Graphical user interface, text

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

**Date** : Thursday, July 7, 2022

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

**Place** : Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Offices/ Hybrid Meeting

Boston, MA

**Present** : Mary Ann Cluggish, Chair; Debby Conrad, Vice Chair; Les Ball; Vicky Biancolo; Karen Traub; Jessica Vilas Novas

**Zoom** : Deb Abraham, Secretary; George Comeau, Esq., Stacy DeBole

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; 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; Shelley Quezada, Consultant to the Unserved; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs / Government Liaison

**Staff Zoom:**

Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Kate Butler, Electronic Services Specialist; Maura Deedy, Library Advisory Specialist; Jen Inglis, State Aid Specialist; Matthew Perry, Communications Specialist; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist; Lillian Sutton, Administrative Assistant

**Observers Zoom:**

Maureen Amyot, Library Director, Westborough Public Library; Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director, M.N. Spear Library, Shutesbury; Ed Baldwin, Chair of the Building Committee, Westborough Public Library; Jenny Benedict, Library Director, Sawyer Free Library, Gloucester; Candance Bradbury-Carlin, Library Director, Tilton Library, Deerfield; Debbie Clifton, Associate Director, Seekonk Public Library; Mike Durkay, Chairperson Board of Trustees, Seekonk Public Library; Eileen Dyer, Library Director, Swansea Public Library; Leigh Emery, Library Building Committee, Westborough Public Library; Brad Foster, Library Trustee, M.N. Spear Library, Shutesbury; Ron Gagnon, Executive Director, North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE); Tracey Graham, Adult Services Librarian, Westborough Public Library

Kate Hibbert, Library Director, Seekonk Public Library; Mary Johnston, Chair Board of Trustees, Westborough Public Library; Emily Martin, Children’s Librarian, Westborough Public Library; Ellen Rainville, Library Director, J.V. Fletcher Library, Westford; Alyssa Richard, Secretary, Board of Trustees, Seekonk Public Library; Judy Rollinson, Library Assistant, Westborough Public Library; Beth Schreiber, Library Director, Grafton Public Library; David Slater, Network Administrator, Old Colony Library Network (OCLN); Lynne Soukup, Assistant Director, Westborough Public Library; Anthony Vaver, Local History Librarian, Westborough Public Library

**Meeting called to order by Chair Cluggish**

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

**Roll Call of Commissioners**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioner Abraham- Present Zoom | Commissioner Cluggish- Present | Commissioner DeBole- Present- Zoom |
| Commissioner Ball- Present | Commissioner Comeau- Present- Zoom | Commissioner Traub- Present |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Present | Commissioner Conrad- Present | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Present |

Chair Cluggish explained that she would be making a motion to comply with a consent agenda. A consent agenda is a board meeting practice that groups routine motions into the consent agenda. If there are no objections, the Chair can declare a motion passed, rather than counting votes for each motion separately.

Chair Cluggish moved to adopt a consent agenda for agenda items #2, Approval of minutes, Agenda item #7 a-l, Consideration of approval of the FY2023 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Awards, Item #8 Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Grant Awards. Commissioner Ball seconded.

Chair Cluggish asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners for this motion.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Yes |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

**The motion passed.**

**Approval of Minutes from the regular monthly meeting:**

**June 2, 2022**

Chair Cluggish asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2022 Monthly Meeting.

Commissioner Conrad moved and Commissioner Ball seconded to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2022, Regular Monthly Meeting with minor edits.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Chair’s Report**

Chair Cluggish presented the following report:

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

* June 17, MLA Legislative Meeting, Marlborough
* June 18, Boyden Library Foxborough, toured the library with Governor Baker & Lauren Baker
* June 28, Virtual Executive Board meeting

Touring the Boyden Library with the Governor was an unexpected event. Governor Baker and Lauren Baker couldn't get to the Foxborough Summer Reading event on the Common on time so they came to the library afterwards instead. I started to thank him for raising the Construction Cap and he waved it off, saying “the Construction thing?” indicating that he thought it was a no-brainer. Of course, after Lauren Stara made the case for it, it truly was no-brainer.

