MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : June 6, 2019

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Stoughton Public Library

 Stoughton, Massachusetts

Present : Roland A. Ochsenbein, Chairman; Mary Ann Cluggish, Vice Chairman; Mary Kronholm, Secretary; Deb Abraham; Les Ball; Philip Madell, Esq.; Gina Perille; N. Janeen Resnick; Alice M. Welch

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Andrea Bunker, Library Building Specialist; Kate Butler, Electronic Systems Specialist; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget; Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Matthew Perry, Outreach Coordinator; Shelley Quezada, Consultant to the Unserved; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/Government Liaison; Lauren Stara, Library Building Consultant

**Observers Present:**

Pat Basler, Director, Stoughton Public Library; Stacy DeBole, Newly Appointed Commissioner, Swampscott; Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library (BPL); Vicki Kaufman, Trustee, Weymouth Public Libraries; Rob MacLean, Director, Weymouth Public Libraries; Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

**Call to Order**

Chairman Ochsenbein called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

**Approval of Minutes: May 2, 2019**

* Page 12, Line 31- Spoke at and read MBLC proclamation

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the minutes for the monthly business meeting on May 2, 2019 with minor corrections.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Ochsenbein presented the following report:

We are delighted to be meeting today at the newly renovated and expanded (opened December, 2018) Stoughton Public Library, a facility that was funded in part by a $6.785 million construction grant awarded through the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program. This is a wonderful example of a large town library that is walk-able from neighborhoods. Clean and bright and modern, it is a terrific facility!

My activities during May included attending the MLA Annual Conference on May 20 and 22. I participated on a panel (Meet Your Legislative Committee and Library Caucus) that was organized by Jennifer Harris and Greg Pronevitz. In addition to me, the panel included State Representatives Joan Meschino (Hull), Kathleen La Natra (Kingston) and Library Caucus Co-Chair Brian Murray (Milford). It was a lightly attended session but a good one, and we thank the State Reps for attending and for their ongoing support. I attended several other sessions during the two days, including the early morning business meeting on Wednesday at which Director Lonergan delivered the customary “State of the State” address regarding libraries in Massachusetts. I also participated in the Executive Board conference call on May 25.

As you will hear, we are in good standing overall, so far, with the FY 2020 Legislative Agenda budget request. The Senate funded 6 of 7 budget lines at the requested amount. The Conference Committee began work this week and we await that outcome. Even if the Conference Committee arrives at the lower of the House and Senate numbers, we will still have, overall, a significantly successful budget year. The exception is the line for the Center for the Book, which continues to see uncertain outcomes out of the budget process. We are hopeful that MCB will emerge from Conference with at least level funding. There are many success factors at play here, but certainly one of them is the increased focus on advocacy across the library community, the good work of Mary Rose, James, and the Communications team, and the increased engagement of the Commissioners. I get the sense that between the Agency leadership and the Commissioners there is a sense of confidence and trust in what we do, how we do it, and when we ask for something it really is needed and for the common good. Also, I can’t say enough positive things about our first-year Library Caucus co-chairs, Representatives Higgins and Murray and Senator Eric Lesser. So stay tuned.

We may not be as successful with our construction bond request, but I am hopeful that it will work out in the end. As was reported last month, it appears that $100 million may be what we can expect to be incorporated for the construction program in the omnibus bond bill. This is significantly less than the request, but enough to address the bulk of (and possibly all of) the current wait list, and to fund a new planning and design round. This means that next year we will be back with an effort to gain funding for a new construction grant round as a separate campaign. Also, the request to raise the annual cap is unlikely to be approved at this time, it appears, so we will be reconsidering that request as well. The construction team will be meeting in the coming weeks to assess the implications and plot a way forward.

Due to my annual musical pilgrimage to New Orleans during the last week of June, I am sad that I will be unable to attend the grand opening of the renovated/expanded Leicester Public Library on June 23, but I’m delighted that Commissioner Ball will speak and represent the Board. Congratulations in advance to Leicester! And I am very sad that I will also be unable to attend the kickoff the Summer Reading Program on June 27 at the Woburn Public Library, with our partners the Boston Bruins. Commissioner Cluggish will represent us and will delight the children I’m sure!

