MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : March 5, 2020

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Boston Public Library, McKim Building, Commonwealth Salon

 Boston, Massachusetts

Present : Roland A. Ochsenbein, Chair; Mary Kronholm, Secretary; Deb Abraham; Les Ball; Gina Perille; N. Janeen Resnick

Absent : Mary Ann Cluggish, Vice Chair; Stacy DeBole; Philip Madell, Esq.

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Andrea Bunker, Library Building 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; Matthew Perry, Outreach Coordinator; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Tom Blake, Manager of Content Discovery, Boston Public Library (BPL); Michael Colford, Director of Library Services, Boston Public Library (BPL); Anna Fahey-Flynn, Central Library Manager, Boston Public Library (BPL);Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library (BPL); David Leonard, BPL President, Boston Public Library (BPL); Krista McLeod, Board Member, Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB); Terry McQuown, Consulting and Training Services Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS); Danielle Pucci, Special Collections Cataloging Manager, Boston Public Library (BPL); Jake Sadow, Statewide Digitization Assistant and Project Archivist, Boston Public Library (BPL); Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB); Nichole Shea, Statewide Metadata Coordinator, Boston Public Library (BPL); Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS);

**Call to Order**

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

David Leonard, BPL President welcomed the Board to the Central Branch of the Boston Public Library. This year is the 125 anniversary of the McKim Building which opened to the public March 11, 1895. In his dedication poem for the cornerstone laying ceremony for the McKim Building, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote, “This palace is the people’s own.” Mr. Leonard also noted that it is the anniversary of the first branch of a public library in the nation which is believed to be the East Boston Branch of the BPL.

Mr. Leonard expressed his joy for the BPL being the Library for the Commonwealth. Also, the BPL is grateful for the State Aid that they receive, and it is the fifth year renovation of the Johnson Building with the most amazing Children’s and Teens spaces.

The Boston Public Library’s Mission continues to be literacy and a safe space for everyone.

**Approval of Minutes: February 6, 2020**

* Page 6, line 5- add what topics were reviewed
* Page 7, line 33- make it clearer who Commissioners are calling

Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Resnick seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the minutes for the monthly business meeting on February 6, 2020 with amendments.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Chair’s Report**

Chair Ochsenbein presented the following report:

Activities since February Board meeting

* February 6: Participated in a Bylaw Review Committee meeting. The committee reviewed and discussed Commissioner Madell’s proposed revisions. We will be discussing the committee’s preliminary recommendations later in the agenda today.
* February 7: Spoke at a legislative breakfast at the Groton Public Library. Sen. Ed Kennedy and Rep. Sheila Harrington were in attendance and spoke, as did other library supporters.
* February 10: Attended the MLS Executive Board Meeting via phone, as the MBLC board liaison.
* February 19: Participated in one of the Strategic Plan Stakeholders Workshops, facilitated by Abby Straus of Maverick and Boutique. It was well organized and very productive. I am looking forward to reviewing the summaries as they come in. This was one of five such events in the plan, the last being in Northampton on March 11.
* February 24: Director Lonergan and I presented testimony at the Joint House/Senate Ways and Means Committee hearing at Roxbury Community College. Scheduled to be before the committee at 1:30 P.M., we actually went on after 4 P.M. and several legislators had departed by that time. Nonetheless, it went very well. There were no questions and several legislators enthusiastically acknowledged the importance of supporting libraries.
* February 25: Participated in the monthly Executive Committee call.
* March 2: Spoke at a legislative breakfast at the Southbridge Public Library. Sen. Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Carolyn Dykema were in attendance and spoke, as did other supporters. This was another worthwhile breakfast, well attended and enthusiastic. Our message is resonating. Rep. Dykema called out our informational material as being exemplary, the best “of all the advocacy groups” in her estimation—concise, fact-based, simple effective messaging.
* March 6: Spoke at a legislative breakfast at the Bigelow Free Library in Clinton. Sen. Harriet Chandler, Rep. Natalie Higgins (Co-Chair of the Library Caucus), and Rep. Harold Naughton were in attendance and spoke, as well as other supporters.

I am looking forward to Legislative Day, April 2, and hope that everyone can attend and make as many visits as possible!

