MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : November 1, 2018

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Reading Public Library

 Reading, Massachusetts

Present : Roland A. Ochsenbein, Chairman; Mary Ann Cluggish, Vice Chairman; Mary Kronholm, Secretary; Deb Abraham; Les Ball; N. Janeen Resnick; Gregory J. Shesko; Alice M. Welch

Absent : George T. Comeau, Esq.

**Staff Present:**

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

**Observers Present:**

Ed Berlin, Trustee, Greenfield Public Library; Ellen Boyer, Director, Greenfield Public Library

Ed Boylan, Trustee, Hingham Public Library; Doris Cowdrey, Trustee Chair, Greenfield Public Library; Anna Fahey Flynn, Central Library Manager, Boston Public Library (BPL); Ron Gagnon, Executive Director, North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE); Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library (BPL) ; Lucy Hancock, Trustee, Hingham Public Library; Linda Harper, Director, Hingham Public Library; Krista McLeod, Director, Nevins Memorial Library, Methuen, Board Member, Massachusetts Center for the Book; David Mehegan, Trustee, Hingham Public Library; Priscilla Porter, Friends of the Wareham Free Library; Steve Rogers, Author, Wareham Free Library; Sarah Sogigian, Interim Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Minutes: October 4, 2018**

* Page 35, line 6- strike entire bullet

Commissioner Kronholm moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the minutes for the monthly business meeting on October 4, 2018 as amended.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Ochsenbein presented the following report:

Activities since last Board Meeting:

Boston Book Fair

I helped out at the joint BPL/MBLC booth at the Boston Book Fair on October 13. Always fun, this year was different in that we shared a small booth with the Boston Public Library. Attendance at the outdoor venues of the fair was down due to the weather. Nonetheless, it was gratifying to hear so many “I love my library” stories from those who did stop by. I’m always pleased to see so many children at this event and this year was no different in that respect. For those adults who listened to our pitch on library funding, the focus clearly resonated.

East Forest Park Branch groundbreaking

On a rainy Monday morning, October 15, I represented the Board --along with Lauren Stara and Matt Perry--and spoke at the groundbreaking for the new East Forest Park Branch of the Springfield City Library System. The neighborhood of East Forest Park made national news in 2011 when it was devastated by a tornado that killed 3, injured 300, and left 500 homeless. The new branch library represents one of the final keystone components of the rebuilding and resurgence of this vibrant neighborhood. And such a heartwarming outpouring of support for the project at the ceremony! State Representatives Angelo Puppolo and Bud Williams were in attendance, as was Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno. Senator Eric Lessor, Senate Chair of the Library Caucus, was also in attendance and I had an opportunity to speak with him at the ceremony. He seems truly excited to be the Chair of the Caucus and I look forward to working with him over the coming months in support of budget line item requests. This is a $9.5 million project, supported by a $4.9 million construction grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Scheduled to open December, 2019.

Monterey Public Library groundbreaking

Ground was also broken this month for the renovation/expansion of the Monterey Public Library. This is a $3.1 million project, with $1.855 million coming from a construction grant. Library Building Specialist Lauren Stara attended and spoke on behalf of the Board. The Berkshire Eagle says this is the largest construction project ever undertaken in Monterey, MA, population 936. Even Massachusetts’ smallest towns can transform their libraries and transform lives and communities. State’s smallest library?—Cuttyhunk, serving Gosnold, MA, year round permanent population of about 80.

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ALA President Visit—Cambridge Public Library

I attended, along with Director James Lonergan, the visit by American Library Association president Loida Garcia-Febo, at the Cambridge Public Library on October 18. This was a stop on a six-city nationwide tour that will culminate in Washington D.C. at the ALA Annual meeting in June. Meant to bring visibility to the value of libraries as community hubs, the tour’s theme is Libraries Equal Strong Communities. Director Lonergan was one of several speakers that addressed the enthusiastic crowd. I sat next to Ms. Garcia-Febo at lunch (along with Director Lonergan and former commissioner Em Claire Knowles). We are so fortunate in Massachusetts to have such excellent public libraries and support services, and to have so many good things to talk about.

MLS Executive Board Meeting

I attended the Massachusetts Library System’s Executive Board Meeting in Northampton, MA on October 22. Highlights included:

1. a substantive discussion of how to improve services and responses to small libraries. Sarah Sogigian will summarize the discussion during her MLS update later in this meeting.
2. a demonstration of the some of the functionality of a data visualization app called Tableau that MLS is using (and MBLC also). It was a way to visually show the value of MLS services delivered by library, by town, by State Representative, by Senator. Very useful as a potential advocacy tool.

New Commissioner Orientation

On October 24, I attended a new commissioner orientation at the MBLC offices. The Director/Management and staff have an outstanding orientation presentation and package. And this brings me to best part of my remarks, which is to welcome a new member of the Board of Library Commissioners, Commissioner Leslie Ball, of Scituate. Commissioner Ball has been very active with the Scituate Town Library. He has been president of the Scituate Library Foundation, and co-chaired the campaign that successfully raised nearly $2 million toward the funding of the new Scituate Town Library. We held our September Board meeting in that library and it is indeed fabulous! Commissioner Ball is a distinguished academic and business consultant. Welcome Commissioner Ball! [Commissioner Ball introduced himself to the Board and attendees.]

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities since the last Board meeting:

* October 11—Massachusetts Center for the Book Annual Meeting (Virtual)
* October 12—MLA Executive Board Meeting, Shrewsbury Public Library
* October 16—MVLC Executive Board Meeting, North Andover
* October 17—Joint MBLC/MLS Consultants Meeting, MLS Northampton Office
* October 18—Presented as part of ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo’s Libraries=Strong Communities Tour at Cambridge Public Library
* October 19— Meeting with Sarah Felton, DCAMM program manager
* October 21 & 22—Presented as part of the “State of the States” and attended MBLC staff sessions at New England Library Association (NELA) Conference, Warwick, RI
* October 22—MLS Executive Board Executive Session (by phone)
* October 24—Orientation for Commissioner Ball, MBLC Office
* October 25—COSLA Member Update

I am serving on two Chief Officers of State Library Agency (COSLA) groups: The $1 Per Capita Working Group and the School Libraries Working Group. The $1 Per Capita Group is leading COSLA's work on defining and carrying out a campaign to promote increasing funding for the Grants to States portion of IMLS’s Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding to $325 million, or roughly "$1 per capita." I’ve included an FAQ we have developed at the end of my report. The mission of the School Libraries Working Group is to determine if COSLA should support school library issues and how, including possibly being a voice for school libraries in national groups or associations such as the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), the Council of State School Library Consultants (CoSSLC), etc.