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities since the last Board meeting:

* May 7—State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL) meeting
* May 9—Public Library Association Project Outcome webinar
* May 9—American Library Association Virtual Membership meeting
* May 13—MLS Executive Board meeting, Marlborough
* May 15—MBLC/MLS Joint Consultants meeting, Marlborough
* May 20 and 22—MLA Annual Conference, Framingham--presented as part of panel titled “Advocacy for Access and Equity to Massachusetts School Libraries” and gave “State of the State” presentation at MLA Business meeting
* May 23—Attended the Massachusetts Center for the Book’s “Letters about Literature” event at the State Library
* May 29—Attended Perkins Library Consumer Advisory Board meeting at MBLC office
* May 31—Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) School Library Working Group online meeting
* June 1—Presented MBLC proclamation to Nahant Public Library in recognition of their 200th anniversary

Excellent news on the **MBLC FY2020 budget**, with one exception. Senate Ways and Means and the full Senate funded six of our seven lines at the FY2020 Legislative Agenda request amount (or above for State Aid to Public Libraries, which includes a $20,000 earmark). Funding for the Center for the Book was not included in their budgets. Senator Barrett filed an amendment to fund the Center for the Book at $300,000 for FY2020, but withdrew the amendment. A six-member Conference Committee began deliberations this week. The Conference Committee includes the Chair, Vice Chair, and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Ways and Means Committees. They are: Sens. Michael Rodrigues, Cindy Friedman, and [Viriato M. deMacedo](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/VMD0), and Reps. [Aaron Michlewitz](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AMM1), [Denise C. Garlick](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/DCG1), and Todd M. Smola, respectively.

We are a month out from the start of the **Annual Report Information Survey** (ARIS). Ann Downey has been working with technical staff at our statistics vendor Baker & Taylor (B&T), converting our data to correspond to the B&T Collect system in order to migrate our data collection services from Counting Opinions in time for the survey start on July 1. Liz Babbitt has reviewed and updated the forms and the survey questions and definitions and is working with Ann to insure that the data and the forms align. Uechi Ng has been getting the ARIS documents ready for distribution later this month.

B&T conducted an initial online overview session to give webinar attendees an opportunity to see the elements of the survey and the navigation tools provided. The webinar was held on May 23 and participants included several members of the MBLC staff and library directors and others involved in completing the survey. Liz conducted the first ARIS workshop online on May 30 using the new B&T Collect system. Two in-person ARIS workshops were held in Shrewsbury and Northampton on June 3 and 5, respectively. Four other workshops are planned over the next two weeks: in Lakeville on June 10, Athol on June 12, Merrimac on June 17, and Brewster on June 18. An additional online workshop has been scheduled for July 8, after the ARIS report is officially opened on July 1. The deadline for completing the ARIS survey is August 16. ARIS is a requirement for participation in the State Aid to Public Libraries Program.

A **Small Libraries in Networks (SLIN)** grant review committee has been working since April 1, 2019. The 12 members include representation from five of the six networks that receive grant awards: CLAMS, C/W MARS, Minuteman, MVLC, and SAILS. OCLN, with two libraries, declined to participate. Commissioner Resnick, who participated both in the original Small Libraries support efforts while at the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS), and in the 2013 review committee, represents the Board. Paul Kissman, the program manager, represents the MBLC and chairs the group.

SLIN grants are made to networks from account 7000-9506, Library Technology and Resource Sharing. The networks use the funding to directly offset the membership costs of participants based on detailed award amounts to each member library in communities under 10,000. In FY19, 156 libraries received SLIN membership offsets through their networks.

The committee is reviewing:

1. **Eligibility** for support under the SLIN program that addresses where the program cutoff should be for municipal population and how multiple independent libraries within the same municipality are treated.
2. **Funding** **Level** - the amount of funding needed to adequately support small libraries public library membership so that public libraries that are not currently members of a network can afford to join, and current members do not fall out of a network during challenging fiscal times.
3. **Award Formula Components** -the components of a revised formula that would recognize level of municipal need based on a municipal hardship and the relative cost of network membership in different parts of the Commonwealth.