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities since the last Board meeting:

* February 6—Bylaws Committee Meeting
* February 7—Legislative Reception, Plymouth Public Library
* February 10—MLS Executive Board meeting, Marlborough
* February 12—Statewide Strategy Meeting with David Leonard, Sarah Sogigian, and MLA representatives attending National Library Legislative Day in DC in May
* February 13—COSLA Member Update (virtual)
* February 14—MLA Executive Board Meeting (virtual)
* February 18-20—Strategic Planning Community Workshops: Mashpee, Foxborough, Natick, Shrewsbury, and Lawrence
* February 21—Presented at Leicester Legislative Breakfast
* February 24—Testified at Joint Ways & Means Hearing, Roxbury Community College
* February 26—Perkins Library Consumer Advisory Board Meeting, Watertown
* February 28—Presented at Dudley Legislative Breakfast

Commissioner Ochsenbein and I testified in front of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means FY2021 budget hearing about our FY2021 legislative agenda and the bond bill and cap on Monday, February 24 at Roxbury Community College. We were scheduled to testify at 1:30 P.M. but presented closer to 4:30 P.M. The legislators still in attendance were very supportive of our efforts.

We recently discovered that another bill (H.2939) has been filed to authorize bonding for the MPLCP. The bill was filed in 2019 by Rep. Brad Jones and referred to the House Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development. The bill was reported favorably last week and has been referred to the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. Mary Rose is looking into the bill, but we think it was initially filed as a back-up to the Governor’s bond request and will most likely not go forward if H.4154, An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth (still in the House Ways and Means Committee), which includes $150 million for the MPLCP, passes. Pressure is building to move H.4154 soon, given it primarily includes funding for IT and cybersecurity projects.

Strategic Plan 2021-2025: Five Community Stakeholder Workshops were held from February 18-20, with two each day on February 18 (Mashpee and Foxborough) and February 19 (Minuteman Library Network, Natick and Shrewsbury) and one on February 20 (Lawrence). Our final workshop will be held at the MLS Northampton office on Wednesday, March 11. Notes from each of the workshops are being posted this week on our Strategic Planning LibGuide: <https://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/strategicplan2020>

Our strategic planning facilitator, Abby Straus, and her colleague Jane Darling are scheduling individual interviews and will be scheduling focus groups (including one with the Commissioners) soon. We will also be holding a strategic planning workshop with staff in early April.

LSTA: The deadline for submission of draft applications was February 20. We received 55 draft applications, up from 30 last year. LAD consultants are in the process of reviewing drafts and communicating with applicants with guidance on improving applications for final submission. While we expect to lose some applications in the process, this year’s grant round will be very competitive. The deadline for final application submission is April 7, 2020.

Shelley Quezada has been working with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to help coordinate with a number of libraries to do special programing during Mental Health Awareness month in May.  This outreach builds on work that began last year when (DMH) Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) programs trained selected library staff.  It provides an opportunity for DMH to present to the broader community about the types of programs and services DMH offers, with a specific focus on programs such as Homeless Outreach and Engagement, Clubhouses (for people with psychiatric disabilities), and Recovery Learning Communities that homeless individuals can easily access.  The following libraries have agreed to offer programs:  Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy; Lawrence Public Library; Holyoke Public Library; Boston Public Library;  New Bedford Free Public Library; Pollard Memorial Library, Lowell; and Somerville Public Library.  The Mason Square branch of Springfield has not confirmed yet. As part of this effort the BPL will host a six hour Health Fair in May that will feature many DMH providers.

In February Shelly participated, along with 20 staff members of the Department of Correction (DOC), in Mental Health First Aid training. This valuable training impacts many individuals and provided an important training for our most underserved librarians in the DOC. This training was a direct outcome of the Opioid Symposium.

With connections made last year with Health Resources in Action (funded by DPH), Shelley was invited to be part of a cohort that is training around equity issues in health. She attended a seminar called “Unpacking Our Biases” and will attend training about health equity later in March. Her involvement provides a platform to raise awareness with a cohort of health professionals about why they should consider reaching out to and partnering with libraries in their community.

Trustees: Trustee Orientations are set to begin in April at the following locations.

