

# **Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Ridgedale Library, Ladyslipper Room  
9:00 – 11:00am

## **Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:**

Anoka:	Colleen Hauber	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:**

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

### **I. Call to order**

Chair Stenftenagel called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

### **II. Introductions and Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

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

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) Streaming video discussion

HCL has been considering providing streaming video content (such as Kanopy) but wanted to check with MELSA to see if we were considering a metro-wide solution. Other options are Films on Demand and Hoopla. The Collection Development and eResources teams will meet to discuss options and funding possibilities and bring a recommendation for the August meeting. HCL will send patron survey results from their Kanopy trial to the Advisory Board.

b) Strategic planning next steps

The trustees approved MELSA's outcomes and initiatives for strategic planning. Vrieze explained that most of these outcomes/initiatives need further elaboration and planning. Priority has been given to eResources, and Vrieze would like to examine this first and see if MELSA wants to continue this priority. At each Advisory Board meeting (starting next month), we will look at a different outcome/initiative.

c) Legislative advocacy status report

The RLBSS funding increase was unsuccessful this session. There will also be no special session. There was no agreement about bonding issues.

Front-line worker pay was discussed, and library workers were not included in this bill. Frustration was expressed that the state does not know what is going on in libraries and does not recognize the importance of library services. There is a disconnect between libraries and the Department of Education. MDE does not make public libraries a priority, even though the libraries are part of this department. MLA and CRPLSA's lobbyist contract is up soon, so Vrieze will check into the upcoming RFI and will distribute to the Advisory Board. Vrieze mentioned the possibility of having Sam (the lobbyist) come to an Advisory Board and/or Trustees meeting to discuss lobbying strategy.

d) Round table sharing

ACL will be presenting their overdue fine removal proposal to their board this month, and there have also been union discussions.

Several member libraries shared some pushback with Pride displays and materials (for example, email complaints from patrons and books from Pride displays being hidden in other locations).

DCL just launched a community engagement van, and it has been very successful so far.

SPPL has experienced some book challenges/reconsiderations from patrons lately. They also have several library construction projects going on at present and have had a very good experience with LSE Architects. There has been pushback on some of the construction projects from a very vocal community group, but SPPL

has been very transparent about their process and gathered a lot of data before making any decision.

WCL, RCL, and HCL are in the midst of strategic planning. RCL is also doing a couple of construction projects.

All member libraries have been experiencing staffing shortages, although usage has still been affected by the pandemic and staffing levels appear fine to the directors. However, the interactions with the public have changed and become more difficult (overdoses, other security incidents), and this has made library workers' jobs more difficult and contributes to burnout.

## V. Reports

### a) Executive Director and MELSA Staff Updates

#### 1. 2023 MELSA Budget Planning

Budget planning is in process and will be discussed at the Trustees meeting next week.

#### 2. State Fair messaging – per Promotions Team

The Promotions Team developed a graphic on the theme of “Connect with your Library”. Vrieze shared this graphic with the Advisory Board and this graphic will be used in marketing and t-shirts as part of the State Fair and Pride and can also be used for other purposes. Talking points will be elaborated on at the August meeting.

### b) July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting format and location

DCL or SPPL could be a possibility for the July meeting. Teams will also be an option if they cannot attend in person.

Stenftenagel adjourned the meeting at 10:55.

After the meeting, the Advisory Board took a tour of the Ridgedale Library.