MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : March 1, 2018

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Office

Boston, Massachusetts

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

Absent : Mary Kronholm, Secretary; Alice M. Welch

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Kate Butler, Electronic Services Specialist; Terry D’Angelo, Administrative Assistant; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget; Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Maryellen Osborne, Contracts Specialist; Matthew Perry, Outreach Coordinator; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs / Government Liaison; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist; Rosemary Waltos, Library Building Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Patricia Feeley, Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Boston Public Library (BLC); Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS); Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book

**Call to Order**

Chairman Cluggish called the meeting to order at 10 A.M.

**Approval of Minutes: February 1, 2018**

* Page 2 line 8- Correct spelling is Robertson
* Page 5 line 15- Sen. Kathleen O’Connor Ives has stepped down as Chair of the Senate Library Caucus.
* Page 8 line 37- should be prioritize not priorities
* Page 8 line 38- strike the (All Commissioners agree we should not lose Book Awards)
* Page 9 line 12- add library staff

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Comeau seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the minutes for the monthly business meeting on February 1, 2018 with corrections listed above.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Cluggish spoke of the meeting that she attended with Director Lonergan, Mary Rose Quinn, and Commissioner Kronholm with John Robertson, Legislative Director for Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) where they asked MMA to advocate for us.

Chairman Cluggish also attended Legislative Breakfasts in Framingham and Milford. At the Milford breakfast Chairman Cluggish spoke to Susan McAlister about changing the subject line and personalizing the Engage emails.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Meetings/activities since the last Board meeting:

* February 1 —Meeting with Commissioners Cluggish and Kronholm, Mary Rose Quinn and John Robertson, Legislative Director for Massachusetts Municipal Association
* February 2 —Springfield Area Legislative Breakfast at Chicopee Comprehensive High School Library
* February 6—Meeting with Sasaki team regarding study analysis
* February 7—MCCLPHEI, MLS, MBLC Conference Call to discuss statewide database procurement
* February 8—Meeting with Tracey, Mary Rose and our new Senate Ways & Means analyst, Mark O’Halloran, and new House Ways and Means analyst, Natalie Beauparlant
* February 9— Legislative Reception at Brockton Public Library
* February 14—Special Commission on School Library Services meeting, State House
* February 16—Legislative Breakfast at Framingham Public Library, McAuliffe Branch
* February 20—PJ Drive Events at Chicopee Public Library and Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield
* February 22—Meeting to discuss legislative strategy and miscellaneous issues with David Leonard and Greg Pronevitz at BPL
* February 26—MLS Executive Board and MLS Executive Director Search Committee meetings, Marlborough
* February 28—Meeting with Paul, Shelley, Greg Pronevitz and Trial Court Law Library staff

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.

Staff are preparing for Library Legislative Day at the State House on Tuesday, March 6. The Library Legislative Caucus initially planned to meet that afternoon, but is now possibly meeting on April 8, which will be the 10 anniversary of the founding of the caucus.

Commissioner Cluggish and I will be presenting testimony at the Joint Committee on Ways and Means FY2019 budget hearings at Everett High School Library on Tuesday, March 13. Sen. DiDomenico will be the Sen. Chair and Rep. McGonagle will be the House Chair. We will submit our legislative agenda fact sheets for our affilates/budget lines in lieu of additional testimony.

I attended a meeting of the Special Commission on School Library Services in Massachusetts at the State House on Wednesday, February 14, 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.

The MBLC/MLS management teams and staff (and possibly LFC) will be meeting in the coming weeks 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.

Celeste, Rachel, Matt and I attended Boston Bruins PJ Drive events at the Chicopee Public Library and the Berkshire Athenaeum on Tuesday, February 20. Commissioner Resnick joined us in Chicopee and Commissioner Kronholm was with us in Pittsfield. The Chicopee event was a pancake and dance party (interesting combination) and the Pittsfield event was more traditional, with First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker reading to children and a variety of activities. A special thanks to Celeste, Rachel and Matt for all their efforts in planning and running these events and for strengthening our partnerships with the Bruins and the Wonderfund.