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| Date | Location | Attendance |
| Tuesday, April 7, 2020 | 6:00 PM | Monterey Library |
| Wednesday, April 15, 2020 | 6:00 PM | Hopkinton Public Library |
| Wednesday, May 27, 2020 | 6:00 PM | Falmouth Public Library |
| Wednesday, June 3, 2020 | 6:00 PM | Leominster Public Library |

2020 CENSUS

Maura delivered three “Train the Trainer” workshops across the state.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Wednesday, February 12, 2020 | 10:00 AM | Southbridge, Jacob Edwards Library | 9 |
| Thursday, February 13, 2020 | 10:00 AM | Lawrence Public Library | 15 |
| Monday, February 24, 2020 | 10:00 AM | MLS Northampton | 19 |
|  |  | TOTAL | 43 |

MPLCP: The Erving Public Library had its soft opening on March 1, and the dedication will be on March 29. Commissioner Resnick is scheduled to speak at the dedication. The previous building was 1,800 sq.ft.; the new building, supported with a $2.7 million MPLCP grant, is 7,696 sq. ft.

The new MBLC magazine is out and we’ve received extremely positive feedback. The new publication, which was developed with state and federal officials as a key audience, provides an in-depth look at the important work libraries do in providing opportunities for everyone in the Commonwealth.

The Boston Bruins PJ Celebration was held at the new East Forest Park Branch of the Springfield City Library. First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker and Boston Bruins mascot Blades headlined the family-fun event. Springfield Mayor Sarno also attended. Commissioners Kronholm and Resnick rolled up their sleeves and staffed one of the booths in addition to speaking at length with the First Lady.

The communications team is finishing up an extensive series of social media posts that promote the new databases as well as existing ones. The posts link directly to articles in the databases and libraries are able to customize the links so that their own library is counted in the usage data. The team is also participating in a series of summer workshops across the Commonwealth with colleagues from the Massachusetts Library System.

Staff News: Sharon Zitser, currently our receptionist, will be retiring in April. She started at the MBLC as a receptionist in 1991 and then worked as an administrative assistant in the Public Library Advisory unit and later the Library Advisory and Development Unit. We thank Sharon for her dedicated service to the MBLC and to the Commonwealth’s libraries and we wish her well on her retirement!

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the Legislative Report on Mary Rose Quinn’s behalf.

As of today’s Board meeting, there are four public library Legislative Breakfasts remaining on the calendar; two are slated for this Friday in Springfield at the new East Forest Park Branch (Commissioner Resnick) and Clinton (Commissioner Ochsenbein), one on Monday in Monson (Commissioner Resnick), and the final event will be in Framingham at the McAuliffe Branch (Commissioner Abraham) on March 27. Thank you to all the Commissioners and Staff who have attended and presented the Board’s Legislative Agenda at the Breakfasts and other events over the last two months and for those who have agreed to speak at the events in March.

Chairman Ochsenbein and Director Lonergan provided testimony before members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means at Roxbury Community College on Monday, February 24, 2020 regarding the MBLC FY2021 budget request and the FY2021 Legislative Agenda ahead of the House budget proposal scheduled to be released mid-April and the Senate budget plan in mid-May. The Hearings began at 11 A.M. and the MBLC testimony was expected to start around 1:30 P.M. Chairman Ochsenbein and Director Lonergan’s remarks were favorably received by the Committee members in attendance, including House Vice Chair Denise Garlick, Hearing Co-Chair Elizabeth Malia, and Representatives Brian Murray and Carole Fiola who each spoke about the importance of libraries and the vital role state funding to the MBLC plays in the success of library services in the Commonwealth. In addition to the testimony, each member present received the Legislative Agenda packet, the green budget sheets, information about the State Aid Program, and the map and Construction Program sheet that includes the waitlisted libraries. Representative Malia’s office followed up with a request to receive all documents electronically so that the testimony and additional documents could be distributed to the entire Joint Committee.

The Massachusetts Library Association/ Massachusetts School Library Association Legislative Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 2 at the State House. Library Advocates from across the state are expected to participate. Legislators have already been invited. There will be no “First Time Attendee” session this year; there will be two legislative briefing sessions, as in prior years, and a scaled back version of the Library Showcase. The MBLC will share a table for the Showcase with the Library for the Commonwealth again this year. There will be fewer speakers on the program in the Great Hall to encourage librarians to discuss library issues with their legislators over lunch. B.L.I.N.D. Legislative Day will take place on Tuesday, March 31. Perkins and Worcester Talking Book Libraries participate in both events. MLA is hoping to attract 300 library supporters to attend Legislative Day this year and is urging people who are planning on attending to register for the event at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/malibleg20.

