through the first half of 2017 according to the Donahue Institute at the University of Massachusetts. In its journal MassBenchmarks, which is published in collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the journal writers noted that the state economy grew at an annual rate of 0.5 percent in the fourth quarter, down from 3.1 percent in the third quarter. The report projects growth of 0.9 percent and 1 percent in the first and second quarters of 2017, respectively.

Although the Continuing Budget Resolution provides federal funding through mid to late April for IMLS/LSTA funding, the new Administration has indicated that it is planning to cut and/or eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and public broadcasting funds to PBS and NPR. This funding represents 0.0625% of the Federal Budget. According to EveryLibrary, a 501(c)4 nonprofit social welfare organization chartered to assist libraries, IMLS and LSTA funding is in jeopardy as well.

Mid-January revenue collections were $1.101 billion, down $32 million or 2.8% versus the same period last year. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, Total Tax collections through January 13th were $13.061 billion, which is $240 million or 1.9% greater than the same period last year. Income Taxestotaled $978 million, up $11 million or 1.1% from the mid-month of January 2016. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, Income Taxes were $7.751 billion, up $200 million or 2.6% over the same period last year. Sales & Use Taxcollections were $65 million at mid-month, down $7 million or 10.1% from the same period last January. For the fiscal year-to-date, Sales & Use revenues were $3.172 billion, up $53 million or 1.7% over the same period last year. Corporate & BusinessTaxeswere $5 million for January month-to-date, which is $15 million or 76.3% less than the January 2016 month-to-date amount. For the fiscal year-to-date period, Corporate & Business Taxes were $967 million, which is $23 million or 2.5% ahead of the same period last year.

The “Legislators by Municipality” list now includes the new members of the 190th General Court. Freshman legislators are highlighted on the list. The list will be revised again once the new members are given permanent offices based on their committee assignments. A list of House and Senate Leaders, Committee Chairs and committee assignments will be distributed as soon as the House Speaker and the Senate President make their decisions.

We are about half way through Legislative Breakfast season. There has been a great turn out at the breakfast’s to-date of legislators and library supporters and advocates. The final breakfast will be March 3rd in Fitchburg, a few days prior to MLA/MSLA Legislative Day at the State House.

MLA Legislative Committee is continuing to make arrangements for MLA Legislative Day on March 7, 2017. At its meeting on January 27th, the Committee chose the library projects to showcase at the State House and firmed up the program for the day. The organizations funded through the MBLC budget lines will have a table at the showcase as well. The Legislative Day schedule includes a lunch program with remarks from Representative Kate Hogan and Senator Kathleen O’Connor Ives, the Co-Chairs of the Legislative Library Caucus, three legislative briefings, one for first time attendees, and photo sessions for legislators for their personalized READ posters.

The Mass Municipal Association’s Annual Meeting and Trade Show were held on January 20 and 21. Officials from more than 70 municipalities came by the MBLC booth. Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito stopped by to let us know how much she loved her new Shrewsbury Public Library.

**Marketing Plan Update**

In her presentation to the Board, Communications Director Celeste Bruno highlighted several projects. The first was the “Love letters to Libraries” campaign. Working with Buyer and the Statewide PR Committee, vintage style Valentines with fun sayings that tie into libraries such as “You are tops in my book” were developed as was a LoveMassLibraries.com website. Coloring sheets with the same sayings were also created. All libraries were emailed the toolkit with the Valentines, the website URL, and instructions on how to participate. The concept is that patrons write a valentine saying why they love their library. The library collects them and sends them to the MBLC who will deliver them to the appropriate legislators.

Ms. Bruno also mentioned the summer partnership with the JFK Library and Museum. In celebration of JFK’s 100th birthday, the JFK Library and Museum has planned ongoing events and exhibits that fit well with the summer reading theme of “Build a Better World.” Staff from the MBLC and MLS met with staff from the JFK Library and Museum to discuss how the organizations could partner. The JFK Library and Museum is providing online age-specific toolkits with information about JFK’s life and work—the MBLC will provide these to the libraries participating in summer reading. The MBLC is also developing READ posters using photos of JFK and Mrs. Kennedy, bookmarks with some of his famous quotes, and a JFK Reading List with books he read as a child.

