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Description automatically generated with medium confidence**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS monthly regular meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, August 5, 2021

**Time:**  10:00 A.M.

**Place:**  Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Mary Ann Cluggish, Chair; Debby Conrad, Vice Chair; Deb Abraham, Secretary; Les Ball; Vicky Biancolo; George Comeau, Esq.; Mary Kronholm; N. Janeen Resnick

**Absent:** Stacy DeBole

Commissioner Kronholm left meeting at 12:01 P.M.

**Staff Present:**

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

**Observers Present:**

Kim Charlson, Executive Director, Perkins Library; Ron Gagnon, Executive Director, North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE); Carol Gray, Resident, Amherst; Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library (BPL); Marie Letarte, Library Director, Bigelow Free Public Library, Clinton; Sarah McKee, former Trustee and President of the Board of Trustees, Jones Library Inc., Amherst; Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; David Slater, Network Administrator, Old Colony Library Network (OCLN); Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

**Meeting called to order by Chair Cluggish**

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

Chair Cluggish stated that she is required to take a roll call of Commissioners to comply with the Open Meeting Law for remote meetings.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Absent |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Kronholm- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Resnick- Yes |

**Approval of Minutes from the regular monthly meeting: July 8, 2021**

Chair Cluggish asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2021 Monthly Meeting.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Kronholm seconded to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting as presented.

Chair Cluggish asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners to comply with the Open Meeting Law for remote meetings.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- No |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Kronholm- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Resnick- Yes |

**The motion passed.**

**Chair’s Report**

Chair Cluggish presented the following report:

In the past month I participated in or observed the following virtual events:

* Building Literacy: Public Library Construction Podcast, with Lauren Stara & Andrea Bunker, on Construction and Climate Change Legislation
* State wide PR Committee meeting
* Summer Reading Event South Hadley Public Library
* Summer Reading Event Flint Memorial Library North Reading
* Executive board meeting

Again, I would like to welcome Kim Charlson, the Director of the Perkins Library to our meeting today. Ordinarily in August we meet at the Perkins Library, but once again due to COVID we are remote. Kim will be updating us under Agenda item #6. It is always very interesting to hear what is happening at Perkins.

In anticipation of face to face meetings once again, I took commuter rail in to North Station to attend the Exec Committee meeting to try out the new Owl meeting device, and to see the new offices. With Rob Favini, Debby Conrad, and Deb Abraham acting remotely, we worked out the Owl thoroughly and investigated possible quirks. It felt wonderful to do something so normal again. My commuter rail car had only 5 people going in to Boston and coming back, there were 10 in the car, all masked and following rules. It felt very safe.

We have been anticipating that we would return to face to face meetings in September, but we'll be discussing that under Agenda item #11, Libraries and COVID 19. We had actually considered dropping that agenda item going forward. Man plans,God laughs.

I attended two joyous Summer Reading events in South Hadley and North Reading. It was wonderful to see people face to face. I still encourage Commissioners to go; if you do attend a summer reading event, you don't have to speak if you're not so disposed. I spoke for about 45 seconds at North Reading, introducing Mrs. Baker and Senator Tarr who was also in attendance. Senator Tarr had a good time asking the kids trivia questions.

The staff has added new activities for the strictly outdoors venue. Oliver, the therapy reading dog, who we had not seen since summer 2019, was at the North Reading event. I learned that Oliver has his own Instagram and Twitter accounts. There are four more Summer Reading events, one tomorrow in Tewksbury, at Norwell and Weymouth on August 13th and at New Bedford on August 18th.

I neglected to complete my remarks at the end of the election last month. As I had said, since I have been on the board, it has been the norm for the Executive Board to serve for two years and for an Executive Board election be held each year. Since it is important for all Commissioners to be well informed, after the meeting, I decided to double check and asked Mary Rose Quinn via email.

Mary Rose's response: “You are correct. The traditional terms have been two as Secretary, then two as Vice Chair, and then two as Chair. The Executive Board is elected each year and can serve two consecutive terms. Although an election is held the second year, the slate usually includes the current officers unless someone chooses not to run for a second term.”

She went on to say:

“This has been the pattern for all the years I have been associated with the MBLC (through 4 directors) which dates back more than 25 years. It gives continuity to the work involved by commissioners and stability to the positions. The current E-Board at the end of the first term is polled to see if they are interested in remaining in their respective offices for a second term.”