Today is my last meeting as Chairman; looking back on the last two years with the pandemic hopefully in the rear-view mirror I can say the pandemic made for not only an interesting but often challenging time. Being Chair is an honor and an extremely gratifying experience. It gave me the opportunity to work closely with the talented MBLC staff, deal with some unusual challenges, and solidify relationships with some key legislators who helped us with funding.

The pandemic changed many things, the way we meet and work being the most notable. We got the zoom meetings down cold and now we're meeting in a hybrid fashion which I suspect will remain hereafter.

Despite the pandemic, MBLC work continued not only unabated, but in fact with more work and activity than ever helping libraries across the state get through the pandemic and provide services. Over the last two years, there were many MBLC accomplishments in which we can all take pride.

The MBLC using ARPA money to provide over 350 hotspots to libraries across the state is the one of which I personally felt the proudest.

The Summer Reading Team reinvented Summer Reading to be a wholly outdoor affair that can now be held on Library lawns, Parks, Town Commons, anywhere. And in doing so, expanded the activities and made it even more exciting and fun.

Library Construction didn't stop, in fact 8 new libraries opened in Weymouth, Norwell, Erving, Hadley, Roxbury, Littleton, Grafton and Medford. We awarded three construction grants and our Construction Specialists created the Small Library Pilot Project and awarded the first grant in this category to Shutesbury which approved their project just last week!

The innovative work done by our Construction Specialists resulted in the MBLC being awarded the State Leading by Example Award. The MBLC is helping communities build libraries that use little or no fossil fuels. Lauren and Andrea's podcasts have been listened to around the world.

It also appears that we've improved our Advocacy with the proof being the increases in funding we've received in the past couple of years. Libraries truly stepped up in the pandemic and Legislators heard about it loud and clear.

In a recent interview, David Leonard, President of the BPL, said, “I continue to hear stories from neighbors or members of the public generally – they will literally stop me on the street to tell me things like, 'The library saved my life during COVID'.”

We know that the MBLC had a part in that all across the state.

**Commissioner Activities**

**Commissioner Abraham**

* June 24- Participated in Zoom Call about the Executive Board nominating committee
* June 28 – MBLC Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)

**Commissioner Ball**

* June 24- Participated in Zoom Call about the Executive Board nominating committee

**Commissioner Biancolo**

* June 16- Attended CMLA Meeting
* June 23- Attended ARIS Training
* June 24- Participated in Zoom Call about the Executive Board nominating committee

**Commissioner Conrad**

* June 7 – Statewide Database Question and Answer Session (Virtual)
* June 13 – ARIS workshop (Virtual)
* June 17 – MLA Legislative Committee Meeting (in person – MLS offices)
* June 28 – MBLC Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)

**Commissioner Traub**

* June 10- WMLA Board (virtual)
* June 13- MLS Executive Board (virtual)
* June 15- Ice Cream Social Summer Reading Kickoff East Forest Park Library Springfield
* June 18- Pelham Library Senator Jo Comerford's library tour

**Commissioner Vilas Novas**

* June 13- MLS Executive Board (virtual)

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities highlights since the last monthly Board meeting:

* June 3—COSLA EDI Working Group meeting, virtual
* June 6 & 8—Meeting with auditors from Office of the State Auditor, virtual and in-person
* June 6—COSLA Table Talk: Statewide Delivery & Courier Services
* June 7—MLS Webinar: *Intellectual Freedom: Fighting the Good Fight*
* June 7 & 16—LSTA Five-Year Plan 2023-2027 meetings with QualityMetrics, LLC
* June 7—New Statewide Databases Question and Answer Session
* June 8— COSLINE (Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast) meeting, virtual
* June 10— MLA Executive Board meeting, virtual
* June 10—MLS Sustainability Committee meeting, virtual
* June 13—MLS Executive Board meeting, virtual
* June 14—Mass. Center for the Book Quarterly Board meeting, virtual
* July 6—ARIS Workshop, virtual

**Potential Open Meeting Law changes as of July 15:** On February 15, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law an extension to certain COVID-19 related measures including provisions regarding holding remote meetings and remote public access to meetings. This extension expires on July 15, 2022.  
  
