

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 9, 2024
Virtual Meeting via Teams
10am-12pm

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner	Ramsey:	Pang Yang
Carver:	Jodi Edstrom	Saint Paul:	Rebecca Ryan
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jen Schultz
Hennepin:	Scott Duimstra	Washington:	Jacque Kramer

Staff Present: Abigail Dillon, Gina Goettl, Kathleen James, Susan Marschalk, and Mona Scott

I. Call to order

Chair Haubner called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

II. Introductions and Public Comment

Rebecca Ryan from Saint Paul Public Library is attending the meeting in the place of Maureen Hartman.

III. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (July 12, 2024)

Motion to approve the agenda and meeting minutes by Schultz. Second by Stone.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

- a) Discussion of legislative process, MLA legislative priorities

Sam Walseth, the lobbyist for MLA, joined the meeting to discuss the legislative process and priorities. Walseth described the summer as the time for big ideas, and various organizations (including MLA) are working through some of these ideas right now. This past session's RLBS increase was a big win for public libraries, and it was unusual to receive yearly inflation increases. There may be some pushback about that in the next session. There is some uncertainty in the legislative atmosphere due to Governor Walz entering the vice-presidential race. CRPLSA has put together an RFP to hire a consultant to put together library standards for the state, and Marschalk will send this RFP out to the advisory board. Walseth expressed that a campaign to lower prices for e-books at the state level may not be effective and would be more helpful to pursue at the federal level. Walseth also talked about the bill to ban dangerous weapons in public places, and he said that it is very difficult to pass any bill involving the Second Amendment. Haubner expressed an interest in having Walseth come to an advisory board meeting at least once a year to discuss legislative priorities.

b) Discussion of MLA Forum priorities identified and possible support

Legislative priorities from Minitex, CRPLSA, and Metronet (multitypes) were distributed in the meeting packet. Stone brought up the CRPLSA RFP and expressed the importance of having MELSA represented in these library standards. Stone will talk to Lydon at CRPLSA to see what the next steps could be. Duimstra talked about state standards in Michigan, and the standards were not very effective. In general, the directors were interested in hearing about the "why" and the intentions and motivations behind these standards.

Stone expressed an interest in continuing to keep up efforts towards the prohibition of dangerous weapons in public spaces bill.

c) eBook pricing

This item was covered in the discussion on the previous items.

V. Reports

Executive Director/Staff Reports

a) Executive Director search update

Three finalists will be coming in person to interview. They will also be giving a presentation, and some topics suggested by the directors were: challenges and future of public libraries, advocacy strategies (and advocacy as it relates to MELSA and state-wide with our partners), innovation and strategic priority development.

b) Collection Development report

The team has been in discussion about differing hold ratios based on item price and will be discussing it further in August.

They have also discussed weeding timelines and have previously established certain “red priority subjects” in non-fiction and will weed titles with this priority annually starting in January.

The team has also looked at the issue of duplicate users in OverDrive (users who register their card with multiple libraries). This is an ongoing discussion, and they are gathering more data from OverDrive.

c) Pride Festival report

During this year’s Pride event, over 5,000 buttons and bookmarks were distributed.

Another popular feature was interactive and allowed Pride attendees to recommend their own Pride-related books, movies, and shows.

d) CRPLSA quarterly meeting

This was discussed during the discussion items.

Haubner adjourned the meeting at 12:03pm.