There are only a few weeks left before Census Day, April 1. Maura Deedy has continued to crisscross the state conducting Train the Trainer events, adding content to the LibGuide, moderating and sharing information to the MBLC Census email list, and distributing information, including the Questionnaire Assistance Center Guide (QAC Guide).

Revenues continue to remain strong through mid-February. The end of month figures should be distributed in the next few days. Total Tax collections for the month-to-date period were $559 million, up $90 million or 19.1% versus the same period in February 2019. Income Taxes totaled $382 million, up $80 million or 26.4% versus the same period in February 2019. Sales & Use Tax collections were $84 million, up $10 million or 14.2% versus the same period in February 2019. Corporate & Business Taxes were $18 million, up $14 million versus the same period in February 2019. Other Taxes totaled $75 million, down $15 million or 16.3% versus the same period in February 2019.

**Consideration of approval for LSTA Preservation Assessment Grants**

Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development presented the four LSTA Preservation Assessment Grants totaling $16,800.

The Preservation Assessment Grant funds an outside consultant to conduct an institutional preservation assessment that includes a site visit and the delivery of a written report. This program helps libraries to understand the full scope of their collection needs as well as formulate preservation plans.

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| **Recommended grant awards for approval:** |
| Porter Memorial Library, Blandford | $4,200 |
| Griswold Memorial Library, Colrain | $4,200 |
| Hamilton-Wenham Public Library, Hamilton | $4,200 |
| Wellesley High School, Wellesley | $4,200 |
| TOTAL: | $16,800 |

Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Resnick secondedthat the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the four LSTA Preservation Assessment Grants totaling $16,800 listed above as presented in agenda item 5.

**Commissioner Kronholm abstained for Blandford.**

**The Board voted approval.**

**Consideration of approval of the FY2021 Plan of Service and Program and Budget for the Massachusetts Center for the Book**

Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Center for the Book provided the Board with a background of the Center for the Book.

The Massachusetts Center for the Book, chartered as the Commonwealth Affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is a public-private partnership charged with developing, supporting, and promoting cultural programming that will advance the cause of books and reading and enhance the outreach potential of Massachusetts libraries.

Massachusetts Center for the Book was initially organized as a collaborative project of six academic/educational/library organizations:  Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Boston Public Library, Mass Humanities, UMass Amherst Libraries, American Antiquarian Society, and Five Colleges, Inc., which served as the Center’s fiscal agent.  Chartered by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Massachusetts Center for the Book became the 38th state center for the book in a network that now sees centers in every state in the country as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.  Mass Center for the Book became an independent 501(c)3 on July 1, 2005, and since July 1, 2014, has operated as a public-private partnership that develops programs with the potential for statewide impact in Massachusetts libraries.

Our proposed F21 budget is based on the amount of funds that were appropriated for Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB) in FY2020. The amount in question, $200,000, represents 80% of the baseline funding we set in FY14, and thus we are presenting a limited and inhibited program of service that falls short of the vision for our state center for the book as an outreach and programming organization which supports the programming activities of Massachusetts libraries while it fulfills its responsibilities as the Commonwealth affiliate of the Library of Congress.

Most unfortunate in this proposed budget is the continued requirement we are placing on staff to work with no pay increases. The ED salary has not moved since FY16. Part-time staff have received no raises in three years, this at a time of rapid increase in the minimum wage, which creates pressure on all hourly rates. There continues to be no health insurance and no retirement program for employees.

Director Lonergan stated that when he testified in front of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means FY2021 budget hearing he talked about the Center for the Book and how important the program is.

Ms. Shaloo stated that the next step would be to request a meeting with the Director and Chair to discuss statewide services.

Commissioner Abraham moved and Commissioner Perille seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the FY2021 Plan of Service and Program and Budget filed on January 30, 2020 for the Massachusetts Center for the Book, with a bottom line of $200,000 as presented in agenda item 6.