Staff News:

Rob Favini, our new Head of Library Advisory and Development, is heading up the search committee for the Library Advisory Specialist (formerly-known-as Trustee/Friends Information Specialist) position. The committee has reviewed applications and will be scheduling initial interviews in the next few weeks.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/ Government Liaison presented the following report:

February is the first month in which refunds reach substantial levels, reducing the overall net revenue figure. Total Taxcollections for the mid-February month-to-date period were $543 million, down $64 million or 10.5% versus the same period last year. Income tax revenuetotaled $358 million, down $87 million or 19.5% from the equivalent period in February 2017. Sales & Use Taxcollections were $91 million at mid-month, which is $13 million or 16.4% more than the 2017 figure. Corporate & Business Taxescollections for the month were -$5 million, an outflow for the month, which is $9 million less than the same period last year. Other Taxestotaled $98 million at February mid-month, which is $19 million or 23.9% more than the 2017 figure.

The final Legislative Breakfast of the season has been scheduled for March 16 in Athol. Sen. Ann Gobi and Rep. Susannah Whipps, both firm library supporters, are scheduled to attend. The newly formed Central Massachusetts Library Advocates are organizing the event. The breakfast will take place after Library Legislative Day (3/6/18) and the budget hearing with the Joint Committee on Ways and Means (3/13/2018).

Commissioners received copies of the Library Legislative Day information packets that included:

* Legislative Day invitation
* Overall day schedule and lunch speaker program
* Showcase presenters list and table map
* An abbreviated budget “green sheet”
* Legislative Agenda
* MBLC Funding organization chart

The Co-chairs of the House Caucus, Rep. Natalie Higgins and Rep. Brian Murray, will be attending the two Briefings and New Attendees orientations. They will be joined by Sen. Eric Lesser, the Senate Co-Chair, at lunch to offer brief remarks. There will also be a meeting, hosted by the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA), to present an overview of the report commissioned by the Special Commission on School Library Services. The Caucus meeting, which had been originally scheduled for the afternoon of Legislative Day, has been postponed to give attendees the opportunity to meet with their legislators. The Caucus meeting is expected to be rescheduled sometime in April, possibly to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Caucus’ founding. The day will conclude with a meeting between the MLA/MSLA event organizers, MBLC and Affiliates, and the Caucus Co-hairs and their staffs to debrief instead.

The MBLC will have an opportunity to testify on the FY 2019 budget before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means at Everett High School on Tuesday, March 13. A larger than usual crowd of Legislators is expected for the day’s hearings. The calendar includes: Secretary Jay Ash, presenting for Economic Development as well as Workforce Development, Mass Cultural Council and the Cannabis Control Commission. The MBLC testimony will include the Legislative Agenda, the line item Fact Sheets, and the other documents given out at Legislative Day and the Breakfasts.

BLIND (Blind Legislative and Information Networking Day) is scheduled for March 13, the same day as the MBLC budget hearing before Ways and Means. Perkins and Worcester will have a second opportunity to discuss their budget lines with Legislators one week after MLA/MSLA Legislative Day.

Commissioners have received copies of the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library Annual Report for FY 2017 and this quarter’s statistics for FY 2018. Perkins will hold its next Quarterly Meeting at the MBLC Board Offices in May. The Commissioners Board Meeting in August will be hosted by Perkins in Watertown.

**Marketing Plan Update**

Communications Director Celeste Bruno talked about two campaigns and their benefit to libraries and to the MBLC. The MBLC is currently running the Library Valentine Campaign in which patrons write valentines to their libraries. The MBLC creates all elements of the campaign: blank valentines, posters, and ready-made social media posts. Libraries participate by printing out the valentines so that patrons can fill them out or patrons can go onlineto LoveMassLibraries.com. Libraries send the valentines to the MBLC and staff delivers them to the appropriate legislator. It’s a way to show how much libraries are valued by residents. Last year 4,000 valentines were delivered to legislators. Ms. Bruno mentioned that Perkins Library participated for the first time this year and they gave their patrons the option of calling in their valentines. Ms. Bruno then played a call-in valentine from one Perkins patron. Perkins has given the MBLC access to more than 50 audio valentines.