Comptroller’s Office of Statewide Risk Management Review: The SRM Team conducts reviews of each department’s internal controls, as well as its business and fiscal transactions.  Components of this review include ongoing monitoring, preparation work, desk review and/or site visits, evaluation and follow-up through the resolution of any identified issues. This particular visit was an Encumbrance and Payroll Authorizations Review. They did a review of contracts and Payroll Expenditure Authorization Forms. Their overall statement was that the items they reviewed were much improved over the last review, which occurred approximately six years ago. They indicated that we complied with Comptroller policies and procedures with regard to the documentation requested (contract forms and encumbrance amounts), and that the Payroll forms were accurate and complete.

MBLC managers and consultants participated in a joint MLS/MBLC consultants meeting at the MLS Northampton office on October 17. The day-long session brought together a total of 18 staff members from both organizations to discuss organizational roles and services, and how best to facilitate future collaboration and communication.

State Aid, Data & Construction Unit:

* The State Aid Unit is in the process of reviewing the Financial and the Application and Compliance forms for the State Aid program this year.
* State Aid is also reviewing the submissions from respondents to the Data Collection System RFR. The MBLC has been using Counting Opinions for more than 15 years. Vendors will have an opportunity to do presentations online mid-November.
* Matt Perry and Mary Rose Quinn attended the WMLA Annual Meeting. The Keynote speaker for the event was Libby Post who did a presentation on advocacy.
* Mary Rose staffed our booth at the Boston Book Festival. The Boston Public Library shared their booth with the MBLC.
* Lauren Stara, Lan Ying Ip and Cindy Roach presented a session titled: “Analyzing the Future: Using Data Visualization to Create a Visionary Framework for Massachusetts Libraries” at the NELA Conference on October 22.

Library Advisory and Development:

* We hosted the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL) Fall meeting at MBLC office on October 18. Highlights included:
	+ Introduction of new SACL members: Cheryl Marks, Jill Mercurio and Kathryn Geoffrion Scannell
	+ Elected 2019 officers: Anne Gancarz – Chair, Kim Cochrane – Vice Chair
	+ Reviewed grant program, budget process and grant application process
* Rob Favini and Maura Deedy participated in the annual “Friends Sharing with Friends” event at Shrewsbury Public Library on Saturday, October 20. 75 Friends attended. Commissioner Comeau presented on his work at the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District, including a little free library project. His talk was well-received and inspiring, as it related to making libraries a welcoming space for all. In the Friends Sharing with Friends event, libraries shared what unique fundraising events they have been involved in, challenges with book sales, and more.
* Maura facilitated a round table conversation titled “Building Strong Relationships with Trustees” at the New England Library Association (NELA) Conference. The twenty attendees discussed topics including challenges new directors face in establishing relationships with their boards, orienting new trustees, change management, and helping trustees with their activities. The conversation extended beyond the allotted hour.
* Rob, Maura and Liz Babbitt have visited four libraries (Brockton, Waltham, Chatham and Sunderland) to deliver Trustee Orientations to 120 trustees around the state. Trustees have appreciated the overview of MBLC, Open Meeting Law and advocacy tips. We have our final one of the season in Ayer on Nov 13 (Commissioner Ochsenbein is scheduled to attend). Trustees range in experience from just elected or appointed to serving for over 48 years. Overall feedback has been positive about the content and presentation. Experienced trustees appreciate the refresher and updated info about library budgets. New trustees find the overview of advocacy helpful.
* Lyndsay Forbes delivered a webinar with April Mazza from MLS to 39 participants describing new Summer Learning grants being offered to help provide small libraries access to awards to help with summer programming. Lyndsay also served as a reviewer for an upcoming MLS workshop on using Canva, a graphic design tool website.
* Shelley Quezada participated in a meeting of an advisory board for Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE)’s Family Engagement initiative and as advisory board member for a meeting at the Boston Children’s Museum for their Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)-funded School Readiness through Partnerships Project. She also presented on our Civic Hub grant opportunity at the first in a series of MLS workshops on Civic Engagement.

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Campaign for “One Dollar Per Capita” LSTA Grants to States Program

Frequently Asked Questions

*What is “$1 per capita?”*

$1 per capita is an effort by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) and regional state library groups such as Western Council and the Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast to substantially increase the Grants to States portion of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Funding through the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

*Why $1 per capita?*

One dollar per capita represents a doubling of current funding for the Grants to Statesprogram. The current funding for Grants to States is $164 million. COSLA proposes to increase that funding level to $325 million. Funding for Grants to States has remained essentially flat for more than 20 years despite rising costs to state library agencies and local libraries.

*Would $1 per capita really result in $1 per capita funding in every state?*

Any additional funding would be subject to the formula for allocating LSTA Grants to States funds as specified in the Museum and Library Services Act. The formula is a combination of a base grant and per capita funding. While all states would see substantive increases, the funds would not be distributed on a strict $1 per capita basis.

*How does this campaign relate to the effort to increase the base for LSTA Grants to States funding?*

These are two separate but related efforts. Simultaneous to the push for greater appropriation for LSTA, COSLA and ALA are supporting an effort to include in the reauthorization of the Museum and Library Service Act (MLSA) language to increase the base allocation to states from $680,000 to $1,000,000. This is independent of the effort to increase the total appropriation, however, an increase in the base coupled with an increase in the total appropriation will mean a greater boost for smaller population states than would be the case without the base increase.

*How would the states use these new federal funds?*

COSLA will argue that increased federal investment in libraries will support lifelong learning, early literacy, economic growth, workforce development, services to veterans, community sustainability, and many other programs that grow communities and enrich the lives of persons of all ages.

According to data compiled by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, each year over 1,500 projects funded through the Grants to States program support a wide variety of initiatives, including access to electronic resources, computer instruction, homework centers, summer reading programs, digitization of special collections, access to e-books and adaptive technology, mobile library services, and outreach programs to underserved populations.

*How would these additional funds affect a state’s maintenance-of-effort and match requirements?*

States would still be required to provide a match and maintain effort according to the current formula. States’ Maintenance of Effort (MOE) status would not be adversely affected by additional federal funds, however, the match requirement might create a limitation. If a state did not have sufficient expenditures from state, local, and other non-federal entities to fully match additional federal dollars, that state would not receive the full allocation for which they would be eligible.