Congratulations to Paul Kissman for being named Chair of the American Library Association’s E-rate Task Force and to Lauren Stara for being asked to become a member of American Institute of Architects/American Library Association (AIA/ALA) Library Building Awards Committee. The MBLC staff is so accomplished that this kind of recognition does not even surprise us anymore, but it always is an honor for the MBLC.

**Commissioner Reports**

**Commissioner Abraham**

* PR Committee Meeting
* MBLC Executive Board Meeting

**Commissioner Biancolo**

* PR Committee Meeting

**Commissioner Conrad**

* July 8 – MBLC Board Meeting
* July 12 – MLS Executive Board Meeting
* July 13 – ARIS Workshop
* July 27 – MBLC Executive Board Meeting

**Commissioner Kronholm**

* Attended Summer Reading Library Visit at the South Hadley Public Library
* Visited the Richmond Library

**Commissioner Comeau**

* August 19- Will be speaking at the groundbreaking of the Greenfield Public Library

**Commissioner Resnick**

* Attended Summer Reading Library Visit at the East Forest Park Branch of the Springfield City Library
* Attended Summer Reading Library Visit at the South Hadley Public Library

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities since the last monthly Board meeting:

* July 8—Virtual meeting with LocalLinx representatives (operator of MassBroadband 123 fiber network for Central/Western MA)
* July 9—Discussion with MLS representatives regarding LSTA/ARPA funds
* July 12—MLS Executive Board meeting, virtual
* July 13—MLA Legislative Committee discussion about potential e-book state legislation
* July 14—COSLINE standing meeting, virtual
* July 19—Call with Noah McClanan, Deputy Director, Office of Boards and Commissions
* July 21—Call with consulting firm CampaignCounsel.org regarding support for MLS
* July 23—Call with aide to Rep. Moulton regarding Build America’s Libraries Act
* July 23—Urban Libraries Council Webinar: "Finding Our Way Forward Together: Advancing Libraries as Anti-Racist Leaders”
* July 26—COSLINE Cooperative IMLS Five-Year Plan Evaluation Discussion
* July 28—National Book Festival discussion between Mass. Center for the Book & MBLC staff, virtual
* July 29—COSLA ARPA discussion
* August 2—Call with aides to Sen. Markey regarding upcoming ECF webinar
* August 2—Lynn Public Library summer reading visit

Governor Baker signed the FY2022 budget on July 16. He didn’t veto or reduce any of our budget lines, which were all funded at or above what we requested in our FY22 Legislative Agenda. Mary Rose will provide more detail in her report.

We will be co-hosting a virtual conversation with Senator Markey and FCC representatives on Thursday, August 5 from 3:30-4:00 p.m. to discuss the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), the portion of the American Rescue Plan Act which addresses the homework gap and the connectivity gap by offering 100% discounts on laptops, Chromebooks, and tablets as well as related internet services that extend beyond the library’s walls. To register, visit: <https://senate.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItfuGvqTkuEhuP8HLvfuN6aRq5kVfE6mE>

We are partnering with the Mass. Center for the Book to co-host a watch party and conversation on September 22 at 7:00 p.m. in collaboration with the Library of Congress and the 2021 National Book Festival. We will be viewing a recorded video of Isabel Wilkerson discussing her book, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents. Following the video, former Massachusetts Representative and civil rights advocate [Byron Rushing](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/honorable-byron-rushing__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!2RIJ2PyVkmTMYsUqUKdXlhbxwALlqiFZVbgm0VRGdN_-i6H52YSqFtbGPOCeG-hRMsGl5g$) and Professor [Roopika Risam](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/www.roopikarisam.com/__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!2RIJ2PyVkmTMYsUqUKdXlhbxwALlqiFZVbgm0VRGdN_-i6H52YSqFtbGPOCeG-hHje5QTQ$" \t "_blank), associate professor at Salem State and a scholar in public humanities and African diaspora and indigenous studies will facilitate a conversation. The Communications team is developing posters, social media, and bookmarks to help promote the event. Due to the rise in COVID-19 this is now an all-virtual event. More information to come soon.