The committee expects to meet twice more over the summer, with a report coming to the Board in the fall of 2019. New program rules would go into effect for the FY21 grant round.

**FY2020 eContent grants**: With the anticipated increase in account 7000-9506, we will be creating a new grant opportunity for networks to provide additional funding for eBook and audio titles that can be shared statewide. We have budgeted approximately $200,000 for this grant. By comparison, in FY18, networks spent over $1.7 million on eBooks and audio content (this does not include titles that individual libraries licensed on their own). This grant will directly address one of the two priorities called out in the FY2020 legislative agenda for account 7000-9506: “to increase digital collections offered to patrons including eBooks, audio books, and streaming audio and music”.

Currently, we believe that the only viable platform for this new content is the Library eBooks and AudioBooks (LEA) sharing on OverDrive.  We expect to present a fact sheet governing the grant round, with proposed program rules and a distribution formula, in September/October.

**MPLCP:**

1. The Greenfield City Council was presented with a citizen’s petition asking them to rescind the library construction funding approval. The petition was ratified and the City Council has chosen not to hold a special election to decide the matter. It will be on their regular November ballot. We already have a contract with the city, signed by the Mayor, but we will not disburse any payments until after the vote in November.
2. At their Town Meeting on May 6, the citizens of Littleton approved $1m to move forward on design work in anticipation of a provisional grant in July. They will approve the balance of funding after they receive their provisional grant. We met with them for a design review on May 28, and they are finishing up schematic design.
3. Also on May 6, the town of Sharon approved funding for their construction project with 82% of the Town Meeting vote, in anticipation of a provisional grant in July. On May 21, they passed a debt exclusion vote with 71% of the ballot vote. They will be able to sign a contract as soon as the provisional grant is awarded.
4. The grand opening of the Leicester Public Library will be held on June 23rd. The $8.9 million project to renovate and expand Leicester’s Library started with planning in 2004, and Leicester was placed on the waiting list for a construction grant in 2011.  Two years of construction has doubled the amount of space for programming and materials, made the historic 1895 building completely handicapped accessible, and will provide much needed parking and infrastructure/technology upgrades.  Commissioner Ball will speak at the opening.

We are now working with Sasaki on two different aspects of **Ecosystem Study** follow-up:

1. Completion of the study
	1. Sasaki staff will clean up and fix a few data issues
	2. They will work with Kate and Paul to adapt the data analysis and visualization for use with Tableau, a tool that we can use to upload future datasets for year-to-year comparison
2. Planning Framework Tool
	1. Sasaki staff will work with the library building specialists to develop a tool to help libraries with their future facilities planning. This was included in the original scope of work, but was not completed due to the shift in focus to analysis of nonresident borrowing. The tool is conceived as something that will enable libraries to easily envision what physical spaces are required to provide the services identified as needed in their community. The reach of this tool will start with Massachusetts, but our goal is to develop something that will be universal in scope.

Our **Trustee Orientation** spring schedule finished up on May 16 in Lenox. During April and May we held 5 orientations (Charlton, Rowley, Woburn, Wareham, Lenox) with a total of 82 attendees. Rob and Maura led the orientations, and Liz presented a section on state aid at each orientation.

The **State Advisory Council on Libraries** (SACL) met to review LSTA grant applications for the FY2020 grant round on May 7th. Commissioner Perille participated as the new SACL liaison. This year, three teams of SACL members led by MBLC consultants reviewed and approved 26 grant applications totaling $320,000 in grant funds.

A **joint MBLC/MLS Consultants Meeting** was held at the MLS office in Marlborough on May 15. In the meeting, sub-groups gave updates on collaborative efforts in the following areas: small libraries, partnerships, assessment, and web tools. The second half of the meeting was spent discussing possible collaborative outreach to new (and not so new) library directors.

At the **MLA Conference** in Framingham, LAD staff participated in the following conference sessions:

* Maura moderated a panel on fine elimination, and lead a discussion on challenging trustee issues around succession planning, micromanagement, and roles and responsibilities.
* Shelley moderated a panel highlighting successful LSTA Civic Hub grant programs.