*How do we know this is an effective use of federal funds?*

COSLA intends to highlight the numerous studies that have repeatedly proven that investment in libraries yields a significant return on investment in local economies.

The LSTA Grants to States program supports library services in virtually every community and congressional district in the U.S. and by the terms of the grant, 96% of funds must be used to support direct services rather than administrative costs.

Further, the states are held accountable through extensive reporting and evaluation by both state and federal governments. The Library Services and Technology Act requires all state library agencies to submit five-year plans and states must detail how specific projects respond to their state plans. The IMLS and the state library agencies are also partnering in a comprehensive planning and evaluation initiative called “Measuring Success.”

*Has COSLA officially endorsed this effort?*

COSLA members informally affirmed their support for this effort at the October meeting in Bismarck. Official COSLA Board approval is expected in December.

*How can states support the campaign for $1 per capita?*

Resolutions of support from organizations such as state library associations will be very helpful at this time. Also, any expression of support from any local government, non-profit organization, business, or individual, would be very helpful. Build momentum for the effort by speaking to library and community groups and seeking allies and partners in the effort.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

Tax collections for mid-October month to date were $734 million, up $3 million or 0.4% versus the same period in October 2017. Income tax collections totaled $522 million, up $46 million or 9.6%. Sales and Use taxes were $97 million, down $7 million or 7.1%. Corporate and business taxes were $56 million, down $16 million. All other taxes totaled $59 million, down $16 million from the same period last October.

The Governor and the Legislature are looking at the possible budget impact the explosions in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover and the lockout of National Grid workers will have on revenues this Fiscal Year. A recently passed supplemental budget bill closed the books on FY 2018 spending. The bill appropriates a total of $540.35 million, $347 million of that is deficiency spending to cover shortfalls in various accounts. The bill also spends down the state's surplus from fiscal 2018, which ended on July 1. Massachusetts collected an estimated $1.2 billion more in tax revenue than it had expected last fiscal year, leaving an estimated $200 million in funds that were not earmarked for any particular purpose. Nearly $1 billion was set aside in the state "rainy day" fund or held aside to address underfunded accounts. The Legislature established a $10 million reserve fund for Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, the three towns rocked last month by natural gas explosions and fires.

House Speaker Robert DeLeo asked Administration and Finance Secretary, Michael Heffernan about the costs to the State associated with the four-month long lockout of National Grid workers. The cost analysis was based on the 1,235 National Grid workers who filed for unemployment insurance after the June 25 lockout. According to the Department of Unemployment Assistance, those union workers received more than $13.3 million in unemployment benefits through the first week of October. In addition to the lockout's impact on the unemployment insurance trust fund, 100 households representing 340 clients were receiving food stamps in October at a cost of $9,000 a month and 200 families, representing 530 individuals, were enrolled in MassHealth this month at a net cost of $70,000 a month. Another six households with locked out gas workers were signed up for unsubsidized health insurance coverage through the Health Connector, and 28 households were enrolled in subsidized coverage at cost of $4,580 a month.

The budget request for the FY 2020 Legislative Agenda has been endorsed by the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) Legislative Committee. The Committee Co-Chairs will bring their recommendation to the MLA Executive Committee. The Legislative Committee voted two additional items with their endorsement: 1) the Legislative Committee urges the library community to contact their legislatures with a message for statewide funding for libraries and against earmarks, and 2) urges the library community to speak out against zeroing out the Center for the Book funding in Ways and Means Budgets.

The FY 2020 request for $29,329,348 reflects a $2,100,459 or 7.7% increase over the current FY 2019 budget. The budget chart includes the line item budget high figures (and years) and the percentage increase requested for each.



The FY 2020 Agenda also includes a request for $250 million in new Construction Bond funds and a request to increase the bond cap from $20 million to $25 million annually. The increase in the cap will reduce the wait list time by three years to 2025.

In order to support the Bond request and the Bonding Cap initiative:

* Updated the budget process calendar to include construction program details
* Created charts of waited listed libraries with their legislators in the House and Senate
* Created charts of libraries that expressed interest in the next grant round
* Drafting letter to legislators with wait listed libraries in their districts to send with project sheets
* Updating the talking points memo to Commissioners from previous grant round to use when contacting library directors or trustees

The Massachusetts Library Association has undertaken two initiatives in this election year. The first initiative uses the “Engage” site to contact legislators to thank them for their support for the budget funding for last year. The second project focuses on the elections this November. For the last few statewide election cycles, MLA has sent questionnaires to all candidates for statewide and legislative offices regarding MBLC funding for libraries. The cover letter summarizes the purpose of the survey. The first project will be turned into a welcome to the Legislature letter.

MLA will be sending out save the date announcement for MLA/MSLA Legislative Day: Tuesday, March 5. The Committee is reworking the agenda for the day due to changes to space reservation and use policies recently implemented at the State House, specifically related to the Grand Staircase. No more than 4 tables are permitted in the staircase area which has resulted in a rethinking of the showcase.

**Consideration of a request from the Greenfield Public Library for an extension of time to confirm local funding and accept its provisional grant award in the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program**

Ed Berlin, Vice Chair of the Greenfield Public Library presented the following request for extension of time to confirm local funding:

The City of Greenfield, the Greenfield Public Library Board of Trustees, and the Library Building Committee respectfully request an extension of the January 11, 2019 deadline for securing local funding for our MPLCP Construction Grant of $9,378,183.

The Library and its supporters have worked diligently over the past five years to increase community awareness of the need for a new library facility, and to secure private funding to offset the taxpayer cost of that new facility. We have:

* Hired Libby Post, of Communication Services, Inc. (<http://commservices.net/>), who worked with us to create an informational brochure, posters, bookmarks, and lawn signs promoting the library.
* Hired Siena College Research Institute to conduct a random poll of Greenfield taxpayers. Significant findings from the poll include: 75% support building a new library; 73% have library cards; 68% support building a new library even if taxes are increased.
* Formed an Advocacy Committee.
* Conducted a signature campaign for the new library. We now have over 1,000 signatures of Greenfield residents.
* Created the Greenfield Public Library Foundation.
* Initiated a Capital Campaign with the goal of raising $2 million.