The MBLC is joining with eight other Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast (COSLINE) states to contract with QualityMetrics, LLC for the required independent evaluation of our IMLS Five-Year Plan 2018-2022, due March 30, 2022. This evaluation will also help inform our IMLS Five-Year Plan 2023-2027, due June 30, 2022. Our previous evaluation is available at: <https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/state-profiles/evals/massachusetts5yearevaluation.pdf>

The ARPA-funded WiFi hotspot program hit a couple of significant milestones in July. MBLC’s business office completed the contracting process with hotspot provider T-Mobile.  This paved the way for the hotspots to be “kitted” and delivered to participating libraries. Paul Kissman and I will be leading follow-up Q&A sessions for libraries on August 11 and 13.

Communities Hard Hit by COVID-19 (CHHBC) open grant: Nearly all of the 20 libraries that are eligible for the CHHBC Open grants have submitted their budget and program ideas. Lyndsay Forbes has been working with libraries to make sure their planned spending aligns with IMLS guidelines. Library proposals include plans to increase outreach efforts, improve accessibility through technology, enhance outdoor programming and service spaces, and to offer career assistance. Funds will be focused on increasing services to underserved populations. Another common theme is facilitating contactless services through pick-up lockers and self-checkout stations. Finally, several communities are putting funds towards outreach vans.

MBLC and MLS are embarking on a new partnership with Brazelton Touchpoints Center, part of Boston Children’s Hospital, with the goal of becoming an official Touchpoints training site for Massachusetts libraries. This partnership, supported with LSTA funding, will allow Lyndsay Forbes, Shelley Quezada and staff from MLS to offer the Touchpoints in Libraries training, the aim of which is to build capacity in Massachusetts libraries to support more effective family and caregiver engagement in libraries.

While we anticipate MBLC and MLS staff being able to start offering Touchpoints in Libraries training by the fall of 2023, Massachusetts public libraries will be able to participate in the training this fall, starting on October 19. Libraries can apply in teams of three to participate in this training. Teams must consist of a staff member of youth services, a staff member from a non-youth services department, and a member of administration (director or assistant director). All team members will commit to attending 8 weekly virtual sessions and complete related coursework. Team members will also commit to attending at least 4 of 6 monthly reflection sessions that follow.

Paul Kissman was named Chair of the American Library Association’s E-rate Task Force. ALA’s E-rate Task Force Is charged with working with the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to improve and streamline the current operation and future development of the E-rate program of discounted telecommunication rates for schools and libraries. The Task Force gathers input from the library community and other interested library organizations including the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) about issues and concerns with the E-rate program and conveys those concerns to the SLD and to the FCC on the telecommunications discount program. Congratulations, Paul!

Evan Knight attended 3 recent webinars on models of library lending for digital objects, mostly focused types of Controlled Digital Lending (“CDL”) – recordings are available at <https://blog.archive.org/2021/07/20/recordings-now-available-from-recent-controlled-digital-lending-webinars/>. This is an emerging space that is already being used for academic library course reserves. Internet Archive makes a compelling, low-risk proposition for public libraries to get involved, but litigation on their model is scheduled to be heard in April 2022.

Evan also participated in Communities Responding to Emergency Weather (CREW) Resilience Hub: (with Rob) on 7/2. The non-profit called “CREW” works to enhance resilience among their constituents of community activists, including a fair number of libraries in MA. Evan is using his experience with CREW to explore the development of a playbook for libraries that wish to better connect with local emergency managers.

Shelley and Rob have been working with Jonathan O’Dell from the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) and MLS Delivery to distribute the latest edition of The Modern Guide to Hearing Loss for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This updated guide is intended to assist in addressing issues of health and well-being, accessibility, communications, and technology, as well as the impact of hearing loss, where to turn for help, information on emerging technologies, and understanding and coping with trauma and hearing loss.

Included in the delivery will be MCDHH’s Visor Card, a communication aid that features icons that can be used in various roadside situations for self-identification and to expediting communication with responders by deaf or hard of hearing individuals. Deliveries will take place in August.

Maura held Interviews with municipal officials in Andover, Southborough, and Bridgewater for the New Director Search Packet. These conversations were helpful for offering a new perspective on the hiring of a library director, from municipal employees and experts in HR. In addition to gaining valuable insights, she has set the stage to invite these municipal leaders to speak to future events.

