

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 15, 2008

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Present: Ken Behringer (President-Elect), Mike Bloomberg (Legislative Chair), Melissa Brechon (ALA Chapter Councilor), Robin Chaney (Treasurer), Robin Ewing (ARLD Chair), Anne Friederichs (PLD Chair), Heidi Hoks (Past-President), Ben Trapskin (IFC Chair/Member at Large), Carla Urban (Secretary), Wendy Wendt (President)

Absent: Cindy Ahrens (MLTA Chair),

Also Present: Suzanne Miller (State Librarian), Judy Nelson (MN Library Foundation), Mark Ranum (Legislative Chair-Elect)

1. Call to Order – 9:40 a.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions (Wendt)
3. Adoption of Agenda (Wendt) - Brechon/Hoks/carried
4. Approval of January 18, 2008 Minutes – Behringer/Brechon/carried
5. Financial Report (Chaney)
 - 5.1 Monthly Report – Chaney e-mailed reports in advance and will not provide print copies at meeting. Brechon asked where 2007 conference revenue shows up – it is included in the general report, but you need to look at the detailed conference budget report to see those details. **Action Item:** Chaney will send Brechon a copy of the conference budget detail.
 - 5.2 Audit Update – scheduled for the week of March 24, 2008, Wendt is the contact for that.
 - 5.3 Contract/Agreement re Accounting Services and Options – The current contract is with the consulting arm of the Friends of the St. Paul Library. It is an at-will agreement. **Action Item:** Brechon will explore avenues for identifying accounting alternatives appropriate for a non-profit, volunteer-based organization.
 - 5.4 Financial Controls Policy - **MOTION: That the Financial Controls Policy, Capital Assets section, pt. 3 be revised to read that the audit will be contracted as one-year renewable, up to three years.**
Chaney/Brechon/carried
 - 5.5 **MOTION: To accept the Financial Report.** Hoks/Ewing/carried
6. Update on Activities
 - 6.1 Office Management (Urban) Cynthia was out for 1 ½ weeks due to the death of her mother. We have 230 memberships entered into database with appr. 300 more yet to be entered (it takes an average of 1 ½-2 minutes per form to enter into the database – then there are subsequent steps for e-mail confirmation and list updates).
 - 6.1.1 We have checked PLA's list of registrants claiming MLA membership. There might be another list yet to come. We will contact individuals on the list who are not members encouraging them to join, before we turn the list over to PLA. **Action Item:** Behringer will write a letter that the office will send out via e-mails including a deadline of Feb. 29 for responses.
 - 6.1.2 There are many new members this year. Do we have a plan for welcoming new members? We need to reconstitute Membership Committee. **Action Item:** Trapskin volunteered to assist Wendt with this. Programming Committee will be sure to include a New Members event at conference. It would be nice to get a needs assessment from subunits and committees so we'd know about

opportunities for involvement. **Action Item:** Wendt will contact folks from Leadership Institute and Communications Committee to recruit a chair and float the idea.

6.1.3 Misc. office issues – Urban requested that the Board consider options for computer technical support. We currently have no back-up system.

6.2 ARLD Day (Ewing) – Scheduled for April 25, 2008, at MN Landscape Arboretum. ARLD is soliciting breakout session topics. Attendees from non-academic institutions are welcome.

7. Reports

7.1 MLA Annual Conference Report (Brechon and Ranum) –

7.1.1 2008 Conference - Met again with Sheraton 2/14/08 about site contract. The contract will be signed next week. Conference will be held Mon.-Wed., Oct. 6-8, 2008. Exhibitors will be in the area adjacent to the swimming pool; there will be a cap of 46 draped, 8x10 vendor tables; exhibits will be open Monday and Tuesday; 8 meeting rooms, charged \$100/day; Internet rates in meeting rooms are prohibitive, so presentations will have to be canned; guest room rate will be \$138/night; contract will guarantee a certain number of rooms held, but we're not required to pay for a certain number of rooms. **MOTION: To authorize the President to sign the new contract with the Sheraton.** Chaney/Hoks/carried

7.1.2 2009 Conference - We are committed by contract to hold the 2009 conference there as well. Possible dates are the 3rd and 4th weeks of Oct. 2009.

