

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

Attendees: Nick Dimassis, Michael Scott, Elaine Keefe, Ann Hutton, Ann Walker-Smalley, Barbara Misselt, Bill Wittenbreer, Cecilia Boone, Dale Carrison, Dawn Nelson, Dayle Zelenka, Doug Johnson, Jim Weikum, John Hunziker, Kathleen James, Kathy Fredette, Ken Behringer, Kim Edson, Kirsty Smith, Linda Wadman, Marian Rengel, Mark Ranum, Mary Lukkarila, Mary Mehsikomer, Maureen Bell, Mike Bloomberg, Nancy Walton, Patricia Post, Peg Warner, Robin Chaney, Robin Ewing, Tori Jensen

Approval of Agenda (with additions noted below): **Ranum moved; Edson seconded; Motion carried**

Approval of Minutes: **Zelenka moved for approval; Bell seconded; Motion carried**

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

- State Budget
 - Started with a \$994 million deficit
 - Legislature came up with \$313 million “Phase 1” cuts
 - i. Library-significant cuts: Cuts to LGA & CPA and Higher Education, specifically Minitex
 - ii. Reform of General Assistance Medical Care saved \$147 million
 - iii. Total cut so far: \$460 million
 - Counting on \$408 million from federal government but may not come before Legislature adjourns
 - Elaine discussed other legislation being introduced, debated, etc. as the session winds up
 - Decision on unallotments from the Supreme Court came down during Elaine’s presentation
- Legacy Funding
 - Carryover amendment included in an omnibus bill related to Legacy
 - Language is for ANY funding to rollover that was in the original bill – not just libraries
 - Some concern about Sen. Murphy statement that libraries needed this provision because they were told to hold off spending to help with state’s cashflow problem – Elaine to follow up on this with Sen. Murphy’s staff
- Legislative Audit of Public Libraries
 - Second hearing on the Report – public input from Mehsikomer, Dimassis, Walker-Smalley, and Finsness
 - Sen. Murphy is planning another hearing to get information from cities and counties
 - Idea of a “Library 101” was discussed for Sen. Murphy’s committee
 - Ewing brought up that she and James would send letter to Legislative Committee, Public Library Division, and other interested MLA subunits to put together a process for developing a response to the OLA report. Legislative

Forum one possible place to have a conversation and get input from the MLA constituency

- Ranum spoke to fact that recommendation came out of a study of public libraries and that findings has been endorsed by MDE, State Library Services, and CRPSLA has written a white paper on it
- Keefe – Some worry that because MDE has made commitment to implement & with departure of State Librarian that it might be handled by someone lacking knowledge of libraries
- Motion: “MLA Legislative Committee endorse the OLA report and recommendations and recommend to the MLA Board that they endorse the report as well” – **Ranum moved; Smith seconded**
 - Motion to table the motion – **Bloomberg moved; Ewing seconded**
 - **57% Yes, 35% No, 9% abstained – Motion carried**

2010 Library Legislative Forum

- Motion: Move that the date of the forum be July 20, 2010 – **Smith moved; Behringer seconded; Motion carried**
- Discussed ideas for the forum: MOE, State Budget, Legacy

National Legislative Day

- Ranum collecting information about attendance – small group so far
- Confirmation from Franken, Oberstar, & Peterson for appointments

Library Futures Initiative

- Steering Committee to meet May 14 in St. Cloud – will be a facilitated meeting
- Will develop a method to identify futurists
- 9 of 11 invited groups will be represented

Reports

- MLA Board (Robin Ewing, Pres. Elect)
 - Discussion of OLA report
 - Discussions about conference
- State Library Services (Suzanne Miller, State Librarian)
 - No report
- MINITEX (Bill DeJohn, Director)
 - No report
- MEMO (Mary Mehsikomer)
 - Board discussed OLA report and though general agreement with State Library Advisory, still concern about school library media centers
 - Discussion about Fall conference
- Public Regional Libraries (Barbara Misselt, Chair, CRPLSA)
 - CRPLSA met at the end of April 2010
 - Discussion about division of responsibilities with departure of State Librarian
 - Prepared draft response to OLA

- Discussion of statewide Legacy projects and carryover into next year
- Will have a booth at the League of Minnesota Cities Conference in June 2010
- Legacy Projects Update – Ranum reported a change in language needed to go on all materials
- Multitype Regional Libraries (Ann Walker-Smalley)
 - No report
- Telecommunications (Dale Carrison)
 - No report

Adjournment: **Behringer moved adjournment, Hunziker seconded at 11:30 AM**