During the Planning and Design Grant phase of our project we conducted a deliberate and thorough search for the best site for Greenfield’s new library. We concluded that a 1.92- acre site on Main Street would be the best place for Greenfield’s new library. This lot includes the existing library, a municipal parking lot, and the Greenfield Fire Station. The footprint of the new library requires demolition of the Fire Station. The station has been deemed obsolete by the Fire Department and the City. Included, as part of our grant application, was a letter from Greenfield Mayor William Martin, stating: “As the Mayor of the City of Greenfield I hereby authorize the Board of Trustees of the Greenfield Public Library to utilize the land identified and shown in the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) 2016-2017 construction grant application for the proposed library project. It has been determined that the land will no longer be needed for the Greenfield Fire Department purposes, providing the Board of Trustees shall hold and use the land for the purposes of constructing and operating the new library building. This transfer is contingent on approval of a construction grant in the 2016-2017 grant round and approval of necessary local funding.”

Unfortunately, Mayor Martin’s plan for a new Public Safety Complex (Fire, Police and Dispatch) was rejected by the City Council on September 19. The Council acknowledged the need for a new fire station but wanted to see an alternative plan for a stand-alone fire station as opposed to a Public Safety Complex before they felt comfortable approving the funding for a new library. The Mayor’s Office hopes to have an alternative proposal ready to present to City Council in December. In the meantime, the Mayor plans to submit his Financial Order for funding the new library to the Council in time for the First Reading at a Council meeting in November and a Second Reading in December. Depending on the progress of the plan for the new fire station, we expect that Council will schedule a vote for funding the new library as early as the December meeting, but no later than the March or April meeting.

Since construction of the new library depends on plans to demolish and replace the fire station, we are requesting the longest possible extension of the January 11, 2019 deadline. We are confident that we will be able to garner support for a positive vote for Greenfield’s new library by April 30, 2019.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grants an extension of time to confirm local funding and accept its provisional grant to the City of Greenfield for its library construction project for the Greenfield Public Library to April 30, 2019.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of a request from the Hingham Public Library for an extension of time to confirm local funding and accept its provisional grant award in the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program**

Ed Boylan, Trustee, Hingham Public Library presented the following request for extension of time to confirm local funding:

The Hingham Board of Selectmen are thankful to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for generously awarding a provisional grant to support the Town’s potential library plans. At their meeting of September 11, 2018, the Hingham Board of Selectmen authorized the Chairman to sign a letter in support of the Library Trustees request for an extension of the deadline to secure Town funds for a library project. Our reasons for such a request are enumerated below.

1. It allows time for a capital campaign to begin. Any capital contributions received prior to a Town Meeting vote decreases the necessary request from the Town Meeting.
2. It Provides time to fully vet the project with Town boards and the community. Hingham likes (and does a good job) vetting projects. Particularly with projects receiving state funding, citizens need time and information to understand the conditions that go along with such a Grant. There will be many questions, requests for information, including requests to read the long-range plan and better understand the process. Providing the time that an extension would provide could increase the chances of success at town Meeting.
3. Special Town Meetings are expensive and historically Hingham attempted to avoid them when possible, preferring instead to consider all business, especially funding articles, together at one, annual Town Meeting.

The Hingham Town Clerk has determined that certifying results of both Town Meeting and the necessary ballot vote prior to the April 30th deadline is achievable, and a letter to that effect has been provided to the Library Trustees to be included in the Town’s request for extension.

For the above reasons, the Hingham Board of Selectman respectfully request an extension to April 30, 2019 to secure local funding.

Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Shesko seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grants an extension of time to confirm local funding and accept its provisional grant to the City of Hingham for its library construction project for the Hingham Public Library to April 30, 2019.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of approval of municipalities meeting the requirements for the FY2019 State Aid to Public Libraries based on eligibility established in the FY2019 Municipal Appropriation Requirement and in FY2018 for the minimum standards**

Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist, presented for certification of 112 municipalities meeting the requirements for FY2019 State Aid to Public Libraries program.

Ms. Babbitt reminded the Commissioners that these awards are half payments. The remainder is paid at the end of the grant cycle. The total first half payments for the first group of municipalities is $1,559,545.88.

Commissioner Shesko moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners certifies that the communities presented in agenda item seven have met minimum standards of free public library service and awards each a FY2019 Library Incentive Grant, a FY2019 Municipal Equalization Grant and a FY2019 Nonresident Circulation offset in the indicated amounts, totaling $1,559,545.88, and authorizes any additional FY2019 State Aid to Public Libraries disbursements that may be possible toward the end of the grant cycle.

**The Board voted approval: 4 votes For, 4 Abstentions**

**Commissioner Abraham abstained for Needham.**

**Commissioner Shesko abstained for Needham.**

**Commissioner Cluggish abstained for Wellesley.**

**Commissioner Resnick abstained for South Hadley.**

**Consideration of approval of the FY2020 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Direct Grant Round Program & Budget**

Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development presented the LSTA FY2020 Direct Grant Round:

The State Advisory Committee on Libraries (SACL) met on October 18 and discussed the FY2020 grant round. SACL is extremely pleased to present this grant round that includes 1 new and 1 revised program that are added to the current grant offerings.

New program:

* *Strength in Families: Fostering Family Engagement in the Community*. A grant to encourage libraries to create or build on existing partnerships with community organizations that share a similar mission; including schools (private, public, academic), local museums, early learning systems as well as community agencies that provide family support. A key element in this effort is to elevate the family voice in designing services to those previously underserved in their communities

Revised program:

* *Health and Wellness*: Formerly *A Framework for Health Literacy*, renamed to reflect more accurate scope and emphasize libraries position as a trusted resource to impact vulnerable and marginalized populations by encouraging partnerships with relevant organizations, including area hospitals and clinics, their local Council on Aging, and other appropriate health or community agencies.

The grant round will be announced next week with Letters of Intent due in early December; grant applications due in April. The budget for the FY2020 program is $500,000.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the Program and Budget for the FY2020 Library Services and Technology Act direct grant round in the amount of $500,000 as recommended by the State Advisory Council on Libraries and detailed in the documentation presented in agenda item eight.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of Updated Social Media Policies**

Celeste Bruno, Communication Director and Kate Butler, Electronic Systems Specialist presented the updates to the Social Media Policies at the November 1, 2018 Board Meeting.

The MBLC has updated its social media policies to comply with the Commonwealth’s guidelines for governmental use of social media. The policies are:

1. Website Terms of Use (updated)
2. Social Media Policy (updated)
3. Terms of Comment (no longer a separate policy)

The Social Media policy was updated to align with the Commonwealth’s Social Media Policy and to include all the social media tools the MBLC currently uses.