7.2 PLA Conference Update (Brechon)

7.2.1 Boys Read Pre-Conference registration is currently at 87. Profit comes to MLA.

7.2.2 Conference registration is over 5000; there are over 90 volunteers signed up so far.

7.2.3 We have a table for MLA in the Exhibit area, adjacent to Local Arrangements booth. How will we use it? We will take orders for CYP Literacy cards and share brochures for local libraries. **Action Item:** Brechon will prepare a handout for PLA vendors informing them of the MLA annual conference and exhibit opportunities.

7.3 Legislative Committee Report (Bloomberg)

7.3.1 Legislative Session started this week. We've already had a hearing on our bonding bill, and a fruitful Maintenance of Effort meeting.

7.3.2 Legislative Day is March 1. There are 15 people registered so far. Fee is \$30.

7.4 MN Institute for Leadership Excellence (Wendt)

Planning for MILE 2009 is underway, with intention of partnering with MEMO. MEMO has expressed desire that it be inclusive - not limited to academic or public library leaders. They are still considering whether or not to participate.

7.5 MN Library Foundation Report (Nelson):

Executive Committee met to discuss direction for the coming year. MLF has been working on a MN Librarian of the Year Award, but progress is slow in that they're not finding a major sponsor. Considering a MN Library Foundation Book Club. Considering hosting an author luncheon as a fundraiser. Looking forward to discussions with MLA how best the MLF can support MLA. Suggested that MLF participate in MILE to get to know the participants and provide opportunities for them to get involved in the MLF.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 MLA Response to ELM Issue (Bloomberg) – There is a bill looking to make access to ELM open, regardless of membership in regional public library systems. There are 5 libraries in the state that are not

members of a regional public library system. The Legislative Committee has voted to oppose the bill. Wendt noted that at least 16 library boards and cities had adopted resolutions in support of this proposed bill; that it has been MLA's practice not to take a stand on issues that divide its members; and that in the past MLA had not voted on this specific issue, or similar issues. Behringer questions the wisdom of not taking a stand on issues that threaten the existing structures that support libraries and services offered to them.

8.2 Records Retention Policy (Newsome) The Board was asked in January to review the presented draft; in the meantime Newsome made some editorial changes. Discussion ensued about print and electronic resources and the need for the Board to examine issues of technical support and back-up. Urban noted it would be helpful to supplement the inventory of print files with an inventory of crucial electronic resources.

MOTION: That we send a letter of thanks to Newsome and the Committee for their extensive efforts preparing this policy. Brechon/Hoks/carried

8.3 Sub-Unit/Committee Training (Wendt) Will be held Feb. 26, 1-4, Hennepin County Ridgedale. **Action Item:** Wendt will draft a schedule for sub-units to attend Board meetings and present on their activities.

8.4 ARLD Letter (Ewing) – ARLD is suggesting they send a letter to library schools, particularly those with distance ed students in our area, with a brochure to be distributed to MN students encouraging them to join MLA and ARLD. Discussion: Should we add another segment to represent PLD? **Action Item:** Ewing will take the idea of combining with PLD info back to ARLD for discussion.

9. Other Items

9.1 Trapskin has been asked by ALA Chapter Relations to serve as an Intern.

10. **MOTION: To adjourn at 11:58 a.m.** Behringer/Bloomberg/carried

Next meeting: Friday, March 14, 2008, 9:30-12:00

Addendum

There was confusion regarding MLA's position on the ELM Access bill so the Board took an electronic vote on Monday, Feb. 25. Wendt's call for the vote stated:

"In order for the MLA lobbyist and Legislative Committee to move forward, the MLA Board must take official action on the Legislative Committee's recommendations regarding the ELM Access Expansion Bill HF 2821. According to Bob Boese, who recorded the draft minutes of the Legislative Committee meeting, the minutes of the motion from the Legislative Committee read:

After further discussion, Boese moved and Ranum seconded a motion to oppose independent access to ELM to for municipal libraries that are not a part of their regional public library systems. Motion passed with some dissenting votes.

Please respond Yes if you approve this recommendation to oppose the ELM Expansion Bill, No if you oppose the Legislative Committee's decision. Responses must be received by 4PM today, Monday, February 25th and we must have responses from at least 6 members to constitute a quorum. Thank you."

The vote was 8-Yes to 1-No.