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Maine State Library Commission

**** March 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES ****

Meeting called to order at 1:00PM.

Attendance

Commission Members Present: Joyce Rumery (Chair,) Helen Fogler (Vice Chair), Heidi Grimm, Charles Campo, Art Turley, Don Wismer, Michael Hays, Jeff Cabral, Ben Treat and Richard Thompson

Also Present: James Ritter (State Librarian, MSL), James Jackson Sanborn (Infonet), Janet McKenney (MSL), Adam Fisher (MSL), and Alison Maxell (MSL)

Welcome

The chair opened the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Commission reviewed and accepted minutes from the January 2019 meeting.

Update from State Library

Working together on preparing for budget conversations with legislative committees. We think we've made a good case for our priorities.

There are numerous building issues that are being addressed by Bureau of General Services staff. Asbestos abatement is underway in targeted areas of the building and there's ongoing efforts to stop water leaks in the facility.

The chair asked about whether or not a new facility might be under consideration.

Richard Thompson indicated that a new building would be unlikely in the near future. The cost of replacing the current facility would be very high given the specialized nature of the type of building that would be needed.

Update from Maine Info Net

Janet Sortor of the Maine Community College System recently joined the board of Maine Info Net.

Triple I is updating its account management team and has been assigned to our account. We will continue to have help from someone at the company who has been there for a while. The company is also upgrading its support software and we are hopeful that will lead to quicker response times.

New libraries continue to be added to the Info Net systems. Two libraries (Yarmouth and Millinocket) were added recently and Thomaston will be added to the MILS system in April.

Direct Inreach API work promises to make it easier to bring additional libraries into Info Net systems in the future. Groups are working with Evergreen and Koha libraries to develop a process.

January was a very heavy usage month for the Download Library – 38,000 downloads for the month and 1,500 more downloads than any previous month. Audiobooks seem to have the highest rate of growth.

Bicentennial

Governor appropriated \$1 million in her budget to supporting bicentennial activities. Our hope is to have the bulk of funds allocated to support local bicentennial events that will be held statewide.

Bicentennial license plate sales have brought in just under \$40,000 to support bicentennial activities.

Maine Library Advisory Council

Maine Library Advisory Council met in March and the group will be here at the library in June for a tour, lunch and meeting with the Maine Library Commission.

Public Library Standards

We are reviewing the standards that were created in 2013 and 2014 and having conversations about potential changes. The process has helped validate the work that initially went into crafting the standards. At the end of the next meeting, MLA will put the document out to the full membership in May seeking feedback in advance of a vote at the MLA annual meeting in the fall.

State Library Budget Update

Two positions are in play at the legislature in the coming months

The STEM librarian position that is currently funded by a limited period grant is included in the Governor's budget as is the full funding of a position that was cut while the library was reclassifying positions in the last year or so.

Technology advances that would allow us to add RFID to our collections and funding for additional enhancements for the Digital Maine Library.

We are working to secure funding to have our public computers backed by the support of the Office of Information Technology.

IMLS Update

The recent reauthorization of IMLS may mean for greater LSTA grants to states through a new funding model that could be triggered by a \$17 million proposal underway in Congress at the moment.

Commission Governance

The chair encouraged members to think about potential candidates for the commission and suggested that the group needs to have orientation materials or a process for educating new commission members.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM

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