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Maine Library Commission Minutes, September 16, 2013

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Maine Library Commission

Monday September 16, 2013

Minutes

In attendance:

Linda Lord	Charlie Campo
Moorhead Kennedy	Joyce Rumery
Liz Doucette	Karen Baldacci
Art Turley	Deborah Clark
Jeff Cabral	Dick Thompson
Michael Hays	Deb Averill

By Videoconference:

Barbara McDade	James Jackson Sanborn
Valerie Osborne	

Not present:

Beth Edmonds	Steve Podgajny
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Also in attendance:

Janet McKenney	Stephanie Zurinski
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Joyce called the meeting to order at 1pm. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The update on the MSL plan was deferred to the reports section of the meeting.

Art discussed the changes to the public library standards. The committee added language on compensation as requested in the public comments. The librarians who commented about the lack of compensation language in the first version declined to chair a compensation white paper committee. Commission members felt that the new preamble provides good context but there was discussion of the need for clarification of acronyms and perhaps more statistics need to be inserted (specifically around the number of libraries that receive no public funding). It was agreed to park these suggestions in a folder along with any other incoming comments for review by the commission at the September 2014 meeting.

Art introduced the concept of the state library submitting an annual report on the state of libraries in Maine and on the state library itself. The discussion centered on the length of such a report (1 page) and on the content: the number of libraries, funding, MSL programs and more. The commission voted to require the state librarian to produce such a report in October.

James Jackson Sanborn reported that the vacancy at Maine InfoNet has been advertised and they have a candidate pool

Overdrive is promoting a Big Library Read program where they are offering unlimited copies of one title to anyone with a valid library card to a participating library. Overdrive is also offering the Advantage program to libraries where, for \$1000, the library gets a \$1000 credit to build a collection exclusively for their patrons.

Minerva has announced the application process for new members. The deadline is October 16. They will add 1-3 new libraries.

There has been a snag with the III conversations about the new Sierra implementation. The talks to date had been going really well but the price quote Maine InfoNet received didn't match the conversations. Maine InfoNet is putting together an alternate price quote to submit to III. Conversations are still ongoing.

Mike Kennedy was thanked for his work on the Friends of the Maine State Library Board. He has stepped down from his position on the board. The friends are planning more programming including a tea at the Blaine House on November 14 which will be a panel of mystery authors: Jerry Boyle, James Hayman, and Paul Doiron. FOMSL has 85 members to date.

Jeff Cabral reported on the work of the Cultural Agency Emergency Management Planning group. MEMA has set aside \$4,500 for a part time coordinator who will develop a website for the group and pull together resources for cultural agencies to use in emergency planning. The group's next meeting is in October.

Linda Lord reported that the 2nd floor remodel is 99% complete. Signage and the computer lab reconfiguration are still to be done. The public has reacted very positively to the changes. The working group on adult workforce development has asked for participation from libraries and Linda asked Nissa Flanagan, current Maine Library Association (MLA) president to attend these meetings.

The income tax check off garnered \$14,000 to spend on Maine libraries (out of \$26,000 collected \$12,000 of which had to go to Revenue Services to add "Maine Public Library Fund" to the form. In all future years Revenue Services will charge \$2,000 annually. The possibilities include more ebooks, movie licensing, wireless network statistics capabilities and more. A survey of librarians is being conducted to decide how to spend the money to best benefit all libraries in Maine. The BTOP grant will be closed at the end of September.

Ellen Wood, Web Coordinator, is retiring on September 30th. The opening of the enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act will impact libraries. We've been offering training to prepare librarians for this. Linda met with Jim Clare of the Maine early learning investment group and has been invited to speak at their October meeting about how libraries can help. Linda and Janet were invited to join a Department of Labor committee that is looking at updating the career centers.

The legislature added \$52,000 to our budget for more van delivery and the digital commons but then we were asked for a \$25,000 cut. Janet and Jamie devised a solution to replace the public

computers that MSL currently receives from the Office of Information Technology with less expensive computers and service from a Maine based non-profit.

Linda received several comments from legislators when they received the letter detailing the consequences of their local library's failure to submit an annual report for 2012. She was able to help the legislators understand the importance of this data and why we took the action.

The state library is working to add the recordings of the appropriations committee meetings to the digital commons. The Legislative Council voted not to add Rep. Brooks' legislative request to the LD's to be dealt with in the 2d Session of the 126 Legislature. Rep. Brooks has asked for this to be reconsidered.

The consultants reported on the national CE Forum that the state library hosted in Portland in late August. The Maine Library Leadership Institute kicked off with the attendance of 8 emerging library leaders at the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) in Massachusetts. This cohort will continue to meet for the next year with the consultants for a series of speakers and discussion of the book Learning to Lead: A Workbook on Becoming a Leader by Warren Bennis and Joan Goldsmith.

The winner of the first annual Maine Reader's Choice award will be announced on October 4th at the Bangor Book Festival.

The 2012 annual report data has been received back from the federal government and is now available on the MSL website.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.