Maura facilitated a “Friends Sharing with Friends” Coffee Hour in July. Topics included recaps of what Friends are doing this summer, successful book sales, and ongoing challenges. 13 people attended.

Lauren has been invited to become a member of the American Institute of Architects/American Library Association (AIA/ALA) Library Building Awards Committee. The award recognizes library structures for excellence in architectural design. Recipients must demonstrate design achievement, including a sense of place, purpose, ecology, environmental sustainability, and of history. Congratulations, Lauren!

The Communications Team has been busy with the summer library program. Along with MBLC staff members Andrea Bunker, Lyndsay Forbes, and Mary Rose Quinn, the team has held Bruins visits at East Forest Park in Springfield, South Hadley, Lynn and North Reading. The First Lady of the Commonwealth has participated in 3 of the visits. Senators Tarr, Lesser, and Representative Capano have also participated in the events as have mayors from Springfield and Lynn. The team thanks Commissioners Cluggish, Resnick, and Kronholm for their support and participation in the visits. The team has four more visits planned: Tewksbury, Norwell, Weymouth and New Bedford. The First Lady will attend in New Bedford. Given the rise in COVID cases, the team has been reaching out to the libraries and the Bruins to ensure that these events occur safely.

The summer challenge with Mrs. Baker and Blades which launched on July 1 with 60 libraries participating will end on August 16. We’ll draw prize winners soon after and get the Bruins signed gear to the libraries. Libraries can use the gear in any way that supports the library. We’ll also tally up reading goals. Last year participants read 1.7 million minutes.

Ordering for hotspot promotional materials is set to begin. The team is developing brochures and inserts that will be customized with local library information. Libraries will also be able to tell us which languages (in addition to English) they need. We’re also creating posters, social media and a survey to capture how people are using the devices. Our goal is to have materials to libraries during the month of August. We’ll test materials with the statewide PR Committee and with a resident group.

The Statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee launched the resident survey on June 7 with about 800 people completing the survey before our July 9 deadline. However, given the demographic data and the number of non-users, the team worked with Buyer to do some targeted paid advertising. We now have 1200 responses and have increased responses in our targeted areas: non-library users, men, and non-Caucasians. We’re in the process of reviewing the data and will bring a full report to the PR Committee in September.

The MBLC’s application to the Boston Book Festival has been accepted. It is in Copley Square on Saturday, October 16, and new this year, also in Nubian Square, Roxbury, on Saturday, October 23.

**Report from Perkins LIBRARY**

Kim Charlson, Executive Director presented the following report:

The Perkins Library spent most of FY21 focusing on rebounding services for our borrowers during the pandemic. Some FY21 statistics include:

* Active Patrons: 20,498
* Circulation: 496,577
* Machines Loaned: 2,295
* Newsline Talking Newspaper Users: 3,920
* Total Minutes Used: 2,037,009

= 33,950 Hours = 1,414.50 Days

* BARD (Braille & Audio Reading) Book Download Service:
* BARD Active Users: 1,607
* BARD Titles Downloaded: 100,797
* Total # of Phone Calls: 42,742
* Tele-Fun Zoom Activities:
* # of Events: 357
* Total # of Participants: 8,800
* Total Zoom Presentation Minutes: 51,953

= 865.88 Hours = 36 Days

**Program Highlights:**

**Tele-Fun Zoom Activities:**

As an outgrowth of BARD trainings on Zoom, staff developed a program called "Tele-Fun” Activities which features weekly events that patrons can participate in during regularly scheduled time slots. There are activities scheduled for almost every day! Topics include: Accessible Trivia every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; Audio described films are played during our Movie Matinees every Monday morning at 10:00 AM, as well as a Listening Library hour with radio dramas each Thursday afternoon.

We also host educational classes where patrons can learn about various assistive devices and resources. We have read "Choose Your Own Adventure" books and have let patrons vote toward the outcome. One session was an audio-sensory spatial narration using audiojack.com, and soon we're planning to introduce an over-the-phone virtual classroom, a streaming service where patrons can call-in to audio described educational films and documentaries, without needing to operate a television or DVD player, and attendees can even participate in "class work" afterwards.