The Senate budget bill includes a provision that would extend the July 15, 2022, expiration to December 15, 2023. The Senate budget amendment is under consideration by the Budget Conference Committee. The Senate has also passed a stand-alone bill to extend these policies. In addition, the Legislature’s Joint Committee on State Administration is considering bills that would make permanent changes to the Open Meeting Law. If the Legislature does not enact any changes or extensions, then beginning on July 15 meetings of public bodies will need to resume taking place in person at locations that are open and accessible to the public with at least the chair and a quorum of the public body physically present.

Regarding our **FY2023 operating budget**, Massachusetts began the new fiscal year on July 1 with a $6 billion interim budget that is in place until the end of July. Mary Rose will provide an update on the status of the FY23 budget during her report. On the capital side, our annual cap for the MPLCP is now $24 million for FY2023.

We submitted our new **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Plan 2023-2027** to the Institute of Library and Museum Services on June 29, along with the required certifications and assurances. IMLS has ninety days to review and approve (or request revisions to) our new plan. Once IMLS has reviewed and approved our new plan we will forward it to the Commissioners and post it on our website for sharing with the library community.

Paul Kissman, Celeste Bruno and Rob Favini met with members of the **Western Massachusetts Alliance for Digital Equity** (<https://sites.google.com/view/alliancefordigitalequity/home>) on June 3rd. The alliance is a regional coalition of organizations from western Massachusetts communities that serves as a catalyst for community action to assure digital equity for people focusing on the needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents, those residents of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, rural residents too remote to get internet access, older adults, students of all ages, residents with physical or mental disabilities,  and all residents of low socio-economic status.

On June 10, Rob attended a meeting of the Alliance’s Western Mass Digital Literacy Library Network. Representatives from the Fobes Library in Oakham, the Jones Library in Amherst, the Springfield City Library, and the Massachusetts Library System were on the call. This initial planning meeting will be followed by regular meetings.

Paul Kissman, Kate Butler, and Maura Deedy attended the **American Library Association’s 2023 Annual Conference** in Washington, DC, held June 24-27.

Paul emceed and participated as a panelist on the *Affordable Connectivity Program* session. The session highlighted Federal support for extending essential internet connectivity and providing laptops to underserved populations. The session also looked at the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), the E-rate program, and related efforts by libraries and schools to address this issue. Paul also chaired the **ALA E-rate Task Force** annual meeting.

Maura ran a conference session, *Ask the Experts: Friends of Libraries*, with two fellow library experts:  Madeline Jarvis, Director, Two Harbors Public Library, MN and Ari Brooks, Executive Director at Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, MD. Maura and the panelists provided input on the state of Friends groups and ran scenarios and discussed ways of handling the issues presented. This was followed by a lightening round of questions, and then Q&A.

Lyndsay Forbes attended the Brockton Public Library’s kickoff event for their ARPA-funded mobile planetarium on June 11. Brockton used a portion of their Communities Hard Hit by COVID grant to purchase the planetarium. For more information, please see the following *Boston Globe* article:  <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/06/02/metro/brockton-public-library-launches-mobile-planetarium/>

Lyndsay has also been overseeing the implementation of the agency’s Amplifund grant management software suite with help from Kate Butler. Once implemented the software system will manage all aspects of grant applications, awarding, funds distribution, and reporting. The Public Library Construction Program will also use Amplifund to manage construction awards. Lauren Stara and Andrea Bunker have been working with Amplifind to customize the software package for construction needs.

Maura Deedy ran the following slate of Trustee Deep Dives and Friends Coffee Hours in June:

6/1 Trustee Deep Dive – New Board Members

6/7 Friends Coffee Hour

6/16 Deep Dive: Collection Development and Intellectual Freedom

6/21 Deep Dive: New Board Members

On June 15 Maura presented a program on book challenges to the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC) to 25 attendees made up of MVLC staff and members.