Ms. Bruno then discussed the Boston Bruins PJ Drive and its benefits to the MBLC. She listed them as: many positivenews stories about the MBLC and about local libraries; a strengthened Bruins partnership and six Bruins PJ events at local libraries during the past month; a new partnership with DCF that may help the MBLC reach an underserved population; and as part of the PJ Drive, the First Lady of the Commonwealth has done three events in libraries and toured two libraries.

Outreach Coordinator Matt Perry talked about Library Legislative Day. Legislative Day Table: Highlight online resources to aides and legislators to use for work and for pleasure. Promote the What’s Your Four campaign to attract new posts. Bring JFK materials, Bruin’s materials, and state aid materials.

PJ Drive - we went to Western Mass with First Lady Lauren Baker, James, and had fun at a Chicopee dance and pancake party with Commissioner Resnick and PJ story time in Pittsfield with Commissioner Kronholm.

**Consideration of FY2019 Plan of Service and program and Budget for the Massachusetts Center for the book**

Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director of Massachusetts Center for the Book presented her FY2019 Plan of Service and Program and Budget.

I have attached the FY2019 budget for Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB). The budget is based on level funding of 7000-9508 at $200,000. Level funding is not a sustainable proposition for MCB with its capacity, however, and our board will undertake a strategic planning initiative in FY 18 (and early FY19) to set a course for stability and growth in impact. This cover memo, while not part of the budget packet, does set some context.

To review, MCB was established as an outreach and partnership organization by representatives of six institutions. The major partners were Boston Public Library, Mass Board of Library Commissioners, Mass Humanities, and UMass Amherst. Additional founders included Five Colleges, Inc., and American Antiquarian Society. The partners hired the Center's founding executive director in November of 1999, and MCB began operations in January 2000.

After nearly 15 years of inadequate and uncertain funding (including years in which the executive director donated not only her services but also up to $2,000 in cash donations to carry the center through), MCB (specifically its board chair, then MBLC director Rob Maier, and I, as executive director) sought the aid of the Library Legislative Caucus Chair to establish a new budget line in the library constellation for MCB. The initial ask for that line, 7000-9508, was $250,000, which reflected a frugal budget for a small 2.5-person office that would function - essentially - as the Commonwealth­wide public programs office for the Massachusetts library community, a function that was not included in the authorization for any of the other library lines (as we were told by BPL and MLS when we sought to have MCB merge into one or the other of them).

We believed that a modest executive director salary, a modest programs officer salary, a half-time development salary (all of them unbenefited), and all overhead could be accommodated in FY15 by $250,000. Other funds would be raised through grants, partnerships, and direct giving in our agreement (and commitment) to operate as a public-private partnership.

We reached 80% of our initial ask in FY16 and have been level- (and insecurely) funded since then. In FY17, our budget was not approved, via override, until the end of July, and funds did not come into our account until mid-to-late August 2016. For FY18, our budget was not approved until late October, and funds did not reach our account until November 16, 2017, nearly five months into the fiscal year, completely disrupting operations.

All staff members except for the Executive Director were on lay off or, in the case of student workers, not hired. We were unable to pay rent at 14 Beacon St, and were forced to move a year before our planned departure from that space. We are occupying temporary quarters at Simmons College, but will have to move again by June 30 as Simmons undergoes a major reorganization that will prevent them from continuing to host an MCB office.

Beyond the upheaval of two moves within 8 months, we now no longer have a stable address from which to run the very large and expensive Mass Book Awards program. Last year's program is not yet concluded and this year's program cannot yet launch, putting a very public outreach program into very public disruption, a state of affairs that we must resolve in the remaining months of FY18 and the opening months of FY19.

In an environment in which MCB is stuck at 80% of a FY15 funding request and struggling to fund a very expensive program that no longer has any monetary support from any of the organizations/institutions which asked MCB to launch it, the Center has commenced a thoroughgoing examination of all of its activities so that we can allocate our limited resources (our line is more than 50% smaller than the next smallest line in the library budget) in ways that will allow us to fulfill our national responsibilities as the Commonwealth affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, advance our commonwealth commitment, as our budget line says, to operate as a public-private partnership with a mission "to develop, support, and promote cultural programming that will advance the cause of books and reading and enhance the outreach potential of Massachusetts public libraries," and to, at long last, hire a full-time second staff person so that the executive director can focus on fundraising, partnerships, and board development.