The Terms of Comment policy was included in the overall social media policy so a separate policy was no longer necessary.

**MBLC Policy approval date:** April 7, 2011
**ITD approval date:** September 22, 2011
**Policy Expiration date:** April 7, 2016

Commissioner Welch moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopts the following revisions to the social media policies: 1) Website Terms of Use (updated); 2) Social Media Policy (updated); 3) Terms of Comment (no longer a separate policy).

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of approval of budget revision for Perkins Library**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs presented the budget revision for Perkins Library:

As an Ex Officio member of the Perkins Consumer Advisory Board, I have been asked to present this request on behalf of the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library.

Perkins Library Director, Kim Charlson requests authorization to institute an Occupancy Rate increase effective October, 2018. Attached is her request with details of the most recent charges and an explanation for the requested increase. This is an internal revision of the Perkins budget funded this fiscal year at $2,588,155.

Although the increase does not rise to a level that would require Board approval, the occupancy rate has not been increased in at least five years (not within this contract cycle), which is why we are bringing the request to the Board for review and vote.

Commissioner Abraham moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the FY 2019 Budget Revision for the Perkins Library as explained documentation in agenda item 10.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Discussion to establish a committee to review, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the Library Evolving Ecosystem Study**

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

Background

The MBLC Construction Team visited 95% of the public libraries in Massachusetts with populations under 2,000 to gather data on the facilities. The library Ecosystem Study was initiated by the Construction Team to determine how the MPLCP could best support and improve these small library facilities since it is clear they would have difficulties meeting the requirements of the existing construction grant program. As a result of additional discussions, some internal and some political, the study expanded to examine other public library types beyond the small library model initially envisioned. The MBLC hired Sasaki, an architectural firm with expertise in data analysis and visualization for the project. Their directive was to conduct a study of the public libraries in Massachusetts and produce a report with analysis and recommendations (a printed overview and a more comprehensive online examination) using surveys, census information, and other data sets, including statistics gathered for the State Aid Program. Review of the data presented with the findings in the report and the recommendations make clear that the study grew beyond both the initial and expanded scope of the project. The results will have wider implications for and a broader impact on a number of other MBLC programs, especially State Aid.

As part of the follow up to the study, the Construction Team, along with Consultant Cindy Roach, held several public meetings, both in person and online, to share the report and Sasaki’s findings and recommendations with the library community. Like the White Paper produced by the Collins Center for the last State Aid Review, the Ecosystem Study is the first step in the analysis and review process. The next phase of the project will include the convening of a Committee to analyze the report, review the feedback from the library community, assess Sasaki’s findings, and make recommendations to the MBLC Staff and Board.

At the December Board Meeting, Commissioners will be asked to approve the Charge to this Committee and to vote on proposed Committee members drawn from a list of volunteers from around the state.

**Discussion to establish a State Aid Advisory Group to provide ongoing input and recommendations to MBLC staff on the State Aid to Public Libraries Program**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs discussed the State Aid Advisory Group:

In December, the State Aid Unit will be bringing Commissioners a request to establish an Advisory Committee, somewhat similar to SACL, made up of library directors from across the state and from various networks who will provide ongoing advice and recommendations on the State Aid to Public Libraries Program. State Aid Staff are reaching out to members of the State Aid Review Committee and the State Aid Task Force members, among others and hope to include at least one staff member from an automated network. In addition to voting on the “Charge to the Committee”, Commissioners will be asked to approve the list of Committee members at the December meeting.

This advisory group will not take the place of the Board /Staff Committee, but rather will work as an adjunct to the Committee. This new group will advise the State Aid Unit on current trends in public libraries and will review, with Unit Staff, the regulations, policies, and procedures that support the Program. In its advisory role, the committee is expected to make recommendations that assist the MBLC in maintaining a program that is fair, flexible, and relevant.

The MBLC typically conducts a complete review of the State Aid to Public Library Program every five to seven years. This advisory committee will give the MBLC the opportunity to review, on an ongoing basis, those parts of the Program (regulations and policies) that do not keep pace with the rapid changes in library technology, programs, services, and collections and the changing use patterns and needs of the patrons.

**REPORT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Sarah Sogigian, Interim Executive Director (MLS) presented the following report:

# **Teen Summit Recap**

On Thursday, October 4, 2018, MLS, along with the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS), hosted the tenth Annual Teen Summit. This year’s event was titled “Teen X” and featured two keynote speakers, authors Malinda Lo and Ife Oshun. The day’s loose theme was “fandoms” and how libraries can use them to engage teens. Over 175 attendees from five states attended the day-long conference, many wearing attire to represent their favorite fandoms (books, television shows, movies, video games, etc.). Presentations by teen and school librarians covered topics ranging from hosting Dungeons & Dragons events to incorporating reading choice in schools, library comic-con events to drag proms. Overall, it was an engaging day of learning and networking for library staff who work with teens, and a great way to celebrate 10 years of teen-centered continuing education from MLS.

# **MLS Annual Report / Value of Service**

A draft MLS annual report will be shared at the October meeting of the MLS Executive Board for review and input. The final version will be posted to the MLS website and shared at the November Annual Meeting. In addition, new MLS Member Value information will be posted to the MLS website including:

* **MLS Value by Member Library**  https://public.tableau.com/profile/stephen.spohn#!/vizhome/VOSFY201MLS/ByMLSMember
* **MLS Value by Municipality** https://public.tableau.com/profile/stephen.spohn#!/vizhome/VOS-FY2018-MLS/ByMunicipality
* **MLS Value by State Senator** https://public.tableau.com/profile/stephen.spohn#!/vizhome/MLSValuebySenator/ForSenators
* **MLS Value by State Representative**

https://public.tableau.com/profile/stephen.spohn#!/vizhome/MLSValuebyRepresentative/ForRepresentatives

# **MLS Membership News**

Welcome to new members and congratulations to new directors! If you hear about a new director, please let us know so we can reach out!