Shelley is working with Michele Eberle (MLS) and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine/New England Region planning a symposium on the **library response to the opioid epidemic** to be held on November 15 at Devens. The keynote speaker will be Felice Freyer, a Boston Globe reporter who has been covering the epidemic. The event will also have a library panel and a debate-style discussion led by Keith West from the Boston Latin School.

Evan co-hosted with Anna Popp (MLS) an open house at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester on May 9. Participants toured AAS’s recently renovated collaborative learning space and the stacks. The event was sold out and received very positive feedback. The next scheduled visit is on June 7 at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. These events have been a great collaborative effort with the MLS.

The communications team is pleased to announce that the Boston Bruins will hold a **Summer Reading Kickoff** at the Woburn Public Library with nine prospect Bruins players on June 27. Players who have previously participated in the Summer Library Kickoff include Jake DeBrusk, Brandon Carlo, Noel Accari, Shawn Kuraly, Danton Heinen, and Karson Kuhlman—all are current Bruins players. Throughout June, July, and August, Boston Bruins mascot Blades will be making special visits to libraries in Lawrence, Bourne, Princeton, Millbury, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Pittsfield, Sheffield, Melrose, Martha’s Vineyard, Marshfield, and Braintree. First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker will be attending the Melrose visit. Legislators are invited to all Bruins summer events.

Celeste and Rachel participated in the Stanley Cup rally and viewing party at City Hall Plaza on Memorial Day. The Bruins provided a double booth and they promoted the summer library program, giving out nearly 3,000 Bruins READ posters and 24/7 library portal cards in just two and half hours.

Staff is also assisting the Bruins with the New Hampshire summer partnership (the MBLC helped the Bruins expand the summer partnership to NH in 2016) and staff recently reached out to Rhode Island to gauge the possibility of extending the partnership there as well. MBLC shares all of the summer materials it creates including Bruins posters, Bruins recommended read lists, Bruins outstanding reader certificates, and hockey masks as well as the outline for how to conduct a Blades visits.

Ads promoting summer reading began on June 1st. Communications staff worked with Buyer Advertising to create the summer media plan which includes digital banner ads, digital video, digital radio, and social media. Ads lead users to the consumer portal where staff has worked with Paul Kissman and Kate Butler to develop a summer reading page to replace READsinMA.org which is no longer in use due to the end of the single statewide online program.

The communications team also signed the MBLC up for a booth at the MLA conference for the first time in many years. They created new materials for the booth including a series of LSTA fact sheets, an updated State Aid Guide and a MAR Waiver Plan flyer. The team used the conference as an opportunity to support one of the goals in the MBLC strategic plan: clarifying roles of the MBLC and MLS. They created a game: *Is it the MBLC or MLS or Both?* People randomly drew a service and if they answered correctly about which agency provided it, they were entered into the Bruins drawing. Cassie Abou-Farah from the Lawrence Public Library won the team-signed Bruins hockey stick. Everyone who stopped at the booth received the newly-created “MBLC at a Glance” which lists services and the MBLC staff who provide them.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

The Senate completed its FY 2020 budget votes on May 23, just prior to Memorial Day. The final [Senate Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/SenateBudget) for the MBLC budget lines followed the recommendations from the Senate Ways and Means proposal, with one small exception. The Senate added a $20,000 earmark for a local project in West Newbury. As with the Senate Ways and Means proposal, the final Senate budget does not include funding for the Massachusetts Center for the Book. However, six of the seven library budget lines in the Senate budget received the full amount requested in the MBLC Legislative Agenda for FY 2020.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **House Members** |  |  | **Senate Members** |  |  |
| Aaron Michlewitz, Chair |  |  | Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair |  |  |
| Denise C. Garlick, Vice Chair |  |  | Cindy F. Friedman, Vice Chair |  |  |
| Todd M. Smola (Ranking Minority) | Viriato M. deMacedo (Ranking Minority) |

A Conference Committee has been established which includes The Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees. They began their work at the end of May. The Conference Committee is charged with ironing out the differences between the House and Senate FY 2020 budget versions. The members are:

The House provides higher funding levels for the MBLC Agency line (7000-9101) and the Center for the Book (7000-9508). The Senate budget offers higher funding for the Regional line (7000-9401) which funds the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) and the Library for the Commonwealth at the Boston Public Library (LFC at BPL), and for the State Aid to Public Libraries Program (7000-9501). The House and Senate fund Perkins and the Worcester Talking Book Libraries (7000-9406 and 7000-9402) and the Technology and Resource Sharing (7000-9506) at the same level. These three lines will not be deliberated in Conference. The budget figures highlighted in yellow represent the higher budget number approved by either the House or the Senate.

The Conference Committee Report is presented to the House and Senate for separate up or down votes. The Committee’s report cannot be amended. The Conference Committee will hopefully wrap up its work early enough in June to have a budget on the Governor’s desk prior to the new budget year which starts July 1. The Governor will sign the budget and will either accept the budget as voted by the House and Senate or veto lines, sections, or the budget as a whole. If any part of the budget is vetoed, the House and Senate, in separate votes, can override the vetoes with a vote of two-thirds of their membership.

The following chart provides the figures for all MBLC budget lines as approved by the Governor, the House, and the Senate.



The Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) Legislative Committee hosted a program at the MLA Annual Conference in Framingham entitled, *Meet Your Legislative Committee and Library Caucus.* Commission Chairman Roland Ochsenbein was joined on the panel by Legislative Library Caucus members Representative Brian Murray 10th Worcester District, Caucus Co-Chair, Representative Joan Meschino, 3rd Plymouth District, and Representative Kathy LaNatra, 12th Plymouth District to discuss the work of the Legislature and the Caucus and how personal stories from advocates shape the budget process. MLA Legislative Committee members Greg Pronevitz and Jennifer Harris contributed to the panel discussion.

Revenue collections for May totaled $2.002 billion, which is $8 million or 0.4% below the revised monthly benchmark, and $60 million or 3.1% more than the actual collections in May 2018. For the fiscal year-to-date through May, revenue collections totaled $26.511 billion, $952 million or 3.7% more than the year-to-date benchmark, and $1.873 billion or 7.6% more than the same fiscal year-to-date period in 2018.

The original benchmark for fiscal year 2019 was $28.392 billion. On December 31, 2018, as part of the fiscal year 2020 Consensus Revenue process, the fiscal year 2019 figure was adjusted to $28.592 billion. The increased revenue is a hopeful sign for the budget process going forward.

**Consideration of a FY2020 Grant Round for 7000-9506, Library Technology and Resource Sharing, including Telecommunications for Resource Sharing, Resource Sharing Program, Network Infrastructure, and Small Libraries in Networks**

Paul Kissman presented the four FY2020 Telecommunications, Resource Sharing, Network Infrastructure, and Small Libraries in Networks Grants.

**Telecommunications for Resource Sharing** provides offsets to the ongoing costs that networks bear for providing broadband connectivity, dedicated data lines and shared Internet service to their members. Telecommunications for Resource Sharing also provides ongoing support for the cost of Internet service for smaller libraries that are not part of a network.

The **Resource Sharing Program** grant recognizes that libraries in networks are contributing to the overall universe of materials available to all residents of Massachusetts, by showing their holdings in network bibliographic databases, and by facilitating interlibrary lending using network technology.

In FY20, the Resource Sharing grant will offset the annual platform fees for those networks participating in the LEA (Library eBooks and AudioBooks) sharing effort, to be funded through LSTA (7000-9702).

The **Network Infrastructure** grant provides funding to each network based on the network’s size in number of outlets. These funds allow the network to accomplish large equipment replacement projects and related system costs on its own timeline.