Commissioner Kronholm noted that she is reluctantly voting in favor of the program and budget. Ms. Kronholm feels her pain but believes something has to change for this program to be successful.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Report from Massachusetts Library System (MLS)**

Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director presented the report:

**MLS Advocacy Tools**

MLS is pleased to support the MBLC Legislative Agenda for FY2021 and the priority to fund line 7000-9501. Additionally, we will be advocating for a 3% increase to line 9401 (the line we share with the Library for the Commonwealth at the Boston Public Library) to sustain Statewide Delivery. Here are a few resources to assist our members with advocacy efforts:

* MLS Value of Service Tableau
* MBLC FY21 Legislative Agenda Materials

**Consulting and Training Services Update**

Spring Continuing Education Series

We have announced our spring line-up of recurring, in-person workshops.  These classes will be offered six times each across the Commonwealth, starting in February and ending in May.

* *The Art of Employee Communication,* with Kristi Chadwick and Kelly Jo Woodside
* *Strategies and Techniques to Foster Inclusion of Patrons with Disabilities,* with Lisa Drennan (MERGE)
* *How to Create Surveys that Generate Useful Data,* with Michelle Eberle
* *“Imagine Your Story”* *with Canva: Using Visuals to Enhance and Promote Your Summer Library Program,* with April Mazza
* *Puzzles, Patterns & Problem-Solving: How Computational Thinking Can Transform Your Teen Services,* with Christi Farrar and Lyndsay Forbes (MBLC)
* *Make Shift Happen: Weeding the Physical Collection,* with Anna Popp

**Climate Resilience Webinar Series**

We had over 115 people register for the first webinar in the Climate Resilience webinar series.  In that webinar, Gideon Nachman, from Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW), discussed how all types of libraries can serve as Climate Resilience Hubs in partnership with CREW; Madeleine Charney, from UMass Amherst Libraries, presented on emotional resilience; and Corey Farrenkopf, from Sturgis Library in Barnestable, talked about why Sturgis decided to become a Climate Resilience Hub.  The next webinar in the series will be on March 13 and will highlight Climate Preparedness Week.  The final webinar will be on April 24 and will feature the MBLC’S COSTEP (Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness for Cultural Heritage in Massachusetts). These webinars feature a new “webinette” format, lasting 30 minutes or less, in response to the request from the MLS CE Committee for some shorter webinars.

**Small and Rural Library Webinar Series**

We had over 145 people view the first webinar in the small and rural library webinar series, which took place in January.  This series is supported by a grant from the Manton Foundation.  The second webinar, also scheduled for January, has been postponed due to an emergency situation with the instructor.  We will send out an announcement once that webinar has been rescheduled.  The remaining three webinars took place in February.  All of these webinars are free to Massachusetts library workers and will be recorded for later viewing.

**Resource Sharing update**

Resource Sharing Staff Changes

Hansie Grignon is leaving after 6 years with the MLS for a job at the Maine State Library.  She will be with us until March 6.  Hansie has been instrumental in assisting with the ILL transitions this past summer.  We wish Hansie all the best with the new job and move to Maine.

Alison DeMers has been promoted to Resource Sharing Librarian with the responsibilities of coordinating Interlibrary Loan and MassCat support. Alison has been a valuable part of the MLS ILL team and we are very pleased that she will be bring experience and continuity to Resource Sharing. Her contact info remains the same (alison@masslibsystem.org; 866-627-7228 x317).

In early March, we’ll welcome two new Resource Sharing Assistants with primary responsibilities in Interlibrary Loan: Kathryn Bowen and Gwenyth Swain.

**MLS Board Meeting Minutes**

The MLS Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis, alternating between MLS-Marlborough, MLS-Northampton, and on rare occasions, virtually. In an effort to better communicate board work with the membership, we are resuming the practice of posting our meetings minutes publicly, once approved by the board. Our January meeting minutes are now available on our [Executive Board Resource Guide](https://guides.masslibsystem.org/executive-board/). We’re also working to format and post previous meeting minutes to this guide. We welcome your feedback and invite you to attend a future meeting! Meetings are open to all MLS members. Our meetings are posted on our Event Calendar. Please email Betsy Meaden, Business and HR Director for details on attendance.