# **New & Returning Members:**

* + Beachmont Veterans Memorial School, Revere
	+ Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School, South Hamilton
	+ Medway High School
	+ Rising Tide Charter Public School, Plymouth
	+ Sherwood Middle School, Shrewsbury
	+ Triton Regional High School, Byfield
	+ Westfield Middle School

# **New Directors:**

* Virginia Johnson, John Curtis Free Library, Hanover
* Connie Chase, Taylor Memorial Library, Hancock
* Dawn Thistle, Hasten Free Public Library, North Brookfield
* Ella Stocker, Amherst Regional High School
* Melissa Jackson, Lowell Catholic High School, Lowell
* Riva Milloshi, Abington Middle High School, Abington
* Melena Streitman, Annie E. Fales Elementary School, Westborough
* Sarah Hines, Lawrence Junior High School, Falmouth
* Jennifer Bradley, Norwood High School
* Emily Warner, St. Joseph Elementary School, Needham
* Erika Hoddinott, The Fessenden School, Newton
* Christine Magoon, Bedford High School
* Laurie Taylor, John A. Crisafulli Elementary School & Col. John Robinson Elementary School, Westford
* Mark Melchior, Groton School
* Molly MacDougald, Lexington Christian Academy
* Kerry Kennedy, Longmeadow High School
* Meghann Price, Lynn Vocational Technical Institute
* Kira McGann, Rita Edwards Miller School & Norman E. Day School, Westford
* Rebecca Hamburgess, Plymouth Community Intermediate School
* Erin Pronovost, South Hadley High School
* Maryann Muhilly, St. John’s Preparatory School, Danvers
* Christine Duffy, Thomas Balch Elementary School, Norwood

**Small Library Work**

With consultations with WMLA and individuals from small libraries, we’ve worked over the past year to make some adjustments to some of our programs to accommodate our small library members’ needs:

1. Basic Library Techniques- Over the past few years, we’ve experienced a higher demand for these classes, a desire to delve deeper into topics and for more practical application of skills learned. Consultants Kristi Chadwick and Kelly Jo Woodside, who have combined experience with training, working with small libraries, and instructional design, created a more robust version of this popular training. The goals:
2. to be able to train more people in the same class session.
3. to offer an online component to allow for portions of the training to be done at the convenience of the attendee.
4. to provide dedicated in person opportunities to engage with others on practical applications.

Kristi and Kelly piloted a hybrid class in Spring 2018 with the Collection Development topic. The class trained 48 librarians (compared to the traditional 25 max of previous classes), using an online program that guides the user through the topic from the eyes of a librarian in a virtual library setting. The modules incorporate videos, articles, handouts, quizzes, and other interactive elements. In addition, Kristi held three in person opportunities for attendees to complete the class requirements. Evaluations were incredibly positive, with members grateful for the hybrid and that there were no more waitlists! Kristi and Kelly have completed the next module, Administration, which was released on October 15, 2018. We currently have 49 registrations (max 50). For this session, they worked with their colleagues at the MBLC to ensure appropriate and updated information for the class. Our goal for this project is to be able to train our directors in small libraries in a faster period of time by opening modules at a pace of two per calendar year, ensuring directors can finish the full program in two years, instead of the previous four or five years. This program was designed in consultation specifically for and with our small library directors.

1. Traditional CE classes- We continue to plan our traditional CE classes in a variety of libraries across MA. We specifically seek out hosts in smaller settings when appropriate. Additionally, we have made exceptions to our cancelation policy as we know it can be difficult to get our minimum (eight registrants) in certain areas of the state. Often, we host classes with four or five registrants. This has been a mixed success. The rate of no-shows often means we think we will have five attendees, but may only get three. Because our classes are designed with plenty of attendee sharing, it can mean the class is not as successful a learning opportunity. We’re working with groups and individuals on continued evaluation.
2. Strategic Planning- we’ve made a concerted effort to market our strategic planning services to small libraries. Consultants have made several visits to libraries to assist with planning, and more and more are contacting us for visits. The Richmond Free Library, who worked with Consultant Michelle Eberle, sent this very thankful note from the director after the plan had been approved by the MBLC: “Thank you for facilitating committee meetings, editing drafts and supporting us as we put together our Strategic Plan. We did it!”
3. Small Library Potluck- Karen Stinchfield, Director at the Cushman Library in Bernardston asked if MLS would like to co-host another Small Library Potluck. After learning that a summer date was not the best for attendees, we hosted it in September. While only three libraries were represented, the potluck was a big success, as attendees had the opportunity to talk informally with three MLS staff, one MLS Board Member, and each other. The event was scheduled for two hours, but went four and a half hours. All were interested in another event. MLS plans to host another in the Spring, possibly on the Cape or in the Northeast.
4. MLS is now a member of the Association of Small and Rural Libraries. While our membership is relatively new (last week), we are now part of a very active membership, including a popular listserv dedicated to serving the needs of small and rural libraries across the country. The next ARSL conference will be in Burlington, VT in Fall, 2019 and we’re working on ways to support attendance by our small library members. Membership brochure available here: https://arsl.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/ARSL-brochure-new- margins.pdf

**Future Plans**

We are very close to releasing a public landing page for Consulting Services. This was an idea that was suggested at a WMLA meeting, but it has taken some time to pull together. We’ve received some feedback from a couple of small library directors and are working to implement their suggestions.

We’re working on a better way of proactively reaching out to small libraries through site visits. We’ll have more forthcoming.

As mentioned above, we are looking at ways to support attendance and be a presence at the next ARSL conference in Burlington, Vermont in Fall, 2019.

Please note that none of the above was done without the consultation of library staff who work in small libraries. Many ideas started as suggestions from WMLA or conversations with individuals.

**Report from Library for the Commmonwealth**

Anna Fahey-Flynn, Central Branch Manager presented the following report:

**Early Voting**

* Several BPL branches participated in early voting this year.

**Digitization**

* Local newspapers: conducting pilot to plan digitization of local Massachusetts newspapers. Starting with Cape Anne Museum’s collection of Gloucester newspapers that range from 1828-1876. We will microfilm the original papers and then send the microfilm to be digitized through our partnership with My Heritage. The microfilm copy is still considered the best preservation copy for newspapers.
* Local artist collaborative: started pilot of digitizing works of local Boston artists. Hoping to add a new element to Digital Commonwealth as well as add more current materials. One such item is a 170ft scroll that documents the history of Puerto Rico.

**Hoopla update**

* Hoopla audiobooks are no longer available.
* Patrons are upset because RBDigital’s interface is not as user friendly and patrons are noticing titles that were in Hoopla that we do not have in RBDigital or Overdrive. This is because BPL did not usually purchase an audiobook for Overdrive if the audiobook was available through Hoopla. We will be using savings to bolster the Overdrive audiobook collection.
* We also heard from the Milton Public Library that many of our patrons are flocking to Milton to sign up for a library card to gain access to Milton’s Hoopla audiobook collection.

