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Maine Library Commission Minutes, January 21, 2014

Maine Library Commission

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Meeting called to order at 1:00PM.

**Attendance:**

Commission Members Present: Joyce Rumery (Vice Chair), Jeff Cabral, Charlie Campo, Elisabeth Doucett, Helen Fogler, Dick Thompson, Art Turley, Debe Averill (video), Barbara McDade (video)

Also present: Linda Lord, James Ritter, Janet McKenney, Deborah Clark, Adam Fisher, Valerie Osborne (video), James Jackson Sanborn,

- Minutes from the November 18, 2013 meeting were approved.

**Introductions:** Helen Fogler was introduced as the newest member of the Maine Library Commission.

**Review of the Strategic Plan Report:**

A significant portion of the meeting was designated to reviewing activities and updates associated with the Strategic Plan. L. Lord, J. McKenney, and J. Ritter provided substantial updates on all aspects of MSLs operation. The update also duplicated as a Library Development Department (including Consultants) report as well as a Reader and Information Services Department report.

Within the strategic plan, an update was also provided as it relates to the activities of the Friends of the Maine State Library.

The actual Strategic Plan report will be made part of these official minutes and can be viewed in full.

**Maine InfoNet Update (James Jackson Sanborn):**

- James Jackson Sanborn indicated that constituency meetings continue and that attendance is okay to fair. There are two more meetings scheduled: Newport and Auburn, and following those and after all information has been collected, a report will be issued.
- JJS provided an update relating to Triple I (III) – essentially, significant movement toward an agreed contract that meets broad constituency needs has occurred. J.J.S. report/presentation is made part of these official minutes.
  - Questions were asked about the new contract with III:
    1) **How will we identify “smaller” libraries and how will they be trained?** Consultants will be instrumental in making this happen.
    2) **What will be the entry cost for ‘non’-small libraries?** Exact costs have yet to be determined, however, initial consensus suggests a sliding scale will be developed to structure costs.
    3) **Will Schools be involved?** It will take significant work to model a product that all schools will agree upon, and funding must also be determined. Department of Education being involved will be imperative.
Friends of the Maine State Library:
   • Now provided in Strategic Plan Report.

Emergency Preparedness – Follow-up to Heritage Pres. Workshop Update (Jeff Cabral):
   • The Steering Committee of CERC-ME (Cultural Emergency Resources Coalition) continues to meet every other month, and they met in December 2013.
   • Group is surveying organizations to see if they have a disaster plan, and are finding that many organizations do not have a plan.
   • They are reaching out to Tribal Organization contacts to ensure that any/all cultural organizations are included.
   • Much education is happening and the emphasis now is on a simple Disaster Plan and how to develop one.

State Librarian Report:
   • Budget – constantly in flux, but as of January 21, 2014 there was a statewide shortfall of approximately $110 million. MSL offered proposal to outsource public PCs and therefore save on Office of Information Technology expenses.
   • Cultural Affairs Council (CAC) reviewing its structure and are planning a retreat to be held on February 9, 2014.
   • L. Lord to be attending mid-winter ALA and will be part of panel presentation relating to e-Rate Funding.

Consultant Reports:
   • Now part of the Strategic Plan update.

Other Business:
   • J. Cabral asked if the “Disabled Representation” seat on the Maine State Library Commission has been filled, and offered to suggest someone.
   • B. McDade shared that a public hearing on state/municipal revenue sharing would be taking place and encouraged individuals to attend.
   • It was also noted that a piece of legislation has been put forward that would cap charitable donation deductions at $25,000 (for Maine), and that this could hurt library donations.

Motion made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Next meeting is March 17, 2014 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary

James Ritter
MSL, Director of Reader and Information Services