Ms. Bruno also showed Commissioners the “Best Reader” poster which is based on data released from the Department of Secondary Education. The poster highlights the ways Massachusetts Libraries help students be the best readers in the nation and the world. The MBLC has received hundreds of requests from libraries for print copies of the posters and the Facebook post featuring the poster was viewed more than 30,000 times.

Ms. Bruno discussed the OCLN “Miles to Reach You Campaign” which highlights the importance of resource sharing and aims to raise patron awareness about the service and how it is funded. Libraries in the OCLN Network will insert the resource sharing bookmarks developed by the MBLC last year in all books that come through ILL. OCLN will also use the “How Resource Sharing Works” flyer, also developed by the MBLC last year. The campaign will run from January 15 through February 15.

She then updated the Commissioners on the Boston Bruins PJ Drive to benefit DCF Kids Fund and Cradles to Crayons. There are 123 libraries participating, nearly double the number that participated in the drive last year. This is due to the new partnership with DCF Kids Fund which allows pajamas collected by libraries to stay in their local area (a request from many libraries that could not be fulfilled by Cradles to Crayons since their reach is mainly the metro west area. The PJ Drive kicked off with a highly successful event at Boston Public Library featuring First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker.

Ms. Bruno also mentioned that work is being completed on the new Commonwealth eBook Materials.

Outreach Coordinator Matt Perry updated the Commissioners on several legislative activities. He has been delivering FY2018 Legislative Agendas to legislators every two weeks and making sure that all Legislative Breakfasts have them as well as the “Why the Legislative Agenda Matters to You” flyer. He also created and delivered a welcome letter for new legislators and included an MBLC brochure that explains what the agency does. In addition, all legislators received the “Best Reader” posters.

**Consideration of approval of municipalities meeting the requirements for FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries based on eligibility established in FY2017 for the municipal appropriation requirement and in FY2016 for the minimum standards.**

Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist presented the final two municipalities; Gill and Hadley.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Comeau seconded that Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners certifies that the communities on the attached list have met minimum standards of free public library service and awards each a FY2017 Library Incentive Grant, a FY2017 Municipal Equalization Grant and a FY2017 Nonresident Circulation offset in the indicated amounts , totaling $4,547 .26, and authorizes any additional FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries disbursements that may be possible toward the end of the grant cycle .

**The Board voted approval.**

**Consideration of municipalities requesting waivers for the FY2017 municipal appropriation requirement in the FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries program within the 5% threshold.**

Mary Rose Quinn presented the libraries requesting a waiver for FY2017 State Aid round.

CARVER

CHELSEA

DUNSTABLE

FAIRHAVEN

FALL RIVER

FRANKLIN

HAVERHILL

HOLBROOK

LAWRENCE

LENOX

LEVERETT

LONGMEADOW

MALDEN

NEW BEDFORD

NEWBURY

NORTH ADAMS

NORTH ATTLEBOR

PALMER

PAXTON

PROVINCETOWN

REVERE

SCITUATE

SHEFFIELD

SOMERSET

SOMERVILLE

SPENCER

TEWKSRURY

UXBRIDGE

WARE

WARREN

Commissioner Murphy moved and Commissioner Comeau seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grants a waiver of the FY2017 Municipal Appropriation Requirement and certifies that the communities on the attached list have met minimum standards of free public library service and awards each a FY2017 Library Incentive Grant , a FY2017 Municipal Equalization Grant and a FY2017 Nonresident Circulation offset in the indicated amounts , totaling $605,141 .60, and authorizes any additional FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries disbursements that may be possible toward the end of the grant cycle .

