

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 8, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Teams
9:30 – 11:00 am

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner	Ramsey:	Jacob Grussing
Carver:	Heidi Hoks	Saint Paul:	Catherine Penkert
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	not present
Hennepin:	Johannah Genett, Amy McNally		
Washington:	Amy Stenftenagel		

Staff Present:

Gina Goettl, Kathleen James, Sally Lederer, Mona Scott, and Scott Vrieze

I. Call to order

Chair Stenftenagel called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

II. Introductions and Public Comment

III. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (March 11th, 2022)

Motion to approve the agenda and meeting minutes by Hoks. Second by Haubner.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye	HCL - aye	SCL – not present
CCL - aye	RCL - aye	WCL – aye
DCL - aye	SPL - aye	

Motion carried.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

- a) Discussion of State Fair Read and Ride Day: Library Messaging

Discussion around library messaging for the State Fair focused on several options: e-resources, OverDrive, in-person resources, advocacy efforts. The focus in the

past has been on the library as a fun place to visit and find any information you need. There is also a focus on Legacy programs, children's programming, and the importance of having a library card (tie-in for Read and Ride Day, since they must show their library card for a discount on entry to the Fair). It is also helpful to have a message that is easy for the media to use in promotion. It was proposed that the Promotions team come up with a few ideas (slogans and talking points) to bring back to the next Advisory Board meeting.

b) Legislative advocacy update

The legislative committee meeting was on Wednesday (4/6). Both the House and Senate have omnibus bills related to education. The RLBSS increase and formula change is included in the House bill. The Senate bill does not include any library interests in their bill.

c) Future advisory board meetings – virtual/hybrid/in-person options

Some interest was expressed in resuming in-person meetings but allowing for the option to tune in virtually if needed. Vrieze informed the group that MELSA recently purchased an Owl device, which makes it much easier in a hybrid setting, so this will be a possibility in the future. Goettl will check into meeting room availability for the May Advisory Board meeting.

d) Strategic plan/organizational development update: next steps

Vrieze provided a copy of the approved strategic plan outcomes to the Advisory Board for their reference, and there are no further updates at this time.

e) Round table sharing

Penkert brought up the article about St. Paul Public Library that was published this week. McNally mentioned that Hennepin County Library has been experiencing an uptick in similar security and safety issues, along with staffing shortages. Penkert proposed St. Paul collaborating with Hennepin County in sharing resources and ideas. Discussion also centered around the services the library offers and the importance of the libraries in the community. There is a wide variety of people coming into the libraries with a variety of needs and have started to employ social workers in the library as well as partnering with other organizations related to housing, food banks, and public health efforts. Gennet brought up collection development, and that Hennepin County is considering pulling back on compact disc purchasing, since they are not circulating much. They are also considering pulling back on online music resources, as those are also not being used very much. Other counties mentioned

that they have observed a similar pattern in their libraries. DVDs have remained popular enough in all member libraries and no one is looking at eliminating DVD borrowing. Most libraries are buying fewer DVDs than in the past.

V. Adjourn

Stenftenagel adjourned the meeting at 10:57am.