Minnesota Library Association
Board Meeting
Friday, December 18, 2020
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Remote:
Patti Bross (President), Stacey Hendren (President-Elect), Kirsten Clark (Past President), Sarah Ethier (Treasurer), Lisa Motschke (Secretary), Hannah Buckland (ALA Chapter Councilor), Dave Collins (Intellectual Freedom Chair), Julia Carlis (PLD Chair), Katie Sundstrom (Member at Large), Jenny McBurney (ARLD Chair), Jami Trenam (Legislative Chair)

MHQ: Michelle Bjerkness (Executive Director for MLA)
Synergoes: Joy DesMarais-Lanz (incoming Executive Director)

Guest: Sarah Hawkins (Legislative Chair-Elect), Christie Kess (TSS Chair), Sara Fillbrandt (incoming Secretary), Steve Harsin (incoming President-Elect), Jody Wurl

MLA Business
Welcome and Introductions – Bross
The meeting was called to order by Bross at 10:06 a.m.

Review and Adopt/Amend Agenda – Bross
Hendren made a motion to adopt the agenda; Collins seconded.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Approval of the November 2020 Board Meeting Minutes – Bross
Sundstrom made motion to accept the November Board Meeting Minutes; Carlis seconded.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Approval of the Financials – Ethier
December 2020 Financial Report
November 2020 financials included in the meeting packet.
1. Total Assets: $158,576.26
2. Total Revenue YTD: $133,353.31
3. Total Cost of Sales YTD: $4325.00
4. Monthly Expenses for November: $12,590.28
5. Total Expenses YTD: $158,251.50

Motschke made a motion to approve the financial reports; Hendren seconded.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Conference Update – Hendren
Hendren thanked Mackenzie Kelley and MHQ for their help negotiating the exit of two contracts.
MLA has three options; continue with in-person contract, exit the contracts completely with a $30,000 penalty, transfer the contract to 2023 and lose our 2021 deposits.

Hendren made a motion to transfer our contracts with River Centre and Intercontinental Hotel to 2023 with a penalty not to exceed $10,000, and plan for a virtual conference; Trenam seconded.

Bross asked about the financial impact.
Hendren explained that by transferring the contract we only lose the deposits from the convention center and hotel rather than a much larger cancellation fee.
Bross noted that this decision will impact our 2020 budget bottom line. With the lost deposit, it puts the 2020 budget loss around $40,000.

All were in favor and the motion was approved.

2021 Budget Review – Ethier
Ethier walked through the updated 2021 budget in light of the decision to transfer the River Centre and Intercontinental Hotel contracts to 2023.

2021 projected profit is $162,235, costs $159,060, giving an overall profit of $3,175.

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

MHQ/Executive Director Update – Bjerkness
MHQ and Synergoes have had several meetings in preparation for the transition. The physical inventory transfer will happen next week (12/23/20).

Any final items will be transferred after the new year when MHQ is back in the office. Synergoes will take on management beginning January 4, 2021.

DeMarais-Lanz shared that the hand off has been going well, and they’re excited to get started with MLA. Bross thanked MHQ for all their work and for the smooth transition.

Engage and Educate Members
Conference Update – Hendren
Discussed during the Approval of Financials.

Strengthening our Organization
Strategic 90-Day Plan – Q4 Completion – Bross
Bross reviewed the Q3 Q4 2020 document to give a high level overview of the progress and work to come.

ITEM: Next steps are to meet and answer any further ITEM board member questions.

Subunits: Small and Rural Libraries Roundtable. Hendren and Sundstrom are working on reinvigorating that group. They will meet with them to discuss next steps.

Subunit orientation: Hendren and DeMarais-Lanz have set a date, and now we need to publicize that with membership.

Bross noted that the January Board meeting will have some new strategies and perhaps a new look/feel on the document.

Anti-Racism Discussion – Collins
Collins reviewed the purpose and origin of this Board meeting item.

Collins shared the article “How Labeling Books as ‘Diverse’ Reinforces White Supremacy” for the Board to read and reflect on how it might apply to you in your workplace.

Collins welcomed any thoughts or comments about the reading. The Board discussed.
Collins asked the current Board and incoming Board to send ideas for future prompts, and welcomed volunteers to facilitate the activity in the meeting.

**Working Document Access – MLA Document Storage – Bross**
The purpose of this work is to centralize working documents for MLA subunits and committees, and ensure they’re easily transferrable between chairs. Investigating Google Docs because of current member familiarity.

Eventually documents would be archived with MNHS if they have significance for MLA.

**Activate Library Advocacy**

**Legislative Update – Trenam**
Planning virtual Library Legislative Week for the last week of February 2021. The Leg Work Committee will plan activities throughout the week. Ideas generated at the events will be brought to conversations with the Partners to ensure all perspectives are included.

Special Legislative sessions are continuing on and off. Walseth is keeping MLA up to date on any developments.

**Other**
Bross thanked the Board for their support in 2020 and especially Clark for her support. Hendren’s energy is motivating!

Clark thanked Bross for her leadership throughout this challenging year.

Hendren thanked MHQ and Michelle Bjerkness.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.; be well.**

10:27:05 From Sara Fillbrandt : My apologies for my interruption.
10:36:27 From Christie Kess, Tech Services Section (she/her) : Really appreciate those insights. Thanks for sharing, Dave!
10:45:38 From Steve Harsin : Thank you Patti!
10:45:39 From Julia Carlis (she/her/hers) : Thank you Patti!
10:46:17 From Steve Harsin : It's so nice to come into this and know there is a "deep state" to save me from the wolves!

**December Board Packet materials:**
[12 December 2020 Board Meeting - Google Drive]