Welcome and Introductions – Bross
The meeting was called to order by Bross at 10:04 a.m.

Review and Adopt/Amend Agenda – Bross
Bross had several items to incorporate into existing agenda items including the management company transition, community conversations, website discussion, donor agreement with MNHS, and an MPR story about libraries during COVID-19.

Collins made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Trenam seconded.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Approval of the May 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
Hendren made a motion to approve the May Minutes; Mars seconded.
Trenam abstained, since she did not attend the entire May meeting. The rest were in favor, and the motion was approved.

Approval of the Financials – Ethier
June 2020 Financial Report
May 2020 financials included in the meeting packet.

1. Total Assets: $164,779.82
2. Total Revenue YTD: $63,282.37
3. Total Cost of Sales YTD: $1250.00
4. Monthly Expenses for May: $12,811.92
5. Total Expenses YTD: $66,402.00

Sundstrom made a motion to approve the financials; Collins seconded.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Ethier reviewed the membership numbers.
To hit our 2020 goal, we would need to be closer to $22,000. We won’t likely hit our target. Ethier encouraged the Board to send along ideas to increase our membership renewals.

Newberg noted that March through May numbers were low, but there has been more renewal activity recently. There have been more bounce-back emails from people who are not working over the summer or are on furlough. That will impact renewals. This points out the need to capture personal emails in addition to work emails.
2020 Budget Discussion – Bross, Ethier
Ethier presented an amended budget. Conference registration fees were updated, this will give us a better estimation of income in 2020. Fees for the audit and transition fees for changing management companies were also added.

These updates give us an estimated net loss around $50,000. This is a larger loss than was initially expected. Costs to transition management companies are an estimate, and they are negotiating the exact amount.

Bross asked for a recommendation to approve the transition fee not to exceed $10,000, and then final amounts will be brought to the Board as they are available.
Clark described the terms of negotiation which includes the number of meetings the new company would attend during the transition.

Clark made a motion to approve the transition fee not to exceed $10,000 with Synergos, Ethier seconded.
Bross asked if there was any discussion.
Trenam asked where we are with our strategic reserve.

Ethier reported that we have $128,639 in operating reserve, and $40,509 in strategic reserve.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

MHQ Update – Newberg
MHQ has a commitment to equity and as such a lot of care has been taken for staff of color to take time away from work and spend time with community. Others at MHQ are filling in while some staff are out.

Some MHQ staff live near impacted areas of Minneapolis. Taking care of staff so they can take care of their clients.

Bylaws Update – Motschke
Walked through the marked-up document available in the Board packet.
The Board agreed to a variety of clarifying changes.

The Bylaws include the Past President position as a member of the Executive Committee but not as an Officer of the Board. Clark discussed how this wording doesn’t represent the reality of the position, but we should make changes to create consistency with reality.
Hendren stated that in practice the Presidential Trio votes and has decision making ability. The Past President is a person with the experience and history that is valuable to the process.
Mars mentioned that the wording is not reflective of the work they do and we should add them as an officer. Given their historical experiences it seems important that they would have a vote.
Bross agreed.

One notable change is to Section 4. The section was called Executive Director, but included other positions and staff. The section has been renamed Management and Staff.

Trenam and Hawkins discussed the language in section 12 regarding quorum for Legislative Committee meetings. It was determined that the Legislative Committee meetings would align their practices with the Bylaws language. They will state that all are welcome to participate in meetings but ask only members to vote.

Motschke thanked the Bylaws Committee and the Board for their time. More regular review will make this easier in the future.
**Engage and Education Members**

**Conference Update – Bross**

In a typical year the early bird conference rate is $275. The conference is being transitioned to virtual so the rates need to be updated to reflect the change.

The original conference profit goal was $31,000. The Presidential Trio looked at many factors, weighed the options, and recommend $45 for members, $75 for non-members. Having a difference between members and non-members shows the value of membership.

Hendren noted that $85 per person would put us closer to the income we hoped to bring in. There was no clear agreement from the full Conference Committee. The Trio looked at the cost in relation to the whole budget.

For comparison, the ALA summer conference for non-members is the regular full cost while members can attend for $60 (underwritten by a vendor).

MLA exhibitor fees are normally $700, but the suggested change for a virtual conference is $300. Their information will be hosted on our website for 3 months ($100/month).

Mars asked about the status of keynote speakers. Bross reached out to the keynotes and parliamentarian to ask if they would be willing to do it virtually and allow members access to their recordings for 3 months. They all lowered their fee and agreed to a total cost of $2,900 for the speakers and the parliamentarian.

Sundstrom asked how many proposals have been submitted. Bross reported 38 as of June 18. The application will be kept open through the weekend. Clark mentioned that we have 32 session slots available.

Mars commented that the reduced fees seem reasonable. ARLD is discussing free access to the ARLD membership meeting for members.

Hendren is supportive of free business and division meetings for members. This will be brought to the Conference Committee.

Sundstrom made a motion to accept the conference costs for $45 members and $75 non-members; Collins seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Hendren made a motion to make the division and business meetings available for free if technically feasible, Mars seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**Strengthening our Organization**

**Strategic 90-Day Plan – Bross, Hendren**

Community conversation had over 100 people in attendance. The chat was very active. Participants seemed to appreciate that it was offered. There will be a follow up session at MLA.