In order to accomplish this three-part goal, we shall assess staffing, siting, and activity in meetings of the MCB board this spring. Should our strategic re-visioning of the Center result in material changes to our program of service; we shall submit a revised budget before the end of FY 18. At this point, however, we present for your approval a budget based on past (and ongoing) activity, as described in the attached document.

Commissioner Ochsenbein moved and Commissioner Caro seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the FY2019 Plan of Service and Program and Budget filed on February 15, 2019 for the Massachusetts Center for the Book, with a bottom line of $200,000 as presented in agenda item 6.

* Commissioner Ochsenbein stated that he was glad to see language in the cover memo about a strategic review.
* Commissioner Ochsenbein said that he would like the motion to have a condition that the strategic review take place
* Ms. Shaloo noted that they are trying to get a few more people on the Board. Hoping to have a meeting in April.
* Commissioner Ochsenbein asked what are the plans for the strategic review?
* Ms. Shaloo stated that the review would be a collective process with the Board and look into basic services. Board is wrestling with where the MCB will be in 5 or 10 years. There could be a bright future for MCB.
* Commissioner Ochsenbein noted that he would like to see the format of the strategic plan.
* Commissioner Murphy asked if there was a chance to be able to have Book Awards.
* Commissioner Cluggish noted that the Book Awards for 2017 were wrapped up in June.
* Commissioner Caro asked what does wrap up of Book Awards mean?
* Ms. Shaloo noted it wasn’t worth spending money on posters since it is so late. But there will be a press release sent out.
* Commissioner Cluggish spoke about the two core programs and thinking of them as legacy programs. The Letters about Literature and the Massachusetts Book Awards are the two core programs and maybe it is too ambitious to do both programs since there is no staff at the MCB. She said maybe the Book Awards take place bi-annually.
* Ms. Shaloo said the Center doesn’t have its line just for the Book Awards and Letters about Literature. Line 7000-9508 states that For the Massachusetts Center for the Book, Inc., chartered as the Commonwealth Affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; provided, that the Massachusetts Center for the Book, Inc. shall be established as a public-private partnership charged with the development, support and promotion of cultural programming designed to advance the cause of books and reading and enhance the outreach potential of public libraries within the commonwealth.
* Commissioner Cluggish stated that the Center should get input from the library community, maybe send out a survey.
* Commissioner Comeau stated that he does not feel comfortable with full on approval of motion. He said that a document that states that the program isn’t sustainable isn’t something he is comfortable with.
* Commissioner Comeau suggested that the motion be amended to fund quarter 1.
* Director Lonergan stated that the memo from Chair of the Board talks about the undertaking of the strategic review and answers questions that Commissioners asked in February. Director Lonergan thinks that the Board should approve the Program and Budget but ask for more frequent reports and feels that the Center should be supported.
* Commissioner Comeau asked what would be the harm in amending the motion?
* Commissioner Caro expressed that she felt by amending the motion that would send a red flag to Legislators.
* Commissioner Shesko said he feels uncomfortable voting on plan today. He would like to hear from MCB’s Board. He said he would like to vote next month.
* Director Lonergan said they would like to receive details on the strategic planning process and a timeline. Also they would like a discussion about how the FY2018 funds are being spent since it is a condensed year.
* Commissioner Shesko asked if there were minutes from the MCB’s last Board. He also asked if they would be available for the Board.
* Commissioner Cluggish thought it would be best if motion be deferred a month because she is afraid the vote wouldn’t be approved.
* Ms. Shaloo said that her Board would like in writing what exactly the MBLC Board is looking for.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded to table the approval of the FY2019 Plan of Service and Program and Budget to a future date.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**REPORT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director of MLS presented the following report:

**Executive Board Action – February 26, 2018**

**Strategic Planning Policies**

The Board approved a recommendation to establish policies on MLS Strategic Planning activities with member libraries as follows: The MLS is pleased to offer these services to assist libraries with the planning process.