**BPL and the Opioid Crisis**

* Anna Fahey-Flynn gave a presentation at NELA
* We have made slow and steady progress in our action plan against opioids in the past year. Including:
* Social worker at the Central Library
PAARI Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative  coaches at 5 BPL branches
* Sharps containers in all of our bathrooms
* Staff training, including NARAC training

**Report from the Massachusetts Center for the Book**

Sharon Shaloo, Director, submitted the following report before the meeting. Krista McLeod is representing the MCB if there are any questions.

The first quarter of FY19 was a time largely of re-centering Mass Center for the Book. We had to settle into a new office, begin to work with a new accounting firm, manage the migration and rebuild of our website, and complete other administrative tasks necessitated by our departure from our corporate home at Simmons College, where we had been based for fifteen years.

In addition, the board met twice to commence our strategic planning process, once in August for a planning meeting, and then in September for a SWOT discussion.

We held our annual meeting on October 11, 2018, as a virtual meeting since the board will be coming together often during this year for the planning process. At that meeting, we approved a new board member, author Alexandra Marshall.

Details of activity follow.

* Director Shaloo completed all tasks with the annual financial review, which is now with Smith, Sullivan & Brown. We hope the entire process will be completed at their end by close of CY18.
* Director Shaloo is drafting the annual report for Mass Center for the Book.
* The Board of MCB has voted to award the Library of Congress/Massachusetts Literacy Award to Reader to Reader, Inc. Director Shaloo has informed David Mazor of Reader to Reader about the recognition. She is planning a recognition event for Amherst.
* Events: MCB participated in National Book Festival 2018 and Boston Book Festival 2018, managing a booth at each event and sponsoring a program at the Boston festival.
* Director Shaloo has been working with the Library of Congress as it revises processes for Letters About Literature.
* Director Shaloo is overseeing submissions for two years of Mass Book Awards so that this program can wrap up on time in FY19.
* Conferences: Director Shaloo attended the New England Library Association meeting in Rhode Island on Sunday, 10/21. She participated in a virtual meeting of the ALA Advisory Committee on which she serves. She also attended two virtual meetings of state centers for the book.
* Director Shaloo has been working with the website contractor to complete the migration from Earthlink to Squarespace.
* Director Shaloo has worked with MCB accounting services firm to migrate books from desktop to online Quickbooks. Director Shaloo is seeking a Massachusetts programming partner for Letters About Literature.
* Staff person Kenny has met with librarians on the Vineyard and Cape Ann to support their emerging literary tours and trails.
* Staff person Kenny has maintained Commonwealth Events Calendar.
* Staff person Kenny has maintained an active and regular social media presence for MCB.
* Staff person Kenny has once again taken the lead in sponsoring library participation in Art Week Massachusetts and will be contacting libraries in the near future about submitting events. Last year, Kenny’s efforts resulted in library events comprising 10% of the entire week long program. MCB would like to see that percentage increased this year

An Annual report of activity for the Mass Center for the Book FY18 was also provided.

**Challenges**

Mass Center for the Book was unfunded from July 1, 2017, to November 14, 2017. During that time we had to invoke emergency procedures to bridge the gap in support.

* We laid off our Communications/Program Assistant, with the result that the Center had only one employee from August 1 through November 30.
* We postponed our financial review until the Spring.
* We put all programs on hiatus while we awaited funds.

Despite these measures, we found that we could not make our 6-month lease payment at 14 Beacon St, and so we were forced to leave that space at lease-end, October 31, 2017. Simmons offered us temporary space until June 30, 2018, by which time we had to move for a second time in one fiscal year.

**Stabilizing Measures**

MCB secured new office space in Concord, Mass, in June 2018. We are now paying for a year of rent in advance so that we are not caught out again and forced to move offices.

MCB contracted with Streamlined Services to revise our accounts so that running reports for MBLC, MCC, LOC, and IRS/AGO is no longer a burden falling solely on the shoulders of MCB’s Executive Director.

MCB is taking advantage of all annual subscription discounts that it can, contracting for internet service, for the Mass Book Trails/Tours app, and for our off-site storage unit for a year in advance.

We contracted to have our website moved from Earthlink to Squarespace because our long-time ISP had become unreliable.

**Accomplishments**

Outreach

Library Focus Groups

We held four focus group meetings with librarians on the Cape (Falmouth), Metrowest South (Dedham), and North of Boston (Beverly), and Western Mass (Amherst). In total, about 70 librarians participated. We were sorry we had to cancel the Fall meeting for Central Massachusetts, but we were on hiatus owing to the gap in funding. The information gleaned from these meetings has become a key element of our strategic planning process.

Gateway City Libraries

We held two virtual meetings with Gateway City librarians to explore possibilities for collaborations and opportunities for MCB to facilitate conversation and communication. The information gleaned from these meetings has become a key element of our strategic planning process.

Programming

Fall 2017

Owing to several grants, we were able to accomplish three projects during the unfunded Fall 2017.

*National Book Festival 2017*

Our participation in the festival is a component of service to the Library of Congress. We received grant funds from IMLS via COSLA which cover a large portion of the costs. Our Executive Director held on her own credit card additional charges for participation.

Here is the draft description of this activity from our annual report (in process):

*National Book Festival has become our official end of summer celebration. On Labor Day Weekend, nearly 200,000 avid readers fill the Washington, DC, Convention Center to hear their favorite authors, visit reading circles, buy great books, and visit us in the Pavilion of the States. Each state center for the book celebrates the festival by choosing a “Great Book About a Great Place,” for the annual nationwide reading list. In 2017, we were proud to tell our nation about Susan E. Goodman’s The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial. In this book, Jamaica Plain author Goodman tells the story of an African American girl, Sarah Roberts, who in 1847 was forbidden to return to her school, the Otis School in Boston, because the school was “for white children only.” The Roberts family fought back, and their effort — Roberts v. City of Boston — was the first case to challenge segregated schools. They lost their case, but the cause won when people, black and white, came together in Boston to outlaw segregation in the schools.*

*Funding for the “Great Reads” project and for our participation in the festival is made possible by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services which is administered by the Chief Officers of State Library Associations (COSLA).*

*Henry Hiked to Fitchburg. We Took the Train!*

Our contributions to this project were funded by a grant from Mass Literacy.