Many of our patrons were among those who did not have the skills needed when remote connectivity was merely an option, but, now that it has become almost a mandate, these individuals can find themselves even more isolated. Having the ability to stay connected with others while staying socially distanced, to share and listen to their stories and experiences, to learn and to grow, have all had a positive impact for our borrowers, and have been a big hit for our participants.

We are planning on adding new content soon to include a poetry group, an Easy Yoga class, and accessible bingo nights.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

Revenue collections for Fiscal Year 2021 were $34.137 billion, $5.047 billion or 17.3% above benchmark and $4.528 billion or 15.3% over the actual amount collected in Fiscal Year 2020. Preliminary June 2021 revenue collections total $3.687 billion as of August 3, 2021, which is $1.11 billion or 43.1% more than benchmark.

Several state and local officials attended the Summer Reading visits in Springfield, South Hadley, Lynn and North Reading. All expressed enthusiasm for the events and appreciation to libraries for their efforts throughout the pandemic.

**LEGISLATIVE AGENDA PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION**

Purpose of a theme: helps advocates bring focus to a narrative, statewide and local; connects the lines; develops talking points; helps affiliates present a united or connected presentation in their sheets. FY 2022 Legislative Agenda page <https://mblc.state.ma.us/about-us/legislative-agenda.php>.

2023 Libraries = Opportunity for All!

* Builds on 2022 narrative and on our strategic goals (equity, diversity, inclusion)

2022 Rely on Us!

2021 Local Aid for Public Libraries

2020 State Aid for Regional Libraries

2019 Libraries Need High Speed Internet Access

2018 Because Libraries….. Overall support with 12 individual Agenda sheets

* Because there’s a difference between a web search and research
* Because you need to learn to read before you read to learn
* Because we can’t lose sight of the importance of equal access
* Because he shouldn’t be limited by the street he lives on
* Because his dream job exists; he just needs help finding it
* Because libraries are open 24/7
* Because America is still the land of opportunity
* Because students can’t afford scholarly journals on a ramen noodle budget
* Because the economy depends on the next new idea
* Because we never stop learning
* Because Peru and Florida are in Massachusetts
* Because the next best selling author could be in our own back yard
* Top 5 Reasons Why you should care about the Legislative Agenda and State Library funding to the MBLC

2017 State Funding Cuts are putting Library Resource Sharing At Risk   
 Libraries = Opportunity for All (Sub-plot)

* How sharing library resources works, and why it’s at risk.

2016 Massachusetts Residents Need More  
 \*Jobs \*Technology \*New American Services \*Stem Training \*Early Literacy Education

2015 End the Digital Lockout

2014 Massachusetts Libraries: In Demand and Under Pressure

2013 Who Needs Libraries? We All Do!

* Local library data insert

2012 A Decade of Library Funding and Usage

2011 Don’t Close the Book on Libraries

Additional handouts:

* Affiliate sheets (developed by Matt Perry working with the Affiliates) <https://awarehouse.mblc.state.ma.us/collateral/official-docs/legislative/>
* Construction handouts: Waitlist and bond request and cap increase (Capital)
* Construction Talking Points for both the bond and cap (Capital)
* Construction Project sheets <https://awarehouse.mblc.state.ma.us/collateral/official-docs/construction/>

Operating v Capital Funding for Construction

* The annual operating budget is approved through the legislative process each Fiscal Year starting with the Governor’s budget.
* Capital bonds can be initiated by the Governor or Legislature and are voted through the same legislative approval process as the operating budget. Some are stand-alone bills and others are for many purposes, i.e. the Infrastructure Bond Bill (State and Federal)
* The annual bond spending cap is the purview of the Governor under the auspices of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance.  
  Officials involved:
  + Governor Charlie Baker
  + Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito
  + ANF Secretary Michael Heffernan
* Officials to have contact the Governor and ANF:
  + Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA)
  + Local municipal Officials
  + State Legislative Delegation
  + Trustees
  + Friends
  + Building Committees, etc.

DRAFT numbers for discussion purposes only!



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

Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, presented the following report:

**Strategic Initiative 1**

MLS ensures its services are sustainable, prioritize member needs, and equitably serve all member types.