Evan Knight, Andrea Bunker, and Lauren Stara met with representatives from [Resilient MA](https://resilientma.mass.gov/home.html) (the Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth), and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in June to discuss climate risks to libraries and their communities, and how libraries can get involved with the Commonwealth’s official Climate Risk Assessment that will be used to inform the next Hazard Mitigation Plan and possibly funding priorities.

Rob Favini and Sarah Sogigian attended the [Massachusetts Commonwealth Consortium of Libraries in Public Higher Education Institutions](https://lib.westfield.ma.edu/c.php?g=354051&p=2386963) (MCCLPHEI) annual meeting in Worcester on June 9. They presented background on our organizations and participated in a discussion about how the MBLC and MLS can work more effectively with MCCLPHEI.

Rob and Sarah also visited public libraries in Blandford, Hampden, Sommerville, and Newburyport in June.

Rob attended the IMLS Grants to States Conference in Baltimore on June 22-24. He participated in a panel presentation on how to get the word out regarding LSTA activities and achievements and shared our legislative agenda and the LSTA website showing the breakdown of LSTA impact by congressional district.

The **Annual Report Information Survey** (ARIS) opened on July 1. The report is part of the State Aid to Public Libraries Program and must be completed each year for libraries to be considered eligible for State Aid in the current grant cycle. The deadline to submit the completed report is August 26. Jen Inglis has conducted multiple workshops since mid-June to review the questions on this year’s survey.

Jen and Mary Rose will be offering an information session on the State Aid to Public Libraries Program on June 7 that is specifically geared towards new (including acting) directors. This live session will be followed up by a recorded session soon after the training.

**Small Library Pilot:** Shutesbury passed their debt exclusion override vote 579 to 250 on June 28 and they are officially moving forward with the Small Library Pilot Project grant. The new library project was approved 422 to 85 at their Annual Town Meeting on May 21.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

No budget (FY 2023), no bill (e-book bill “sent to study”), no revenue (figures for June or FY 2022))

No Budget:  
Massachusetts is one of just three states without an FY 2023 budget in place for the beginning of the new fiscal year. (Virginia and Michigan) The House and Senate voted a $6 billion interim budget on June 27 and signed by the Governor to keep state government services funded and operational through July. The Ways and Means Conference Committee continues its work on the full compromise budget bill. The current legislative session ends on July 31.

No Bill:  
The Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development has kept the E-book Bill in Committee “Accompanied a Study”, effectively ending its chances of passage in this session. Representative Ruth Balser sent an update to her constituent who requested the e-book legislation originally and to the stakeholders who provided language along the way. She noted that “the legal problems around the country that these [e-book] efforts have met impacted the committee's considerations, and the bill did not win the support of the legislative committee. Representative Balser agreed to re-file this bill next session and recommended, “In the meantime, I encourage MLA and Kyle Courtney and others to consider any relevant court decisions or legislative actions in other states over these next months to develop a re-draft.   (We have six months to think about it!)” The bill will need to be ready to file before the beginning of January, 2023. Kyle Courtney and Library Futures continue to work on e-book policy and legislative initiatives that avoid specific copyright language challenged by publishers. <https://www.libraryfutures.net/post/library-futures-releases-policy-statement-and-draft-ebook-legislative-language>

No Revenue (figures):  
The Department of Revenue has not released the June revenue report or the FY 2022 totals. June numbers and annual totals are often delayed by several weeks while officials work to close the books. Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation expects that the Legislature will have a surplus of $3.6 billion when the final accounting of the fiscal year that ended last week is complete. Through May, the state had collected $36.969 billion in tax revenue for fiscal year 2022 -- $2.666 billion or 7.8 percent ahead of expectations. MTF is predicting that Massachusetts is $5.932 billion ahead of benchmark.

1. [**Conference Committee**](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/Process/ConferenceCommitteeBudget) **-** The House and Senate appoint three members each to a "conference committee" to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate proposals. One member of the minority party must be appointed by each branch. The Committee consists of the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Ranking Members of both the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees. The conference committee reports a final compromise bill to the House and Senate.
2. **Budget Approval -** The Conference Committee should finish its work in June to have a budget in place for the new Fiscal Year beginning July 1; both the House and Senate must approve the Conference Committee budget in separate votes before it is sent to the Governor for his signature.