**The Board voted approval.**

**Consideration of petitions for waivers of the municipal appropriation requirement for the FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries Program above the 5% threshold**

**aDAMS lIBRARY**

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grants a waiver "with reservation” of the FY2017 Municipal Appropriation Requirement and certifies that Adams has met minimum standards of free public library service and awards a FY2017 Library Incentive Grant , a FY2017 Municipal Equalization Grant and a FY2017 Nonresident Circulation offset in the indicated amounts, totaling $6,876.32, and authorizes any additional FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries disbursements that may be possible toward the end of the grant cycle .

**The Board voted approval.**

**Wilbraham Public Library**

Commissioner Shesko moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded that The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grants a waiver “with reservation” of the FY2017 Municipal Appropriation Requirement and certifies that Wilbraham has met minimum standards of free public library service and awards a FY2017 Library Incentive Grant, a FY2017 Municipal Equalization Grant and a FY2017 Nonresident Circulation offset in the indicated amounts , totaling $9,645.60, and authorizes any additionalFY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries disbursements that may be possible toward the end of the grant cycle .

**The Board voted approval.**

**Commissioner Caro abstained.**

**Commissioner Comeau opposed.**

**Consideration of Joining Networks Grant Award Recommendation**

Paul Kissman presented the Small Libraries in Networks grant for Tolland in the amount of $2,700.

The Joining Networks grant opportunity allows public libraries in municipalities under 10,000 to join an automated resource sharing network for the first time. This grant complements the Small Libraries in Networks program, funded out of account 7000-9506, which offsets the annual network membership fees for small public libraries that are members of networks.

Commissioner Murphy moved and Commissioner Shesko seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grants award to the C/W MARS network to add the Tolland Public Library as a member during FY 2017 totaling $2,700.

**The Board voted approval.**

**REPORT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Sarah Sogigian, MLS Consulting and Training Services Director reported on the following items:

Topics:

Executive Board Update

•FY2018 Budget Issues

•Fee for Service Discussion

•Listening Tour – Fake News

•Interstate Delivery Pilot Project

Upcoming Events

Legislative Agenda Talking Points

Interstate Delivery Pilot Project

Executive Board Update (January 2017 Meeting)

**Budget Issues**

Unless our budget is increased substantially significant service reductions will begin on July 1, 2017 (for additional details see Legislative Breakfast Talking Points, below).

100 delivery stops per week will be eliminated. This includes all Saturday stops and other stops designed to reduce costs.

Statewide database funding under a new RFP-based contract will be reduced significantly with the likely result being less content than is presently available.

Fewer training events and more wait time to work with MLS consultants as a vacancy in that area becomes permanent (until the budget is increased).

**Fee for Services**

At the request of a member library, the Board had a lengthy discussion about imposing fees to help make up the fy2018 budget shortfall. We talked about imposing a fee on libraries and end users for delivery service. There was a strong argument to keep this service free because it is the most popular MLS service with libraries and patrons and imposing fees could create inequities in access to library materials. In addition imposing and collecting fees from patrons would be a huge challenge in terms of effort and technology development. Similar reasoning to avoid imposing feeds for mediated ILL was stated. The current system creates inequities in that some libraries can pay postage and other cannot. We do not want to impose additional inequities.

MLS currently imposes fees for two relatively new services that would be impossible to provide if we relied solely on state appropriations, i.e., BiblioTemps and Commonwealth eBook Collections. MassCAT has long been a fee-based service with some MLS subsidy.

**MLS Listening Tour**

MLS is hosting a series of listening tour events in 2017 to engage members on specific topics and to encourage active membership to strengthen the Massachusetts Library Community. Tour stop themes will vary through the year.

The first topic is fake news and libraries. Please join us to meet your colleagues and co-create a path to the future as libraries develop resources to work with their communities in dealing with this phenomenon.

