

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 27, 2023

Highland Park Library Community Room, St. Paul

10:00am-12:00pm

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka: Colleen Haubner Ramsey: Pang Yang
Carver: Jodi Edstrom (virtual) Saint Paul: Lisa Motschke
Dakota: Margaret Stone Scott: Jacob Grussing
Hennepin: Johannah Genett, Amy McNally (virtual)
Washington: Tina Kaple

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

I. Call to order

Chair Grussing called the meeting to order at time.

II. Introductions and Public Comment

III. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes from the November 8, 2022 meeting

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

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – aye
CCL - aye RCL - aye WCL – aye
DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.

IV. 2023 MELSA Advisory Board Annual Meeting

- a) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Stone nominated Grussing as Chair and Haubner as Vice Chair.
Motion to elect Grussing as Chair and Haubner as Vice Chair by Kaple, seconded by Stone.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – aye
CCL - aye RCL - aye WCL – aye
DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.

- b) 2023 Advisory Board Meeting Schedule
Meetings for 2023 will be changed to 10-12 on the 2nd Friday. The February 10th meeting will stay on the schedule and in person.

Motion to approve the 2023 meeting schedule by Stone. Seconded by Haubner.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – aye
CCL - aye RCL - aye WCL – aye
DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.

- c) Updated roster of MELSA Teams and Interest Groups

Directors will review the current list of MELSA teams and interest groups and let MELSA know if updated need to be made. Library systems may have more than one representative, although systems get only one vote (HCL gets two votes). Some discussion has taken place to suggest that the Promotions Team should change its name to Communications Team, as the topics/tasks/discussions of this group have changed over the years. Gennet mentioned that she would like to see the Accessibility Task Force focus on the group goals that were set in 2016. Mona Scott will come up with some suggestions for refocusing the Accessibility Task Force and present them at the next advisory board meeting.

Stone requested more direction for the evaluation from the eResources team. Discussion will take place at the next advisory board meeting.

- d) MELSA Advisory Board bylaws

Grussing requested adding HCL's two votes to the advisory board bylaws, section V.

V. Discussion/Action Items

a) Advocacy Status Report – Legislative Activities

Vrieze has met with the Advocacy Committee to discuss the priorities of this committee. They are working on a document that summarizes these priorities; this document could be distributed to legislators. The committee proposed a book-related leave behind, such as providing the legislator with a book and putting the document as a bookmark in the book. Grussing talked about strategies for communicating and developing a relationship with your legislator. Haubner suggested holding a call at some point to discuss these specific strategies for the advisory board.

Vrieze shared that there is a \$2 million-dollar regional library funding increase (for the entire state) in the governor's recommended budget. There is a bill for a library funding increase in the works being authored by Senator Mary Kunesh. In the House it will be authored by Rep. Lucy Rehm. They were both very supportive about this bill, and it is planned that the bill will be heard on Library Legislative Day. This bill will include additional funding for multi-types, and an inflation factor for library funding.

Regional libraries are requesting additional Legacy funding as well.

For the library construction grant, there has been mixed progress. We will hear more about this bill in the next couple of weeks.

Some discussion took place about testifiers and who might be appropriate to fill this role. Directors will think about library staff and patrons that may be a good fit. HCL has a Youth Advisory Committee that started this year, and they would be good representatives. Some of our commissioners could be helpful as well.

b) Round Table Sharing

HCL is starting a new advertising campaign, focused on billboards, public transit, and at malls. They are trying to gain new library card holders. The Testify exhibit has opened again at Minneapolis Central.

ACL did a market evaluation for wages recently, and ranges/increases will be happening soon. ACL is going with RCL to the legislature to change from a governing board to an advisory board.

RCL has a new strategic plan and will be focusing on culture change within the workplace.

WCL has a new director starting on Tuesday, Jacquie Kramer. Their strategic plan is also being finalized.

SCL's advisory board will be meeting with the county board to ask for an increase in funding for e-books. Two libraries have extended access hours currently and they would like to get three more libraries with extended access hours this year.

The Family Resource Center is being moved to the transit center (library administration is also located there) – it is moving from the Shakopee library

meeting room.

SPPL has launched a new strategic focus. The Hamline Midway project is ongoing. They are trying to find funding for Hayden Heights and Riverview libraries.

DCL has put their strategic plan on hold while the county finishes their strategic plan. They will develop some initiatives for this year. They have also launched some self-service hours at Farmington library. It has been very popular and they have had to order more access cards. They will seek funding to expand access to other libraries within the county. Stone recommended working with the MN Dept of Humanities for exhibits. South St Paul Library construction is going well, and the library is set to open next year.

CCL has a new strategic plan this year.

VI. Reports

a) Executive Director and MELSA Staff Updates (as needed)

There is a bill to pilot “pods” in six metro libraries. The pods would be for virtual video calls such as telehealth visits or court appearances.

b) Strategic Outcomes and Initiatives Update & Service Reviews

This agenda item was covered above by the discussion of MELSA teams and interest groups.

c) System Allocations for RLTA Priority 2 Applications

The RLTA deadline for priority 2 numbers is approaching (February 15).

Move to adjourn the meeting by Stone. Second by Motschke.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – aye
CCL - aye RCL - aye WCL – aye
DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.

Grussing adjourned the meeting at 12:02pm.