## [Governor's Actions](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/Process/GovernorActions) - After he signs the budget, the Governor has 10 days to review the document and take action to either approve or veto the entire budget, veto or reduce specific line items, veto outside sections or submit changes as an amendment to the budget for further consideration by the Legislature.

## [Legislative Overrides](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/Process/LegislatureOverrides) - The Legislature can override the Governor’s vetoes with a two-thirds vote in each branch. The House must vote first to override any vetoes before they may be considered by the Senate.

## Final Budget - Following any Legislative overrides, when the budget is finalized it is commonly referred to as the “General Appropriations Act” for the upcoming fiscal year. This process should be completed before July 1. In recent years, the budget process has been delayed through the month of July and sometimes longer.

## The legislative budget cycle begins again. Thank you calls or correspondence should be sent after each request to Legislative or Executive Branch offices.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Senate Ways and Means** | | | **Conference Committee** | | **House Ways and Means** | | |  |
| [Michael J. Rodrigues](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/MJR0) | | |  |  | [Aaron Michlewitz](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AMM1) | |  |  |
| Chair |  |  |  |  | Chair |  |  |  |
| [Cindy F. Friedman](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CFF0) | |  |  |  | [Ann-Margaret Ferrante](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AMF1) | | |  |
| Vice Chair |  |  |  |  | Vice Chair |  |  |  |
| [Patrick O'Connor (Ranking](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PMO) Minority) | | | |  | [Todd M. Smola (Ranking Minority)](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/TMS2) | | | |

**Consideration of approval of the FY2023 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Awards**

Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development presented the FY2023 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Awards.

We’re pleased to present the recommendations of the State Advisory Council on Libraries for grants for twenty-one new projects under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program for Fiscal Year 2023.

The recommendations, arranged alphabetically by type of grant and then by municipality, are presented as a series of twelve motions identified as items a-l in the accompanying documentation.

We extend the MBLC’s thanks to the members of the State Advisory Council on Libraries for all their hard work and dedication.

**Access for All**

**Program Abstract:** The MBLC identified issues for libraries seeking to provide service for people who face special challenges using libraries. Many residents cannot fully utilize libraries for a variety of reasons including disabling conditions such as visual, hearing, mobility, and cognitive impairments. Libraries are encouraged to consider their role as an information access point for all, including those members of the community who are traditionally underrepresented among library users.

Commissioner Abraham moved and Commissioner Ball seconded to approve the following Access for All Grant totaling $14,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** | **FY23** | **FY24** |
| Hamilton-Wenham Public Library | $14,000 | $9,000 | $5,000 |
| **Total:** | **$14,000** | **$9,000** | **$5,000** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Anytime STEM Learning**

**Program Abstract:** Libraries offer hands-on, inquiry-based experiential learning and connect STEM to everyday life outside of formal educational settings. Programs introduce young children to a range of opportunities that will promote the next generation of engineers and technologists. Library programs that support the importance of science and technology can help encourage children to take an early look at “frontier occupations” such as alternative energy, green transportation, biotechnology, and robotics.

Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Conrad seconded to approve the following Anytime STEM Learning Grants totaling $19,860 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Sawyer Free Library, Gloucester | $9,860 |
| Granville Public Library | $10,000 |
| **Total:** | **$19,860** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**At the Table**

**Program Abstract:** It is vital for people to understand the role of food in their lives and cultures. Culinary literacy can help communicate the impact that food has on one’s health, environment, and community. Libraries can offer opportunities for people to learn how to cook and gain practical life skills as well as use cooking as a way to advance multiple types of literacy, such as reading, math, cultural, and health. Through the cooperative nature of cooking, libraries can have a unique platform with which they can build and sustain their community.

Commissioner Biancolo moved and Commissioner Vilas Novas seconded to approve the following At the Table Grants totaling $20,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Turner Free Library, Randolph | $10,000 |
| Southborough Library | $10,000 |
| **Total:** | **$20,000** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Citizenship Corners and Expanded English Language Services**

**Program Abstract:** This grant will help develop a range of services for New Americans. Libraries may choose to set up Citizenship Corners that provide dedicated space for circulating materials and informational resources on citizenship and other immigration related topics. This would include offering a series of workshops at least twice a year to understand the naturalization process.