**Interstate Delivery Recommendation**

The Board approved a recommendation to continue interstate delivery service with Rhode Island as long as it continues to remain cost effective. The 2016 pilot project was deemed a great success and direct savings for MLS mediated ILL services exceeded the modest cost increases that were required to provide this new service. Providing additional resources for ILL for libraries that cannot afford to pay for postage costs boosts equity of access across all libraries in the Commonwealth. In addition library savings are accrued by avoiding the labor and costs to ship ILL items by USPS or UPS. More details are available below.

**REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH**

Patricia Feeley, Collaborative Services Librarian at Boston Public Library, reported on the following items:

Boston Bruins PJ Drive Kickoff Event

Boston Public Library served as site for kickoff event

* Very successful - story time with First Lady of the Commonwealth, Lauren Baker, crafts and photos with Bruins mascot, Blades, President David Leonard as master of ceremonies
* MBLC, MLS and Bruins staff incredibly helpful

Boston Bruins PJ Drive participation

* First year for BPL to participate
* Every branch is participating

Newsbank cutoff

* Newsbank, which had cut off all remote access for BPL patrons eight months ago, has now cut off BPL entirely. There is no more access to databases like America's Historical Newspapers or Archives of Americana or U.S. Congressional Serial Set

Digital Commonwealth

* Gianna Gifford, Chief of Adult Services at the BPL, has agreed to fill the position on the Digital Commonwealth board of ex-officio member. We hope this will foster greater awareness amongst our staff, partners and patrons because Gianna overseas reference, instruction, literacy and adult programming for the BPL.
* Digital Commonwealth staff was asked to answer queries posed to the All Regions list about digitizing newspapers and public records. Anna sent an email to the Network Member Services list, which also received a newspaper digitization query, updating them on the process. We are waiting for more info from Digital Commonwealth staff.

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

**Commissioner Resnick**

* 1/11/17             Search Committee Conference Call; was selected to Chair Committee
* 1/13/17             GCC Legislative Breakfast, Sen. Pres. Rosenberg – 60 people attending
* 1/19/17             WMLA Board meeting

 WMLA will be providing a Board Member stipend for ALA Legislative Day

  WMLA will be providing 4 scholarships to MLA and 4 to trustees/friends to Advocacy day on Sunday

* 1/20/17             Easthampton Legislative Breakfast, Sen. Humason – 50 people attending
* 1/24/17             Exec. Cmte. Conf. Call
* 1/25/17             Strategic Planning Retreat – Bolton
* 1/27/17             Stockbridge Legislative Breakfast, Sen. Hinds – attendance 60, max. cap.

* Meeting w/Sen. Hinds & Commissioner Kronholm to introduce MBLC and legislative priorities

**Commissioner Ochsenbein**

* January 11: MBLC Director Search Committee organizational call.
* January 24: Executive Committee (by phone).
* January 25: Strategic Planning Retreat in Bolton.
* January 26: Conference: Libraries In a Post-Truth World, Phillips Academy, And Andover, MA.
* January 28: Attended/spoke at ceremonial groundbreaking for renovation/expansion project at Sherborn Public Library, Sherborn, MA.

**Commissioner Kronholm**

* MMA
* Legislative Breakfasts in Greenfield, Wilbraham, and Stockbridge

**Commissioner Comeau**

* Conference call for Director’s search committee

**Commissioner Welch**

* Legislative Breakfast in Westborough
* MFOL Meeting last week
* Friends Sharing with Friends scheduled for April 1 at the Framingham Public Library, McAuliffe Branch

**Commissioner Shesko**

* State Aid Review Committee
* Legislative Breakfast in New Bedford

**Commissioner Caro**

* Legislative Breakfast at the Cambridgeport School
* MMA

**Commissioner Murphy**

* State Aid Review Meeting
* MLS Monthly Meeting

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Cluggish adjourned the February 2, 2017 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:15 P.M.



Roland Ochsenbein

Secretary