

Meeting Minutes
MLA Legislative Committee
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Held Online

Attendees: Nick Dimassis, Michael Scott, Ann Hutton, Ann Walker-Smalley, Barbara Misselt, Bill DeJohn, Bill Wittenbreer, Chris Olson, Dale Carrison, Doug Johnson, Elaine Keefe, Jeanne DeMars, Jim Weikum, John Hunziker, Kathleen James, Kathy Fredette, Kim Edson, Kirsty Smith, Marian Rengel, Mark Ranum, Mary Lukkarila, Mary Mehsikomer, Maureen Bell, Mike Bloomberg, Patricia Post, Peg Warner, Robin Chaney, Robin Ewing, Suzanne Miller

Approval of Agenda: **Hunziker moved; Post seconded; Motion carried**

Approval of Minutes: **Hunziker moved for approval; Ranum seconded; Motion carried**

Legislative Update (Elaine Keefe, President, Capitol Hill Associates)

- State Budget
 - February 2010 forecast announced yesterday – one that legislators will use to set budget
 - \$994 million deficit
 - Higher Ed. budget bill rolled out – accepted Governor’s recommendation for a reduction to Minitex/MnLINK budget in FY2010 of \$95,000 & \$362,000 in FY2011; also reductions to University of MN (\$36 million) & MnSCU (\$10.4 million) budgets
 - Plan to pass budgets in phases
 - Phase 1: Everything except Health & Human Services & K-12 Education
 - Significant to libraries in this round: cuts to LGA & CPA & Higher Ed.
 - Phase 2: Health & Human (\$350 million)
 - Phase 3: K-12 Education (\$434 million)
 - Either budgets, revenue increases, or shifts, or some combination
 - Not sure if one bill or two to achieve this
 - Question about where to put amendments that we need passed. Could be put in if a K-12 budget reduction bill is offered but may need to look at adding them in elsewhere if K-12 budget bill isn’t offered
- Bonding
 - House & Senate passed bonding bill but was pulled back to avoid a possible gubernatorial veto
 - A working group is now dealing with this
 - Encouraged to contact Republican representatives to encourage Governor to include library projects in bonding bill
 - Miller: Is there an update on offering a prioritized list of bonding projects.

- Keefe: Yes, met with Rep. Hausman and suggested use the Public Facilities Authority as a model. Got contact & will follow up with the person after bonding bill is passed
- Legislative Audit of Public Libraries
 - Still waiting for it. Hoping it will be released second week of March (possibly March 10)
 - Question: How is this report is released? Answer: Released to a committee, probably Rep. Murphy's committee
- Legacy Funding
 - No obvious bill for this to be attached
 - MDE is taking lead on this
 - Rep. Murphy has given assurances that this is important
 - Question: Why didn't rollover language get into our bill? Answer: Was overlooked
 - Miller: Definitely an oversight. Discussion with Rep. Murphy verified this.

Email Lobbying Effort(s) -- CapWiz (Dimassis)

- Will work on getting some letters put together in CapWiz for the bonding issues

2010 Library Legislative Day(s)

- Recap (Dimassis)
 - Great success! 81 registrants for the day (48 members; 33 non-members)
 - \$1600 in revenue & may net \$1000 after expenses
 - Send comments to Nick
 - Edson: Should this event should be so profit driven
 - Misselt: Can be difficult to project attendance so fee that is set may result in a substantial profit. Goal is to cover costs
 - Dimassis: Have we ever had a speaker at the morning briefing at Legislative Day?
 - Keefe: Yes, when we first started out but has changed over the years due to availability and such.
- National Legislative Day (Ranum)
 - Will be held on June 29, 2010
 - Have a couple of appointments so far but others won't be booked until closer to the date
 - Appointments most likely in afternoon after rally at 11 AM. May be some early morning appointments too.

Reports

- MLA Board (Kathleen James, Pres.)
 - Will be purchasing GoToWebinar and should be up and going by next meeting
 - Topic proposals in email tomorrow
 - Library Snapshot Day will be set up by the MLA Communication Committee
 - Choose a day to take photos from libraries to use as some sort of advocacy tool
 - Going on around the country

- Official ALA Library Snapshot Day is in April
 - Misselt: Will guidelines be given on statistics that will be captured? James: Yes
 - Miller: Information about Library Snapshot Day in NJ is available.
- State Library Services (Suzanne Miller, State Librarian)
 - Testify on impact of governor's budget on libraries
 - Discussion did resurrect issue of MN Braille & Talking Book Library
 - Miller complimented on testimony
 - MINITEX (Bill DeJohn, Director)
 - No report
 - MEMO (Mary Mehsikomer)
 - Working 2010 Conference (September 30 – October 2, 2010)
 - Looking at ways to increase membership
 - Public Regional Libraries (Barbara Misselt, Chair, CRPLSA)
 - Legacy Projects Update (Ranum)
 - Statewide project going on with Minnesota Historical Society "Minnesota's Greatest Generation"
 - Effort to list the areas of emphasis around the state being undertaken by libraries
 - Encouraged group to listen to Stanley Romanstein (President & CEO of Minnesota Humanities Center) testimony as he is complimentary of working with libraries (done on March 1, 2010): http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/audio/archivescomm.asp?comm=86121&ls_year=86
 - RLBS Formulation Change (Ranum)
 - Not really a change but appropriation would be averaged over three years. Current model has seen fluctuations in appropriations. 8 regional boards have approved this so far.
 - Multitype Regional Libraries (Patricia Post)
 - Issue 2 of Things on a Stick came out today
 - Meeting at the end of March at Metronet
 - Telecommunications (Peg Werner)
 - A bill is moving through both Houses to set up an Advisory Council to move the recommendations forward next year.

Adjournment: **Scott moved adjournment, Post seconded at 10:56 AM**