1. Present Annual Strategic Planning workshops. Workshops are held each calendar year, at locations around the state.
2. Author and regularly update a *Strategic Planning for Libraries* resource guide for library reference: <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/strategicplanning>
3. Provide one dedicated on-site visit from an MLS Consultant who can:
   1. Facilitate a planning meeting: with your planning committee, trustees, staff, or community group.
   2. Discuss planning process with library director/management.
   3. Assist with planning pre-work.
   4. Assist with the development of discussion questions for your survey or community group meetings.
4. Provide ongoing assistance with logistics of planning, answers to questions about the process, writing, and implementation of your plan. Continuing assistance is available via phone or email.
5. Review plan draft prior to library submission to the MBLC.

**The MLS Road Show**

The Board discussed a proposal to expand MLS site visits. Members have requested more frequent on-site presence from MLS, especially to meet new library directors.

**Special Commission on School Libraries in Massachusetts *Report* Issued**

*The Massachusetts School Library Study: Equity and Access for Students in the Commonwealth. Report of Findings and Recommendations of the Special Commission on School Library Services in Massachusetts* will be presented to the Joint Committee on Education of the Legislature, per the charge of the Commission, this week. The Commission was sponsored by Representative Sean Garballey (Arlington) and the late Senator Ken Donnelly (Arlington) and comprised of hard-working representatives of the Massachusetts School Library Association, including Judi Paradis (Thomas R. Plympton Elementary School, Library) and Kendall Boninti (Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Pearl K. Wise Library), Judy Marcella of the Dept. of Secondary and Elementary Education, George Comeau, Commissioner with the MBLC, and others. MLS was represented on the Commission by Greg Pronevitz, Executive Director. The researchers for the Commission was Dr. Carol Gordon and Dr. Robin Cicchetti (Concord-Carlisle High School).

The *Report* includes the results of a statewide study and recommendations such as improving access to:

* school libraries and school librarians
* information resources in school libraries
* information technology
* library instruction and help
* funding

The report has been posted on the MBLC website at this URL: <https://mblc.state.ma.us/school-libraries-study/>

**Massachusetts Regional Research Institute for Public Libraries**

Registration for the Massachusetts Regional Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL) is now open! This exciting 2-day event will take place at the Devens Common Center on May 7 and 8, 8am-5pm each day.

50 participants from Massachusetts will engage in two days of hands-on, intensive workshops about:

* Designing outcome-based evaluation of programs and services
* Assessing the needs of your community
* Techniques for tracking public library data and using these data for planning, management, and demonstrating the library’s worth
* Using data and stories to document the impact of your library

Participants will walk away from the RIPL Regional with tools for evaluation, confidence in building research into their activities, and a network of colleagues for future learning and success.  
  
For more detailed information about the RIPL Regional event, including presenter bios and the daily program, please visit the RIPL site: <https://ripl.lrs.org/ma2018/>

Registration is open to staff of Massachusetts Library System members (max one person per library), and the cost is $150 which includes breakfast and lunch each day. The last day to register is April 17.

**Join Project SET 2018**

We are happy to announce that the application period for our fourth cohort of Project SET is now open!

Join us in 2018 and kickstart your career development.

Project SET is a professional learning cohort that supports the development of individual career goals and the exploration of other aspects of the library community. Every session provides the chance for participants to build knowledge, communication skills, connections, awareness, and confidence as an information professional. SET is a way to interact with other librarians by stepping out of the day-to-day routine and thinking about the bigger picture.

Project SET is an amazing opportunity to work with librarians of all types throughout the Massachusetts community who are passionate about the profession. It is an inspiring program that pushes participants and gives them the time and permission to reflect deeply on their place in the library world. The program is designed to broaden your library related understanding, boost your confidence and connect you to colleagues.

Project SET prides itself on creating an open and welcoming environment for its participants. We are committed to building a cohort of participants from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. Applications from diverse applicants are strongly encouraged.

For additional information about Project SET check out our [LibGuide!](http://guides.masslibsystem.org/projectset)

**Recent Satisfaction Surveys**

MLS has conducted four satisfaction surveys of member libraries recently. MLS surveys members about program that they participate in individually with a common set of questions. This approach provides reliable and useful responses.

