

Monroe County Library System & Rochester Public Library
Joint Meeting of the Boards of Trustees
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
January 24, 2021
DRAFT Minutes

This meeting was held under the NYS Governor's Executive Order No. 202.1: Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency

MCLS Trustees Present: G. Brandt, C. Corcoran, P. Knapp, J. Lovenheim, A. Moffitt, S. Stockman, M. Thompson, (quorum present)

MCLS Trustees Excused: L. Giess, M. Shelly, E. Stephens

RPL Trustees Present: K. Baynes, D. Benjamin, G. Brandt, A. Drury, G. Gardner, R. Hamilton, D. Karin, J. Lovenheim, S. Salluzzo (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: C. Conklin, W. Martinez

Staff and Guests: County law liaison D. Crumb, Esq.; City law liaison J. Brennan, Esq.; City Council liaison, M. Gruber; FFRPL liaisons N. Davis; staff members B. Harrison, M. Lewis, A. Traub, P. Uttaro, D. Mansour

Call to Order

Ms. Benjamin and Ms. Stockman called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m., confirmed that a quorum was present for each board, and welcomed trustees and guests.

Public Comments

There were no members of the public who wished to address either board.

Joint Action Item

Proposed FY22 Central Library Budget

Ms. Harrison asked everyone to refer to the budget documents within their packets. She made note that the proposed budget has been approved by the joint MCLS and RPL Budget Committee. She reviewed some of the highlights and offered to answer any questions.

For the MCLS Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Dr. Knapp AND SECONDED BY Ms. Thompson to approve the Proposed FY22 Central Library Budget as presented and approved by the joint finance committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

For the RPL Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Gardner to approve the Proposed FY22 Central Library Budget as presented and approved by the joint finance committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCLS Communications

Ms. Stockman asked MCLS trustees if they had any comments of the two letters in their packets. Mr. Brandt thanked Mr. Traub and Alicia Gunther in the MCLS Office for their advocacy work and directly attributed their efforts to the letter from Senator Gallivan to Governor Cuomo asking that library workers be moved up in priority for the COVID-19 vaccine.

MCLS Action Items

Minutes of January MCLS Meeting

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim AND SECONDED BY Ms. Moffitt to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021, meeting. Dr. Knapp pointed out that the nominating committee was asked to put forward a nominee for Vice-president. However, Ms. Stockman is rightfully in that position and a new nominee is not needed at this time. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Claims

Ms. Harrison reviewed the MCLS financial claims and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Corcoran AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL Action Items

Minutes of January RPL Meeting

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021, meeting as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Personnel Changes

Ms. Uttaro reviewed highlights of the personnel changes and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Salluzzo AND SECONDED BY Mr. Hamilton to approve the personnel changes as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Financial Reports

Ms. Harrison offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Gardner to approve the monthly financial reports as presented, and as approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Proposed FY22 Community Library Budget

Ms. Harrison reviewed the highlights of the proposed FY22 Community Library Budget and offered to answer any questions. Of note is the proposed use of \$530,000 from the RPL fund balance to reduce the impact of the budget cuts from the City of Rochester. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Drury AND SECONDED BY Ms. Salluzzo to approve the Proposed FY22 Community Library Budget as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee, and to approve utilization of the fund balance in the amount of \$530,000. THE MOTION PASSED WITH Mr. Lovenheim VOTING AGAINST.

Professional Services Agreement Extension

Ms. Harrison reviewed the extension of the Professional Services Agreement with The Strong and explained the request is to extend the agreement for one more year pending the revision of the MCLS Document of Understanding. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Benjamin AND SECONDED BY

Mr. Lovenheim to approve a Professional Services Agreement extension with The Strong through December 31, 2021, for the same terms, conditions, and charges as the previous December 2014 agreement. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion Items

Melanie Lewis was introduced as the new Deputy Director of Community Libraries.

Reports

Friends & Foundation of RPL

Mr. Davis reviewed highlights and offered to answer any questions on his written report.

Liaison to RPL Board

Mr. Brandt reviewed highlights and offered to answer any questions on his written report.

Rochester Regional Library Council

Dr. Knapp reported that the Rochester Regional Library Council has not met since his last update.

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro asked trustees to weigh in on bringing site and Central supervisors and member directors to the RPL and MCLS meetings, respectively. Trustees agreed this is a good idea and Ms. Uttaro will start scheduling these visits. Next, she informed the MCLS trustees to expect some future conversations regarding the use of the collection agency. A few member directors have asked for more information about the collection agency and the cost versus the value gained. Mr. Traub is currently collecting data and will bring it to the board at an upcoming meeting. She then addressed the RPL trustees and explained that several RPL locations will be participating in vaccine appointment registration for the new mass-vaccine site being set up in Rochester. In response to a question, Ms. Uttaro gave more information about the Budget Equity Tool that was used during the budget process with the City. She said she found value in the tool as it provided a good framework for thinking of equity issues while considering staffing changes as part of the budget process.

Town Libraries/MCLS Services

Mr. Traub highlighted the work of the Henrietta Library on their programming with the In This Moment series of publications from the Visual Studies Workshop. Next, he thanked everyone who participated in the advocacy efforts so far this year and specifically asked trustees to advocate for the America's Libraries bill at the federal level that was introduced in the Senate. A companion bill is expected in the House and both bills could use additional co-sponsors. In response to a question, Mr. Traub explained that the Rochester City School District is now connected to our digital collections. City School students can borrow through their school interface and do not need an MCLS library card. This allows the schools to restrict access to only age-appropriate materials. Mr. Traub will be getting data on usage by students.

Central Library/Branch Libraries

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer any questions on the Central Library or Branch Libraries reports. In response to a question, she explained that even with locations opening to the public, the demand for e-content is still high and the system expects to continue purchasing more e-content than was purchased pre-pandemic. She also stated that the demand for the MiFi units continues. There are

changes, pending approval, in E-Rate funding that would allow RPL to use E-Rate funding to pay for MiFi service. If these changes are approved, they could make a big difference in RPL's ability to continue with the MiFi lending. There are also initiatives underway in Rochester to bring community wireless service to underserved Rochester neighborhoods. Mr. Traub then thanked the team who put together the Black Men in White Coats program and specifically acknowledged Jeff Bostic for his work on the posters and his connections in the community that allowed the program to have an expert panel discussion with black and brown doctors from Rochester.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

For the MCLS Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Moffitt and SECONDED BY Dr. Knapp to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

For the RPL Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim and SECONDED BY Mr. Hamilton to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Patricia Uttaro, Secretary

MCLS Board of Trustees

Dan Karin, Secretary

RPL Board of Trustees