The library could also seek to expand existing English as a Second Language classes or create a Conversation Circle program they could apply for the higher range of funds. This funding could be used for a part-time volunteer coordinator and to pay for support materials on English language instruction. Libraries would need to commit staff time to organizing and training volunteers and agree to designate at least one staff member as support for this program. In addition, the library would set up a Citizenship Corner and offer informational workshops. Libraries applying for the ESL support program would need to commit to a two-year time frame.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Ball seconded to approve the following Citizenship Corners and Expanded English Language Services Grant totaling $15,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** | **FY23** | **FY24** |
| Woburn Public Library | $15,000 | $9,197 | $5,803 |
| **Total:** | **$15,000** | **$9,197** | **$5,803** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Dig In**

**Program Abstract:** Gardens present a variety of learning opportunities as well as benefits to a community. Libraries can use a garden to offer activities and programs that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities to explore science and nutrition, develop DIY skills, and improve social-emotional learning. Libraries may also use a garden to help promote and support healthy living in their community. There is increasing evidence of positive health outcomes from gardening.

Commissioner Conrad moved and Commissioner Ball seconded to approve the following Dig In Grants totaling $20,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Milton Public Library | $10,000 |
| Plymouth Public Library | $10,000 |
| **Total:** | **$20,000** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Go Local**

**Program Abstract:** Libraries have a key role to play in capturing, collecting, and making community stories available and meaningful. They serve as the center of community celebrations and historic events and create valuable records of those events in traditional and new formats. Libraries may draw on their strength in this unique niche by developing projects that use historical documents and artifacts to make new stories and/or generate new records by creating and participating in community events that build the local story.

Commissioner DeBole moved and Commissioner Conrad seconded to approve the following Go Local Grants totaling $20,064 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** | **FY23** | **FY24** |
| Griswold Memorial Library, Colrain | $7,500 | $7,500 | $0 |
| Parker Memorial Library, Dracut | $12,564 | $6,802 | $5,762 |
| **Total:** | **$20,064** | **$14,302** | **$5,762** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Managing Fine and Decorative Arts**

**Program Abstract:** This grant addresses gaps public libraries may have in understanding, preserving, and sharing their unique arts collections with their community. Programming and outreach that leverage the arts collections are significant components of this grant and should strive to reach all members of the community. Projects funds may be used for arts consultants, specialists, and public speakers, as well as such as activities such as inventories, surveys, cataloging, photography, art handling or moving, exhibition planning, and other expenses related to proper storage, maintenance, or display of art collections such as matting and framing (conservation excluded).

Commissioner Traub moved and Commissioner Vilas Novas seconded to approve the following Managing Fine and Decorative Arts Grant totaling $7,500 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Forbes Library, Northampton | $7,500 |
| **Total:** | **$7,500** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Mind in the Making**

**Program Abstract:** This grant allows public libraries to carry out a program to establish or enhance play spaces for children ages 0-6 in public libraries. These play spaces are aimed at early learning and social interaction among children and their caregivers. Funds may be used to support a limited amount of additional staff hours.

Commissioner Vilas Novas moved and Commissioner Ball seconded to approve the following Mind in the Making Grants totaling $30,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Holliston Public Library | $10,000 |
| Richard Salter Storrs Library, Longmeadow | $10,000 |
| Fobes Memorial Library, Oakham | $10,000 |
| **Total:** | **$30,000** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Open for Business**

**Program Abstract:** In times of local economic recovery, libraries are well positioned to help support local entrepreneurs in their efforts to start or expand their respective small business enterprises. The Bellingham Public Library will develop a program that reaches out to both new and experienced entrepreneurs who may seek out resources at the library on topics such as business plan development, incorporation procedures, human resources management and similar issues.