The next Community Conversation is July 9 featuring Nicole Miller (Cannon Falls Library) who will speak about self-care and guided meditation.

Bross updated the Board on the new website. There is one more round of updates. More information will be available in July.

Bross also noted that we are close to an agreement with MNHS. The next question is how do we want to store our data going forward? Carlis agreed that it would be helpful to have a better way to organize content for the whole organization including sub-units/committees. Bross will bring this to the Board again in July.
Legislative Update – Trenam
In a special session anything that was being worked on previously has to be restarted, so everything is being reworked.

Notice was sent out through the E-Newsletter to encourage members to reach out to their representatives. A bonding bill may not emerge at all given the competing priorities.

The Minnesota Library Partners Steering Committee usually meets to discuss the performance of the lobbyist and how we’re working together. They will meet in late June, and Trenam will bring information back to the Board in July.

Our contract with Capitol Hill Associates (CHA) expires on August 31; how we move forward will determine how the body of the forum is organized. We will need to ask the steering committee if they want to continue to move forward.

MN Library Partners Steering Committee consists of Trenam, Legislative Chair Elect - Hawkins, CRPSLA, ITEM, Multitypes, and the MLA President or their designee (Hendren).

There is a budget deficit at the state, so no new money is likely to come in however we will need to advocate for same levels of funding.

The benefits of staying with CHA is that Sam Walseth is the face of the Library at the Capitol. The Partners need to determine the plan.

Bross mentioned that MLA’s contribution to CHA is approximately $18,000.

Plan for the Legislative Forum – Hawkins
The Committee is operating under the idea that we continue with CHA, MLA is still the fiscal agent, and all partners remain partners.

A virtual forum will be held in August. It will be an all-day event. The morning will focus on education and advocacy. The afternoon will be working sessions to develop legislative priorities. Hopefully it can be recorded and made available to members.

The goal of the forum is to develop the platform. The question is how does MLA determine what MLA asks for?

Trenam and Hawkins will send out a document to the Board. Reflect on the questions in the document, and share any ideas you have so we’re prepared to make decisions at the July Board Meeting.

Hawkins asked the Board for approval to move forward with the timeline as currently presented.

Hendren made a motion to accept the timeline as currently presented; Collins seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Other
Policy Review moved to July

MPR Reached out to MLA
MPR reached out to Bross to ask some questions about Libraries’ response to COVID. They are working on a podcast. They will send the questions in a few weeks.
Anti-Racism Statement – Bross

A draft was written and shared via email. Bross wants the Board to weigh in on the content. Mars recommends we make sure to keep all our members in mind when writing this document.

We should take bold action. One idea is having a monthly anti-racism Board agenda item. That way we will keep moving forward and we’re less likely to lose momentum.

Collins commented that this is individual work and we’re all at different places. He agreed that the Board should have a monthly agenda item.

Collins gave the Board a deadline to finalize and send out the statement to make sure we move forward. Bross suggested that next week is the deadline to send out the statement on Anti-Racism.

Hedren mentioned that the big action is to create the committee, but we need to hear from members. We could also host a dedicated webpage with resources and information for individuals to educate themselves.

Mars stated that the action should be thoughtful. We’ve waited too long and that sends a message. Free MLA membership for is an option.

Clark stated that this is white persons work. What are some steps that we can do, knowing that the Board changes over? We need to ensure that we keep moving forward.

Bross suggested a small group could move the statement forward so we can get something posted by next Friday. Mars commented that all Board members should participate and have a voice.

Sundstrom asked that the document be resent, all members will participate by Wednesday the 24, and vote via email.

We need to accept that we can’t conceive of all the actions we want to take, and this will be a first step.

Hendren will move the timeline forward in Bross’s absence.

Newberg affirmed that MLA has made action even though the statement hasn’t yet been posted. The Community Conversation evolved into what was needed at the time.

Bross will resend the document to the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.; be well.

Chat transcript
10:02:15 From Christie Kess : Good morning!
10:05:17 From Christie Kess : I’m the TSS Chair.
10:05:23 From Jami : Good morning!
10:05:36 From Christie Kess : Hello, everyone! Thanks for having me!
10:05:38 From Amy Mars : Good morning!
10:05:43 From Amy Mars : It seems really odd to me that the Past President would not be an officer...I would vote to make them an officer.
10:05:51 From Amy Mars : It also doesn't feel representative of the work that position entails.
10:05:53 From Amy Mars : members and other interested individuals?
10:06:07 From Stacey’s iPad : I like that wording
10:06:12 From Amy Mars : No small task, indeed! Thank you for your work on this!
10:07:33 From Jen Newberg - MLA : Welcome Julia!
10:07:36 From Julia Carlis (she/her/hers) : Hi!
11:21:52 From Amy Mars: Can we put forth a motion on making membership meetings free? Or does the conference committee want to discuss it first?
11:41:57 From Amy Mars: I see a note about involving ARLD & Minitex. I would be very much in support of that. Academic libraries have in the past felt that their interests were not represented fully in the platform.
11:51:45 From Amy Mars: That makes sense.
12:01:32 From Hannah Buckland: I have another meeting to get to -- take care, everyone.
12:11:18 From Carla: To Jen's comments - I would suggest that your statement include the work that you have done.

June Board Packet materials:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sTilZzo_KfBkSdqrW2engpFrGwlu2ncm?usp=sharing