Here is the draft description of this project from our annual report (in process):

*On a glorious Saturday in September 2017 we rode the rails for literacy with our partners and collaborators, Concord Free Public Library, Fitchburg Public Library, Concord Museum, Mass DOT and Keolis, with funding, as well, from a Mass Literacy grant. This wonderful family event was inspired by two books, Henry David Thoreau’s Walden and D.B. Johnson’s picture book, Henry Hiked to Fitchburg, which brings to life a passage in which Thoreau asks whether it is better to work all day to earn the money to take the train from Concord to Fitchburg or whether one should spend the day walking there instead. We took the train! Concord and Fitchburg families discovered the rail that links them and celebrated the libraries which serve them, picnicked together, and hiked a bit in each other’s communities. During the day they met authors Sally Sanford (Henry and the Huckleberries: A Visit with Mr. Thoreau at Walden Pond) and Robert M. Young (Walking to Wachusett: A Re-Enactment of Henry David Thoreau's A Walk to Wachusett), created nature sticks, and began journals of their observations. They took home nature journals, a copy of Henry Hikes to Fitchburg, reading activities with maps and compasses, and information on train safety. It was a great way to bring two communities together to share the connection forged by books written 150 years apart.*

*Boston Book Festival 2017*

While we did not have the capacity to manage a booth, we were able to sponsor the extremely well-attended session with a former Mass Book Award winner in Fiction, Geraldine Fitzgerald, and thus promote our state book awards program and Mass Center for the Book. This activity was planned and funded in FY16, with additional funds from donations to MCB.

Spring 2018

*Letters About Literature*

We ran a successful Letters About Literature program with a culminating celebration at the Massachusetts State House, right-sized for the second year to the Reading Room of the State Library.

Statistics: ~ 2,000 letters from across commonwealth (down from previous year owing to new deadline); 30 students recognized at State House; 26 students attended; 25 legislators participated in recognition

You can see the award winners here: <http://massbook.org/programs/letters-about-lit/current-awards/>

You can see photos of the event here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/massbook/sets/72157696930843355/>

*Massachusetts Book Awards*

Bringing in contract help and friends of and longtime volunteers for the Center, MCB was able to review submissions and select awardees in the long-delayed 17th annual book awards.

You can read about the awards here: <http://massbook.org/programs/mass-book-awards/>

Here is a sample press placement from the announcement: https:/[/www.bostonglobe.com/arts/books/2018/08/16/film-recounts-](http://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/books/2018/08/16/film-recounts-) grolier-story-playing-catchup-with-mass-book-awards/gYk19JKBb5yV6N2l3durnL/story.html

We shall incorporate a celebration of the awards at the State House with an event for two more years of awards in FY19.

Other Programs/Initiatives

Commonwealth Events Calendar

1,042 events posted to Calendar during FY18

We promote the events on Twitter and Facebook as well as via the calendar.

Mass Book Trails and Tours

In FY18 we at MCB developed one Commonwealthwide Trail, four Local Walking Tours (working with local libraries), and substantially edited two existing local walking tours.

Commonwealthwide:

Gateway Cities (developed by MCB)

This tour generated a lot of enthusiasm. Almost every library posted about it on its Facebook page. There were 13 press pickups. City of Malden Mayor’s Office posted on their website and Facebook page. 2 legislators posted to Facebook and Twitter. Press pickups: Taunton Daily Gazette, South Coast Today (New Bedford), The Herald News (Fall River), Chelsea Record, Sentinel & Enterprise (Fitchburg), Lynn Item, Berkshire Eagle (Pittsfield), Leominster Champion, Malden Observer, Revere Journal, Salem Gazette, The Sun (Holyoke), Chicopee Register.

Local Walking Tours:

Literary Concord (MCB took lead to celebrate its new home), Centerville (library developed), and 2 Wilbraham historic tours (library developed)

Edited:

Two Literary Beacon Hill tours (in-house)

Upcoming:

At the close of FY 18, the following trails/tours were in the pipeline:

BBF Special Edition Copley Square tour (collaboration with Boston Lit District) – should be published by 10/5.

Literary Martha’s Vineyard (collaboration with Vineyard Trust and Edgartown Public Library) –Edgartown loop should be published by end of October, to be followed by other towns.

Literary Gloucester (collaboration with Sawyer Free Library) – to begin early October.

Wilbraham #3: (Library) – the library is ready to put a third tour in the app.

Osterville Public Library and JFK Museum (Cape Cod) have inquired about creating tours. We’ve sent guidelines and are waiting to hear more from them.

*Route One Reads*

We were unable to print materials to promote the fall program in our commonwealth owing to the funds delay. We did online promotion, of course, for the Biography & Memoir theme, with the Massachusetts book Bobby Kennedy by Larry Tye (a Mass Book Honor in Nonfiction for the year). We were, however, able to print the Summer 2018 materials for Romance and have distributed them at festivals and through libraries.

Board Members in FY 2018

James Wald, Chair

Em Claire Knowles, Clerk

Eileen Abels, Director

Kate Hogan, Director

Moying Li, Director

Krista McLeod, Director

MCB Staff

Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director Staff

Ellen Flanagan Kenny (720 hours per year), Communications and Outreach Associate

* Commissioner Ochsenbein acknowledged the wonderful current and proposed programming and services of the MCB but noted that in his opinion completing the Strategic Plan should be of utmost importance at this time; that finding ways to both stabilize funding and expand funding sources is the single most critical need and component of the strategic review; and that until the funding issues are directly and thoroughly addressed, the Center should carry forward only its core programming in order that it can fully focus on finding ways to establish a more sound financial foundation.
* Commissioner Cluggish noted that the focus should be on the core programs. She wants to see them stabilized before more programs are taken on. She also thinks that private funding needs to be further explored.

**Standing Committee and Liaison Reports**

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

Commissioner Resnick

* Attended WMLA Annual Meeting- Libby Post spoke about how to approach advocacy

Commissioner Kronholm

* Participated in the Executive Committee Conference Call
* Attended WMLA Annual Meeting
* Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Breakfast in Stockbridge

Commissioner Cluggish

* Participated in the Executive Committee Conference Call
* Working with Rob and Maura on Trustee Annual Meeting
* Attended ESL Workshop with Shelley

Commissioner Ball

* Attended New Commissioner Orientation at the MBLC

Commissioner Welch

* Attended Friends Sharing with Friends. There were about 75 people
* Attended SACL Meeting at MBLC

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Shesko seconded to adjourn the November 1, 2018 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:48 PM.



Mary Kronholm

Secretary