Commissioner Abraham moved and Commissioner Biancolo seconded to approve the following Open for Business Grant totaling $10,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Bellingham Public Library | $10,000 |
| **Total:** | **$10,000** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Open**

**Program Abstract:** This category is being offered to allow librarians to satisfy needs that are not now being met by current programs. It has always been a priority of the federal program to encourage innovation and risk taking. It is also an interest of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to provide librarians with opportunities to help fulfill their strategic plan goals and objectives. The Innovativeprogram will allow applicants to apply new methods to solve problems, build programs, and best carry out their library’s mission and plan. These projects must meet the needs of a specific target audience. Applicants can seek awards for projects that otherwise do not fall under the current LSTA program offerings, whether the project is innovative or a project that is being adapted. The InnovativeProgram offers libraries an opportunity to exercise maximum creativity to implement unique services in a flexible and collaborative grant-making environment.

Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Conrad seconded to approve the following Open Grants totaling $47,661 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Title** | **Amount Recommended** | **FY23** | **FY24** |
| Belding Memorial Library, Ashfield | Rural libraries, rural jails: outreach to incarcerated community members | $9,700 | $9,700 | $0 |
| Lunenberg Public Library | "Don't Leaf Us Out": STEM and Sustainability Learning for All Ages in Lunenburg | $12,961 | $12,961 | $0 |
| Beals Memorial Library, Winchendon | Journeys: Identity, Culture, and Community | $10,000 | $10,000 | $0 |
| Worcester Public Library | ESOL Navigator Service & TOEFL Test Prep for New Americans | $15,000 | $8,594 | $6,406 |
| **Total:** |  | **$47,661** | **$41,255** | **$6,406** |

**Belding Memorial Library (Ashfield) $9,700**

*Rural libraries, Rural jails: Outreach to Incarcerated Community Members* aims to improve the accessibility of library services to community members impacted by incarceration in Franklin County, Massachusetts. This project will expand on the public library programming initiatives from Belding Memorial Library (Ashfield) and Griswold Memorial Library (Colrain). The grant will support the creation of curated and updated mini libraries within units of the jail, facilitated monthly book group discussions with residents, and provide a program for incarcerated caregivers to record videos of themselves reading picture books to share with the children in their lives.

**Lunenburg Public Library $12,961**

Lunenburg has respected schools and students are well-supported, but not all have access to opportunities to learn science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills outside the classroom, and not everyone gets all that they need in the classroom. Lunenburg Public Library’s project will improve access to equipment and tools to support STEM learning both inside and outside the classroom, provide hands-on instruction, and support learning in the community. The project also strives to set a precedent for reuse of “waste” materials, and to modify typical consumer behavior to include a more repair-focused mindset in which community members come together to share their skills and help their neighbors to redirect materials destined for the landfill.

**Beals Memorial Library (Winchendon) $10,000**

*Journeys: Identity, Culture, and Community* at the Beals Memorial Library will work to tackle the issues of isolation, domestic violence, substance abuse disorder, trauma, and mental health, all of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. The project will utilize art, poetry, prose, literature, guided meditation/yoga, and community discussions to explore these topics, placing an emphasis on strengthening equality, diversity, and inclusion.

**Worcester Public Library $15,000**

Approximately 40% of Worcester residents speak a language other than English at home and about 10% of households are limited English speaking households. Worcester Public Library has taken a leadership role in serving immigrants, offering many programs and resources, including the Worcester Welcoming Network guide, a free listing of English and citizenship courses. This project will allow the library to expand their services for New Americans in two significant ways. To meet the demand for referral requests, the Library will implement an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) navigator service at the Main branch to connect adult English learners with classes throughout the community based on their level of proficiency, schedule, access options, and budget. The project will also fill a known gap in ESOL courses in the City by providing a free TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) preparation course.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Protecting Priority Collections**

**Program Abstract:** This grant will support the implementation of recommendations from previous Preservation Assessments, and specific preservation and access needs for collections of distinction. Appropriate activities are collection-level investments of various types, including but not exclusive of the purchase of equipment (e.g., dehumidifiers, data loggers, etc.), increased staff hours in direct support of their collections, or expert assistance.