The **Small Libraries in Networks** (SLIN) grant encompasses all previous versions of Small Libraries support: the original 2002/2003 libraries, the state expansion grant begun in 2007, and the pre-existing small library members brought into the program in FY15. With these funds, networks directly offset annual membership costs for small public libraries.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Welch seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the four FY 2020 grant opportunities, funded out of account 7000-9506, for a total of $2,441,425 as described in the accompanying fact sheets: Telecommunications for Resource Sharing ($500,000), Resource Sharing Program ($1,350,000), Network Infrastructure ($250,000), Small Libraries in Networks ($341,425). The Board authorizes any additional FY2020 7000-9506 disbursements that may be possible toward the end of the grant cycle.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of re-appointment to the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL)**

Rob Favini presented the re-appointed to the State Advisory Council on Libraries.

The Statewide Advisory Council on Libraries has one opening for SACL representatives representing Institutional Libraries. The LSTA staff is pleased to present the following candidate for your consideration:

Reappointment:

Nancy Hughes, MCI Cedar Junction, Walpole representing Institutional Libraries

Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners reappoints Nancy Hughes, MCI Cedar Junction, Walpole to a second term on SACL starting October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2022.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of appointments and re-appointments to the PR Committee**

Celeste Bruno presented the appointments and re-appoint to the PR Committee.

Several members of the Public Relations (PR) Advisory Committee have terms that expire in June. The following members wish to be reappointed to serve another two-year term: Pat McLeod, Director of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library in Williamstown; Ellen MJ Keene, Head of Access and Technical Services at the University of Massachusetts Lowell Libraries; Jennifer Del Cegno, Member Service Assistant at Minuteman Library Network; Laurie Lessner, Assistant Director for Technology Services at SAILS, Inc.; Patrick Marshall, Director at Jonathan Bourne Public Library; Nancy Sheehan, Head of Youth Services at Lucius Beebe Memorial Library in Wakefield; and Jocelyn Tavares, Director of Dighton Public Library.

Anna Popp, Advisor at Massachusetts Library System (MLS), has decided not to continue on the Committee after more than a decade of service. Tressa Santillo, Electronic Resources Coordinator at MLS, would like to be appointed as the MLS representative. Linda Stetson, Director of the Morse Library in Natick, has retired. Jessica Vilas Novas, Director at Lawrence Public Library, would like to be appointed to fill the space left by Linda.

Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Ball seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners reappoints Pat McLeod, Director of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library in Williamstown; Ellen MJ Keene, Head of Access and Technical Services at the University of Massachusetts Lowell Libraries; Jennifer Del Cegno, Member Service Assistant at Minuteman Library Network; Laurie Lessner, Assistant Director for Technology Services at SAILS, Inc.; Patrick Marshall, Director at Jonathan Bourne Public Library; Nancy Sheehan, Head of Youth Services at Lucius Beebe Memorial Library; and Jocelyn Tavares, Director of Dighton Public Library to the PR Advisory Committee for two-year terms ending in 2021; and appoints Tressa Santillo, Electronic Resources Coordinator at the Massachusetts Library System and Jessica Vilas Novas, Director at Lawrence Public Library to the PR Advisory Committee for two-year terms ending in 2021.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Report from the Massachusetts Library System**

Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director presented the following report:

Over the past few months, I have promised you news on some changes happening here at MLS, and I have some exciting and bittersweet updates to share this month.

MLS Marlborough Office News

MLS has a new space for our Marlborough office! We’ve signed a lease for space at 33 Boston Post Rd. Our space is located on the 4th floor of a building that is located right on Rt 20 West, minutes away from 495. It also houses a cafe and plenty of free parking. We’re working with space designers now and hope to complete our move later this summer. I look forward to welcoming you all to our new space soon! I’ll post details about dates as soon as we have them.

MLS Staff News

MLS Resource Sharing Director Stephen Spohn will be moving on from MLS to a position as Executive Director of the Ocean State Libraries in RI. His last day with MLS will be June 14.

Here’s a message from Steve:

What an adventure the past years at Massachusetts Library System have been! I’ve enjoyed working with amazing staff and engaged members and have been lucky to be involved in many exciting initiatives. Thank you to everyone who played a part in our efforts!

 It was a difficult decision, but it’s time for me to move on. I’ve accepted a position at Ocean State Libraries and will soon join their talented team in service of Rhode Island libraries. Best wishes to you all.

 -Steve

Please join me in wishing Steve well on his next adventure. We’ll miss you, Steve!