**Report from the Library for the Commonwealth (LFC)**

Tom Blake, Manager of Content Discovery presented the following report:

* Digital Commonwealth and statewide items in Internet Archive continue to grow. We are currently indexing almost 900,000 items between the two platforms.
* BPL noted that their statewide digitization service is now 10 years old and was originally funded by an LSTA grant given by the MBLC. The BPL congratulates the MBLC for their foresight as the program is a strong success and has become a national model.
* Beyond production numbers and simple web traffic metrics, the BPL has recently become more focused on impact and use of collections and will seek to expand staff capacity to that end in the coming years.
* The Antislavery Manuscript Transcription project ([www.antislaverymanuscripts.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.antislaverymanuscripts.org&d=DwMFAg&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=PkCyCJLhH496Ip_zDkAdtWcnx1auqwn-8kiZYshUb0g&m=SHwjUCYU6dc-1p-481WE3hNdiYtCy42ytw2tdeoRa4A&s=sjzTr54gTeZWSYv-wNBL1T5wwMg0OszxNol7MAuc3UY&e=)) is an example of this focus.
* Over 12,000 items were uploaded to this online, crowdsourced transcription site in early 2018. Since then, over 14,000 individual volunteers have transcribed over one million lines of text and completed over 1/3 of the collection.
* Additionally and more importantly, over 5,300 individual conversations have been started on the “talk” forum, indicating a deep level of engagement beyond the production ask.
* The BPL reported on the strength of the LFC statewide digitization program in terms of the strength and scale of some recent partnerships with the Harvard Law School Library, The Boston Research Center at Northeastern University, My Heritage, and the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that will help to increase production capacity and scale of reach.
* The BPL is increasing capacity soon in their repository development team in order to create an area of digitalcommonwealth.org for local newspaper display and search. The goal is to have Massachusetts local and neighborhood newspapers digitized comprehensively and made freely available online.
* Several of the attendees were then brought on a tour of the BPL digitization spaces.

**Discussion of proposed revisions to the Board’s Bylaws**

Commissioner Ochsenbein put together a small group to review the current agency Bylaws. Commissioners Kronholm, Madell, and Perille all agreed to review the current Bylaws with Commissioner Ochsenbein with staff assistance of Director Lonergan and Mr. Lonergan’s Assistant, Rachel Masse. Due to a clerical error it was believed that the last time the Bylaws were reviewed was January 14, 1998. Once staff began to review the Bylaws they realized that the Bylaws were reviewed January 14, 2016.

Commissioner Madell offered to take the first look at the Bylaws. He reminded the committee that the Bylaws should not be so specific because then you are held to those words. If the Bylaws are kept general there is a lot more room for flexibility.

There were some sections that the committee could not agree on and those were brought to the entire Commission. The Board will vote on the recommended Bylaws at the Thursday, April 2, 2020 Board Meeting.

**Standing Committee and Liaison Reports**

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

**Commissioner Perille**

* Attended the Bylaws Committee Meeting
* Attended the Strategic Planning Community Workshop at the Minuteman Library Network, Natick

**Commissioner Ball**

* Spoke at the Plymouth Legislative Cocktail Social; Director Lonergan and Ms. Andrea Bunker also attended
* Visited the construction progress of the Weymouth Public Library with Ms. Bunker
* Spoke at the Whitman Public Library’s Legislative Breakfast

**Commissioner Abraham**

* Attended the quarterly CAB (Consumer Advisory Board) at Perkins Library.
* Suggested to them that they should be in the new MBLC Magazine

**Commissioner Kronholm**

* Attended the Holyoke Legislative Breakfast with Commissioner Resnick
* Made introductions at the Boston Bruins PJ Drive Celebration at the East Forest Park Branch of the Springfield City Library
* Attended the WMLA Meeting with Commissioner Resnick

**Commissioner Resnick**

* Participated in the Massachusetts Center for the Book discussion group
* Spoke at the Holyoke Legislative Breakfast with Commissioner Kronholm
* Attended the WMLA Meeting with Commissioner Kronholm
* Spoke at the Leverett Legislative Breakfast
* Attended the Boston Bruins PJ Drive Celebration at the East Forest Park Branch of the Springfield City Library with Commissioner Kronholm

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Abraham seconded to adjourn the March 5, 2020 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:45 PM.



Mary Kronholm

Secretary