

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 10, 2023
Wentworth Library Large Meeting Room, West St Paul
10:00am-12:00pm

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka: Colleen Haubner Ramsey: Pang Yang
Carver: Jodi Edstrom Saint Paul: Maureen Hartman
Dakota: Margaret Stone Scott: Jacob Grussing
Hennepin: Johannah Genett, Amy McNally
Washington: Jacquie Kramer

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

I. Call to order

Vice-Chair Haubner called the meeting to order at 10:02.

II. Introductions and Welcome

Jacquie Kramer, the new Washington County Library director, was in attendance for her first MELSA Advisory Board meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

a) Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Stone. Second by Edstrom.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – not present

CCL - aye RCL - not present WCL – aye

DCL - aye SPL - not present

Motion carried.

b) Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 27th, 2023)

Stone requested we change minutes to say that DCL will seek funding for expanded access in the round table sharing from the January meeting. Motion to approve meeting minutes with suggested changes by Edstrom. Second by Stone.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – not present

CCL - aye RCL - not present WCL – aye

DCL - aye SPL - not present

Motion carried.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

a) Discussion of Accessibility Group scope

Mona Scott met this week with Johannah Gennet, and they decided that a more detailed discussion will need to take place at the Advisory Board level. A document in the meeting packet was distributed to the Advisory Board and directors should review this document. The document will be discussed at the next meeting.

Gennet and Yang entered the meeting at 10:09am. Grussing entered the meeting at 10:11am.

b) Work sessions to coincide with Trustee meetings – March 16th

Commissioner Udermann would like to have additional work sessions during some of the joint Trustee meetings. He would like the Advisory Board to discuss extended services (beyond extended hours) and explore whether MELSA might be able to help fund these efforts. Vrieze suggested adding 30 minutes to the beginning or end of the next Trustee meeting to conduct the next work session. The directors preferred adding 30 minutes before the meeting and would like a specific agenda.

Hartman entered the meeting at 10:16am.

c) Advocacy status report and proposed next steps

A report was shared with the Trustees and distributed in the Advisory Board meeting packet. This report covered several items, including information about the leave-behind half-page, the schedule for Library Legislative Day, and that library directors will be setting up individual meetings with legislators. Vrieze will also be sending a spreadsheet of legislator names/contact information to the directors. Stone is working on creating a photo opportunity for state legislature to feel

connected to libraries (similar to what they did in 2018/2019). She asked if any of the directors knew of any staff who would have Photoshop skills to work on this project. Vrieze will look into MELSA's graphic design contractors to see if they might be able to assist with this project and possibly find a photographer who can be on site and take the pictures.

At the previous Advisory Board meeting, McNally had mentioned the Youth Advisory Board could be involved in Library Legislative Day, but she realized this is a new group and they aren't quite ready for such a large event. They may be more helpful with the smaller meetings with legislators.

The advocacy committee agreed on a leave-behind after meetings with legislators. The leave-behind will be a children's book, and in the book a half-sheet of information will be inserted in between the pages, as well as bookmarks from library systems. The Minnesota Historical Society made a Minnesota Activities book using Legacy funds; it may be possible to get some copies of this book and use this instead of a children's book. Vrieze is looking for two additional testifiers for the education committee hearings (one for House and one for Senate). It would be helpful to have a community member, and Hartman will think about who might be suitable. The other directors will also think about possible testifiers.

d) Round table sharing

ACL has hired some new library managers and is searching for an assistant director. They have continued work on their strategic plan.

HCL spoke to a reporter this week from the Star Tribune about an article about book banning. Their virtual conference room pilot has been successful, and they will be expanding to 3 more locations this spring. The Testify exhibit is now open and everyone is encouraged to come see the exhibit. HCL has also been doing some hiring lately. In terms of safety, HCL has a security library partnership team that has been focused on safety issues in the libraries.

DCL has had some difficulty ordering new computer equipment for library branches, and they will finally be receiving the computers they ordered last year.

SPPL: Hamline Library was just put on the National Register of Historic Places.

SPPL is still seeking to build a new building in that community that is more accessible for everyone. Through the city, they have ARPA funds to outline existing safety procedures, write new safety plan, and hire a safety coordinator.

RCL had an attempted hacker that went to several locations, but they were unsuccessful.

SCL continues to work on extended access and expanding to other locations.

They have a continued space challenge in regard to extended access because the city owns the library buildings, and there are other groups that have space in the library as well that are not separate spaces (Arts Council, Historical Society,

Senior Center).

CCL is going live with auto-renewal and text notifications on Monday. They have also done a lot of hiring. They have been working on getting a new library in Chaska and the earliest this will happen will be 2027. They have also launched a new DEI initiative.

WCL is working on strategic planning. An employee engagement survey will be happening this month.

V. Reports

a) Executive Director/Staff Reports

The Testify exhibit has smaller parts of the exhibit that has been happening in greater Minnesota as well, which was discussed in the CRPLSA meeting. Minitex has requested additional funding for nursing databases, and this is part of the governor's budget.

- i) CRPLSA meeting in the metro area – March 30th and 31st
CRPLSA would like to have our Advisory Board come to some of this meeting, to have more of an opportunity for collaboration. Vrieze will send out more information.

b) 2023 Legislative Contacts

This list was distributed by Vrieze via email.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:59am by Haubner. Second 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.