

Legislative Committee Meeting Notes
Minnesota Library Association
December 7, 2011

In Attendance:

Barbara Misselt, Dayle Zelenka, Elaine Keefe, Jane Blodgett, Jennifer Turner, Karen Pundsack, Kate Bessey, Kathy Enger, Kathy Fredette, Ken Behringer, Kim Edson, Kirsty Smith, Laura Rudolph, Lenore Johnson, Linda Wadman, Maureen Bell, Mike Bloomberg, Pam Sukalski, Peg Werner, Ann Hutton, Melinda Ludwiczak, Michael Scott, Kathleen James Ann Walker Smalley, Chris Olson, Bill DeJohn, Robin Ewing.

James moved/DeJohn seconded motion to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Olson moved/James seconded motion to approve minutes of the October 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

Minnesota Legislative Update by Elaine Keefe:

- Keefe reported that the November forecast for the Minnesota budget shows a surplus. The priorities for the use of the surplus funds will be to place funds in reserve (rainy day fund) and then to pay back the educational shift dollars
- Keefe suggested that the Governor's bonding bill/proposal may be about \$725 million. MLA will work to try to have library accessibility funding included in the Governor's recommendation. To introduce legislation in the House, we may ask either McFarlane or Sondra Erickson to be bill sponsors. The Senate sponsor has not yet been determined.
- A hearing was recently held to discuss the possibility of using Legacy funds for stadium costs. Keefe reported that the testifiers had a positive approach in suggesting that this is not desirable.

Collaborative Governor's Council:

State Librarian Nancy Walton recently worked with the group to discuss serve public library issues: MOE and the city/county funding disparity. Amy Wilde, from the Plum Creek Library System governing board, will speak with the group at a future meeting.

Request from the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits:

MLA President Robin Ewing and Lobbyist Elaine Keefe informed the Committee about a group called the Minnesota Budget Project. They shared several documents (via email beforehand) that reflected concerns about several constitutional amendments that might have budget impacts upon organizations in the state, including libraries. The Project organizers are currently looking for groups that may wish to formally join the movement. After discussion, the Legislative Committee reached consensus that the lobbyist should continue to monitor (watchful waiting) the group, but the Minnesota Library Association would not formally join the Project at this time. Scott and Ewing will respond to the group's request.

2012 Legislative Platform:

The group reviewed the language presented to the membership at the MLA conference. Walker Smalley confirmed that this was the same language that was considered for adoption by MEMO. No changes were made.

Other Items:

It was announced the Marlene Moulton Janssen, director of the Anoka County Library, has been appointed as the library represented on the Governor's Workforce Task Force.

Plans for the 2012 Library Legislative Day have not yet been announced.

Peg Werner, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Michael Scott for his leadership as chair of the Legislative Committee during the past year.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2012, 10 a.m.

Meeting adjourned.