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| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work toward Goal** |
| MLS ensures service value to all member types. | MLS will develop a guide to its levels of services, clarifying what benefits are available to each member type; the guide will be shared broadly and in several formats | *Member library staff at a broad level will have a greater understanding of MLS services and resources.* | Staff has been selected to work on developing a guide to consulting and training services |
| MLS will continue to strengthen its partnerships and collaborations to allow MLS to focus on what it does uniquely well. | MLS will establish a partnership process, including a rubric, liaisons, expectations, policy and evaluations of current and new partnerships for opportunities and overlap. | *MLS will report annually on the value of their partnerships.* | Staff has been selected to work on this action over the coming year, with a pilot collaboration with a new partnership.  New opportunities are being planned with partners, in an effort to leverage strengths of participating organizations to provide a valuable opportunity for member libraries. |
| New Services will be designed to deliver the greatest statewide impact, able to expand and contract due to available funding and need. | MLS will create guidelines and criteria for new and established services for value and impact. | *As an element of service review or introduction, MLS will be able to detail the impact of the service.* | We have contracted with a consultant for a Learning Management System to manage learning opportunities |

**Strategic Initiative 2**

MLS empowers leaders to emerge at every level of library service, connecting staff throughout the stages of their careers.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work toward Goal** |
| MLS promotes excellence and continuity by providing professional development, conversation and community around leadership. | MLS develops a process for reaching out to members/training participants, asking them to report on how MLS programs have helped them. | *Member library staff recognize the transformative value of building and maintaining a professional network.* | Offering Leadership Development workshops |
| Leadership, professional development, and networking opportunities will have flexible offerings in order to include participants from various library types, library sizes, and resources. | Linked to S.I.1, G.1: MLS will develop a guide to its levels of service, clarifying what benefits are available to each member type; l the guide will be shared broadly and in several formats. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the number of professional development opportunities via type of opportunity, intended audience, training modality and type of library.* | Engagement with the staff and board on Case for Support work is nearing completion; selected member outreach is forthcoming. |

**Strategic Initiative 3**

MLS will take the lead in facilitating important conversations, and support member-facing initiatives focused on DEI: diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice work.

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| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work toward Goal** |
| MLS will integrate the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice into its policies, practices, procedures, and programs. | In collaboration with partner organizations, MLS will explore hiring a coordinator/consultant to support the membership in this work.  MLS will work to align internal policies and procedures to the tenets of DEI. | *MLS will demonstrate both increased resource allocation as well as substantive, visible progress in representation throughout MLS services.* |  |
| Following the lead of trusted experts, MLS will build awareness in using the DEI tenets with member library staff to identify and eliminate barriers to inclusive library services. | In partnership with member libraries, research and tailor a DEI evaluation framework for member libraries. | *Member library staff are confident in using the core values of DEI with their communities.* | Offering DEI workshops  Exploring the possibility of offering another round of DEI workshops after the Fall CE season |

**Additional monthly notes:**

* July begins a new fiscal year for MLS staff, and we’ve worked with each member of our team to ensure that specific tasks in this plan will be addressed. We will provide details as they occur. Projects include creating and piloting a partnership evaluation process, an in person leadership learning opportunity, and work toward providing members with the resources they need to create a DEI evaluation framework.
* Both MLS offices are open (only to staff and deliveries) and minimally staffed. Starting the week of Sept 6, all staff have been directed to plan their work schedules to mirror pre-pandemic schedules and should include in office, at home, and in library days (as appropriate).

**New Librarians/members**

**Monthly Update- June 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Library Name** | **Library** | **Town/ City** | **Email** |
| Lilly Sundell-Thomas | Ipswich Public Library | Ipswich | lsthomas@ipswichlibrary.org |
| Mollie Surprenant | Nashoba Brooks School | Concord | msurprenant@nashobabrooks.org |
| Mike Slawson | Plympton Public Library | Plympton | mslawson@sailsinc.org |
| Jennifer Harris | Kingston Public Library | Kingston | jharris@kingstonpubliclibrary.org |
| Irja Finn | Jonathan Bourne Public Library | Bourne | finn@bournelibrary.org |
|  |  |  |  |
| This color print= Interim/ acting director- public libraries | | | |
| This color print= new library director but not new to the library world | | | |
| This color print= new members | | | |
| This color print= new librarians/ Director | | | |
| This color print= returning schools | | | |
| This color print= returning school but not a new librarian (new color code this month) | | | |

**Report from the Library for the commonwealth**

Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator presented the following report.