## Commonwealth eBook Collections

## Summary Results: Satisfaction: 3.9 on a scale of 1-5

Respondents who reported no change or higher satisfaction since last year: 82%

**Selected stories:**

* *We have students on IEPs that require access to audiobooks. Axis360 has most of our required readings in audio format, easily available for free! Thank you!!*
* *I have had TWO parents of YA Patrons, who have never utilized the library previously are now avid eBook readers.*
* *As an academic library, we do not offer our users Overdrive from our library. The MLS service enables us to provide our users with materials that we would not ordinarily purchase, due to budget limitations.*

## Journal Article Document Delivery

## Summary Results: Satisfaction: 4.6 on a scale of 1-5

## Respondents who reported no change or higher satisfaction since last year: 82%

Nearly all comments pertain to speedy, reliable and friendly service that members enjoy from this service.

## Statewide Databases

Summary Results: Satisfaction: 3.8 on a scale of 1-5

Respondents who reported no change or higher satisfaction since last year: 54%

Ratings are down, and there were many comments related to the outcomes of the procurement which is not surprising. Libraries definitely felt a sense of loss, but there were a heartwarming number of libraries that offered praise for the outcome in recognition of the challenging budget situation.

## Delivery

## Summary Results: Satisfaction: 3.4 on a scale of 1-4

**Selected stories:**

* *Thanks for doing such an excellent job. Our patrons are in awe of their ability to request materials and have them appear so quickly. We love this system and all that you do to keep the wheels oiled.*
* *Good service and timely. Only complaint is that often if bins are overfilled we receive some items water damaged from the rain. Otherwise we get our items as expected.*
* *Endicott College is extremely pleased with our delivery person, his timeliness and patience during our construction on campus. Sorting is amazingly accurate and consistent.*
* *I think you do a great job considering the complexity of sorting and scanning and then delivering to Cape Cod, and the Islands during the summer! Thank you.*

**Upcoming Surveys Planned**

* BiblioTemps (March)
* Delivery (March)
* Continuing Education (April)
* Cooperative Purchasing (May)

**Report from the Library for the Commonwealth**

Patricia Feeley, Interlibrary Loan Librarian, BPL presented the following report:

**Legislative Day**

Both BPL and Digital Commonwealth will have tables this year

BPL has updated handout and will be represented by Anna, Gianna Gifford and Patricia Feeley.

**Digital Commonwealth**

Our newly selected Digital Commonwealth developer withdrew, so we are most likely starting the search over.

Registration has opened for the annual Digital Commonwealth conference on April 10 in at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Registrations are down this year, so the conference committee is expanding the invitation list.

**Chinatown Branch opened with a huge crowd.**

So far things are going very well in the space, despite its small size.

**Social Services Update**

Social Services forum that MLS facilitated in the fall has continued to help us make connections

In early February Anna Fahey-Flynn and Ally Dowds attended another MLS facilitated meeting with the state’s department of Mental Health homelessness specialists. We have been making great connections within Boston, but getting connected on a state level is something we had not done yet.

Also, Anna’s presented at the MLS facilitated webinar Building Public Library/ Social Work partnerships in January and on Tuesday, Anna got an email from someone at Simmons interested in working together.

**Standing Committee and Liaison Reports**

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

**Commissioner Comeau**

* Attended the Brockton Legislative Reception

**Commissioner Ochsenbein**

* Attended Worcester Legislative Breakfast

**Commissioner Resnick**

* Attended the PJ Drive Dance Party in Chicopee
* Participated in the MCB meeting by conference call

**Commissioner Murphy**

* Attended the Westminster Legislative Breakfast
* Will be attending the MLS meeting

**Commissioner Caro**

* Attended meeting at Perkins School

Commissioner Caro spoke of the wonderful program at Perkins called Book Buddies. It is a great program where sighted people read all the offerings that Perkins has over the phone to people who don’t read Braille.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Murphy moved and Commissioner Shesko seconded to adjourn the March 1, 2018 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:45 PM.



Mary Kronholm

Secretary