Commissioner Biancolo moved and Commissioner Conrad seconded to approve the following Protecting Priority Collections Grant totaling $6,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Wayland Free Public Library | $6,000 |
| **Total:** | **$6,000** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Strength in Families**

**Program Abstract:** This grant will encourage libraries to create or build on existing partnerships with community organizations that provide family support. A key element in this effort would be to elevate the family voice in designing library services to those previously underserved in their communities including groups with a number of risk factors such as low-level parental education, transitional residential mobility and housing and food insecurity. The library will serve as a resource for families to find information and services in education, job and housing searches, health and well-being, and social networking.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Traub seconded to approve the following Strength in Families Grant totaling $10,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2022.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Holyoke Public Library | $10,000 |
| **Total:** | **$10,000** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Grant Awards**

**Consideration of approval of provisional grant awards under the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program**

Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist presented the Board with the following grant awards from the 2016-17 grant round.

A Construction Project may either be a project to construct a new facility, an addition/renovation to an existing building that may or may not add space, but does involve a significant reorganization of functional space, or a joint library project that will involve construction of a facility by two or more municipalities.

Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Biancolo seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves provisional grant awards totaling $50,206,168 to the following seven library construction projects in amounts listed below. The date by which projects must accept their awards is January 9, 2023.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Municipality** | **Library** | **Grant Award** |
| Westborough | Westborough Public Library | $ 9,403,090 |
| Deerfield | Tilton Library | $ 3,944,338 |
| Gloucester | Sawyer Free Library | $ 9,030,047 |
| Seekonk | Seekonk Public Library | $ 7,322,855 |
| Westford | J.V. Fletcher Memorial Library | $ 7,851,994 |
| Grafton | Grafton Public Library | $ 7,435,041 |
| Orange | Wheeler Memorial Library | $ 5,218,804 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **$ 50,206,168** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Consideration of approval of a Library Green Incentive awards under the Massachusetts Public Library Construction program**

Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist presented the Board with the following libraries that are eligible to receive Green Incentive Awards.

An applicant may qualify for a MPLCP Green Library Incentive (GLI) in order to receive an additional 2% to 3.5% of its total construction grant award, depending on the level of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification that a project receives. When the project is complete, it must receive official LEED certification and must submit US Green Building Council documentation to the MBLC confirming receipt of certification.

Commissioner Conrad moved and Commissioner Ball seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners authorizes Library Green Incentives totaling $1,153,288, the maximum allowed as per 605 CMR 6.00, to the following five libraries upon their receipt of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Municipality** | **Library** | **Grant Award** |
| Deerfield | Tilton Library | $ 138,052 |
| Gloucester | Sawyer Free Library | $ 316,052 |
| Seekonk | Seekonk Public Library | $ 256,300 |
| Grafton | Grafton Public Library | $ 260,226 |
| Orange | Wheeler Memorial Library | $ 182,658 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **$ 1,153,288** |

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Election of Officers for FY2023**

Commissioner Abraham stated that she chaired the nominating committee that discussed the FY2023 Slate of Officers. Commissioner Ball and Commissioner Biancolo were on this committee as well.

“Therefore, I have the honor to present the following slate of officers for FY2023: Commissioner Conrad for the office of Chair, Commissioner Abraham for the office of Vice Chair, and Commissioner DeBole for the office of Secretary.”

Chair Cluggish asked for any nominations from the floor.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Ball seconded that the FY2023 Slate of Officers are Commissioner Conrad for the office of Chair, Commissioner Abraham for the office of Vice Chair, and Commissioner DeBole for the office of Secretary.

Chair Cluggish asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners for this motion.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Yes |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

**The motion passed.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**List of documents for the July 7, 2022, Regular Monthly Board Meeting:**

1. Agenda for the July 7, 2022, Regular Monthly Board Meeting
2. Draft Minutes from the June 2, 2022 Regular Monthly Board Meeting
3. Agenda #7 a-l- Consideration of approval of the FY2023 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Awards
4. Agenda #8- Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Grant Awards

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 A.M.

Letter

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Deb Abraham

Secretary