**Reopening of Adams Street and Hyde Park**

Two of our previously closed branches have reopened for in-person service. The Hyde Park Branch has undergone a $614,000 repair project that began in August 2020. Among the structural repairs to building, such as waterproofing the foundation walls, the main entrance had the door threshold reset to offer an accessible entryway, and an assistive listening system was installed in Menino Hall.

The Adams Street Branch has reopened following an $18.3 million project that began in June 2019.The reconstruction was designed with the input of the Dorchester community, and entirely reimagined the prior space to prioritize inclusivity, transparency and access. The 13,450 square foot reconstruction nearly doubled the prior 7,200 square foot space, including a 100-seat community room, a conference room and a study room, a children’s early literacy story area, a newly designed teen area, expanded patron seating, a music room, and robust technology infrastructure.

**OverDrive Magazines**

BPL has re-subscribed to Overdrive Magazines – we had received many patron complaints when the service was discontinued.

* This includes 3446 titles, all available simultaneously and with back issues.
* Popular magazines returning (and missed by patrons) include: the Economist, New Scientist, several Minecraft magazines.
* There is coverage across multiple countries and languages, including Chinese, Russian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Japanese and more.
* Magazines do not count toward loan or hold limits.
* Patrons can choose to be notified when new issues are available (automatic checkouts are not available).
* All magazines can be browsed at <https://bpl.overdrive.com/library/magazines>or <https://libbyapp.com/library/bpl/guide/magazines>

OverDrive Magazines are in addition to magazines BPL offers statewide via Flipster and PressReader.

**Strategic Plan**

The Boston Public Library’s Board of Trustees voted to approve a five-year strategic plan and BPL has recently filed it with the MBLC. This ‘strategic roadmap’ outlines the Library’s proposed areas of focus for 2021 - 2025, and provides a bridge from the previous ‘Compass’ Strategic Plan to a future strategic planning exercise with deep and robust stakeholder engagement.

**Addendum to July report: National Digital Newspaper Project**

As part of July’s update, I had reported that the Digital Services team is anticipating news on our National Digital Newspaper Program grant application, which is likely to come in August or early September. The award would be approximately $250,000 to deliver 100,000 pages of newspaper content to Library of Congress over the next two years. In response to questions about which Massachusetts newspapers might be included in the project, I was able to gather the following information:

The grant requires that newspapers be published in the applicant’s state or territory between 1690 and 1963. For newspapers published after 1925, only those published without copyright or for which the copyright was not registered or renewed by 1963—in other words, only those considered to be in the public domain—are eligible for selection.

Part of the grant will be assembling an advisory committee to determine which titles and years would be most relevant for this program, so a lot of that is yet to be decided. Due to the cap on how many pages LOC will accept per year, we’re going to need to be selective, hence the importance of the advisory committee.

Principles for title selection include: (1) Titles that reflect the political, economic, and cultural history of Massachusetts; (2) Titles recognized as “papers of record” at the state or county level that contain public legal notices, news of state and regional governmental affairs, and announcements of community news and events; (3) Titles that provide statewide or multi-county coverage of the majority of the population areas in Massachusetts; and (4) Titles with broad chronological span.

**Libraries and COVID-19**

Director Lonergan stated that the September Board Meeting which originally was going to be held at the new MBLC Office is going to be a Zoom Meeting. As of now it will be a month-to-month decision. The October Board Meeting is scheduled at the Norwell Public Library and the November Board Meeting is scheduled at the East Forest Park Branch of the Springfield City Library.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**List of documents for the August 5, 2021, Regular Monthly Board Meeting:**

1. Agenda for the August 5, 2021, Regular Monthly Board Meeting
2. Draft Minutes from the July 8, 2021 Regular Monthly Board Meeting
3. Report from MLS
4. Report from LFC

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cluggish asked for motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Ball seconded to adjourn the August 5, 2021 MBLC Monthly Board Meeting 12:17 P.M.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Absent |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Kronholm- Left Meeting |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Resnick- Yes |

**The motion passed.**

Letter

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Deb Abraham

Secretary