MLS Budget News

The Senate completed its FY 2020 budget votes on May 23, just prior to Memorial Day. The finalSenate Budget for the MBLC budget lines followed the recommendations from the Senate Ways and Means proposal with one small exception. The Senate added a $20,000 earmark for a local project in West Newbury. As with the Senate Ways and Means proposal, the final Senate budget does not include funding for the Massachusetts Center for the Book. Six of the seven library budget lines in the Senate budget received the full amount requested in the MBLC Legislative Agenda for FY 2020.

We’re very pleased to see that the final Senate Budget met the Legislative Ask for the line that funds MLS and Library for the Commonwealth services at $11,516,000. The budget is now in conference session and details on that step will be posted as soon as it is completed. Thanks to all of you for your consistent advocacy work! You can follow the budget process timeline at: https://malegislature.gov/Budget

Membership News

Kim Charlson, Executive Director of Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library was honored by the Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA, a division of ALA) with the Francis Joseph Campbell Award. Ms. Charlson is being honored for her strong commitment to inclusion and empowerment, her tireless efforts on the passage of the Marrakesh Treaty for the Visually Impaired, and her life-long passion for bringing the joy of reading to all.

ASGCLA will be hosting the Achievement Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 8:30-10:00am at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington DC. Congratulations, Kim!

A Note of Sympathy

School Librarian Judi Paradis passed away in April. Judi was an incredible advocate and teacher to students at the Plympton Elementary School in Waltham, where she worked for the past 16 years. She dedicated her time and energies to elevating the critical role school librarians play in education by serving in various positions with the MA School Library Association, and was honored with the Peggy Hallisey Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. We send our thoughts and condolences to Judi’s family, colleagues, and students.

**Report from the Library for the Commonwealth**

Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library presented the following report:

* On Friday, May 24, the Central Library hosted its first Community Health Fair in the Johnson Building. Twenty-four local organizations exhibited at the event to help connect patrons to a variety of public health resources and services in areas of women's health, LGBTQ+ health, mental health, food access, and substance abuse. Many patrons enjoyed visiting the exhibitors ans some also participated in a free yoga class or attended a Consumer Health Resource workshop.
* On May 29th, BPL announced the launch of the new Fund for the Boston Public Library. Funds raised will go to help Programming and Staffing needs. Mary Meyers is the new Fund’s inaugural Executive Director. More info can be found at: http://www.supportbpl.org/
* MLA Conference:
	+ Library for the Commonwealth had a booth at the MLA conference in May. We had a lot of good conversations and answered questions about how we can help support librarians and their patrons. Jake Sadow who works on Digital Commonwealth projects was also on hand to answer questions specific to that program arm of LFC.
	+ Jake Sadow, Statewide Digitization Assistant; Gianna Gifford, Chief of Adult Library Services; and Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, presented at MLA on Tuesday afternoon. Our presentation titled, *Library for the Commonwealth: What Can BPL Do for You?* was attended by roughly 80 participants.

**Standing Committee and Liaison Reports**

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

**Commissioner Kronholm**

* Attended Trustee orientation in Lenox
* Attended MLA on the May 21
* May 22 stopped in Monterey and spoke at length with the construction supervisor. Library to open July 27
* Presented MBLC with a book of *Public Libraries in Western Massachusetts: A Photographic Essay* by Carlos Heiligmann
* Participated in Executive Committee call

**Commissioner Perille**

* Attended SACL meeting as the new liaison

**Commissioner Abraham**

* Attended MLA on May 22

**Commissioner Ball**

* On April 27 attended trustee workshop on foundations.
* Preparing for Scituate’s gala

**Commissioner Cluggish**

* Participated in Executive Committee call
* Attended MLA
* Attended fundraiser for Maura Healey for Attorney General

**Commissioner Resnick**

* Attended Trustee orientation in Lenox
* Attended MLA

**Commissioner Madell**

* Attended MLA

**Commissioner Welch**

* Attended MLA on Monday and Tuesday
* Resigns as President of Friends Group

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Resnick seconded to adjourn the June 6, 2019 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:10 PM.



Mary Kronholm

Secretary