



## STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

### OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

November 12, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

### VIRTUAL MEETING

#### Approved Minutes

**In attendance: Liz Sundermann-Zinger, Chad Helton, Elizabeth Hulett, Elizabeth Lang, Genive Purchase, James Kelly, John Owen, Kimberly Cowles, Michael Blackwell, Megan Heburn, Michael Brown, Morgan Miller, Olivia Jacobs, Paula Mitchell, Rudy Rodela, Seth Hershberger, Sri Veeramachaneni, Tamar Sarnoff, Vivian Fisher, Michael Johnson, Shane Williams**

**Call to Order**, Tamar Sarnoff, 10:00AM

**SLRC Presentation**, Facilitated by Liz Sundermann-Zinger

#### Organizational Effectiveness

- Liz Sundermann-Zinger introduced Chad Helton, President and CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and noted that EPFL/SLRC will not be sharing an org chart until Chad has had the chance to build the team as he sees fit.

#### Awareness

- Liz reminded everyone that this report is primarily a recap of Q1
- Hannah from Compass, Morgan Miller, Tim Pratt, Seth Hershberger, and Liz SZ met with Gazzone and Barnes and discussed SLRC Funding. They seemed positive about the 5% for this fiscal year.
- MLA and MAPLA submitted letters to include this in the Governor's budget
- Liz clarified that MSLA can't really take the lead for this because the money goes to them to distribute to us. So it looks a bit off if they're lobbying for themselves to get the money when they are a State Agency. They can support the effort and give testimony, but MLA, MAPLA, and Compass are the drivers.
- Liz noted that statewide library legislative groups are still discussing the Freedom to Read Act but that no one is submitting changes. The State Regulations either have already gone into effect or will be doing so very soon.

- Liz talked about legislation pursuing DCDL funding. Tamar Sarnoff added clarification that the State gets \$200K per year for DCDL and that this has been flat funded for 10 years. This year they had to use federal funds to make up the shortfall.
- SLRC held their fall DEI Conference, which had a the highest participation through rate to date.
- Liz recapped her statement made at MAPLA that SLRC is very focused on ensuring that we are serving and representing all of our communities. Based on feedback and an installment exhibit by last year's artist in residence, we have begun digging into the collection and our programming. Each department is responsible for focusing on a group that they feel is underrepresenting it and doing the research and working with community partners to improve that representation in a meaningful way.
- Michael Johnson said that Digital Maryland staff presented at a statewide history and digitization conference at the Baltimore Museum of History to an audience of around 200. They made some good connections while they were there.
- Michael Johnson talked about the Maryland State Commission working on the Maryland 250 project. Most states will participate in some way. We are interested in learning how Digital Maryland can support this effort in Maryland.

## Technology

- Liz, Michael Johnson, and Mike Brown met to discuss the SAILOR outage caused by the manhole fire on Charles St. They plan to hold a special session of the SAILOR advisory group to discuss everything with them.
- Mike Brown mentioned that we lost a lot of very old fiber to the fire. It was mostly out of service, but he's going to look into rebuilding it to give us a redundancy. He's going to work with the City to find a path that isn't in the "hot zone."
- Mike Brown said that the construction on the new Point of Presence at Muni is mostly finished, but he is delaying finalizing the project until a new project manager is assigned by the city.
- The POPs for ESRL and Leonardtown are in progress, but he does not have a complete status update for them.
- Michael Johnson talked about other fallout from the fire including some library systems' web pages went down and there were issues with Overdrive queues. He is working with Overdrive so that that won't happen again.
- Michael Johnson talked about the SAILOR database purchasing cycle. We held a vendor fair in September that was very well attended. We've received 12 proposals so far, so he'll be sending out some trials.

- The final decision will be made shortly after the new year, with implementation in March and the contract cycle beginning on the 1st of July.
- Michael Johnson reported on Digital Maryland. They have added an additional TB of storage. We had over 10,000 items added in the Q1.
- Digital Maryland has also added a land acknowledgement statement and a harmful content warning for historical images and documents with historic language that can be very offensive.
- Digital Maryland is continuing to work on using AI to transcribe handwritten text documents.
- Paula Mitchell reported on the RFP process for the Marina Statewide Interlibrary Loan platform. The current contract with Relais D2D will be up at the end of FY25 so we have just released the RFP. The new contractual period will be from FY26 through FY29.
- The Marina User Group Meeting is every 4th Thursday of the month except December, but they will see demos and help provide feedback.

#### Training, Resources, and Services

- Liz Sundermann-Zinger mentioned the SAILOR Symposium again
- Liz noted that public trainings etc., are listed in the print Annual Report Update so didn't mention them all here.
- Genive Purchase talked about LATI and mentioned that SLRC does a lot of trainings there. Also, when LATI cohorts attend the SLRC conferences, they get a lot of additional useful information. We get a substantial number of people from LATI who attend the "Intro to SLRC Services" presentations.
- Vivian Fisher mentioned that they have done a lot of trainings. She noted in particular that SLRC staff went to Garrett County's Staff Day to do couple of trainings and we enjoy doing such things.
- Vivian also talked about the James Baldwin exhibit currently on display. It is the 100th anniversary of James Baldwin. Staff also created a very great booklet about him. Both have been very well received and people have learned things they didn't know about his writing, his intellect, his civil rights involvement.
- Liz talked about planning a VR Roadshow style AI training based on feedback she received at MAPLA. These trainings will be available throughout the state starting in Q3.
- Liz mentioned that SLRC will be tabling at MD Tech Connect with a chance for people to sign up for statewide tech lending.
- Paula Mitchell described the new 3-year contract for delivery with Hub City. The connections in this contract include Western Maryland, Frederick, Montgomery,

PGCMLS, and Southern Maryland. She invited feedback from anyone in those areas.

### **FY25 Q1 SLRC Budget Report**, Olivia Jacobs and Sri Veeramachaneni

- Liz noted that everyone should have the report in print.
- Sri Veeramachaneni noted that everything is on track for Q1. Spending for SAILOR and Youth Services are front loaded every year so you will see more spending in those categories.
- Sri noted that in Q2 Executive Direction will come in high because there is a large payout coming up.

### **New Business**, Liz Sundermann-Zinger

- Liz took a moment to acknowledge the presidential election and that it will make a significant impact on libraries and education. Liz has talked with Morgan Miller and Chad Helton and is creating plans. She stated that SLRC is here to do whatever is needed in response to things that might happen.
- Liz asked if there were any questions about anything in the report.

### **Vote to Accept the Reports**, Morgan Miller

- In Tonya Aikens' absence, Morgan Miller called for the vote to accept the September minutes.
- Rudy Rodella moved that we vote to approve the September minutes.
- Elizabeth Hulett seconded the motion.
- Morgan Miller called for the vote.
- The vote was approved - Minutes from September were approved.
- Morgan called for a vote to approve the updates to the Annual Report.
- Bea Hardy moved to vote to approve the updates to the Annual Report.
- Elizabeth Hulett seconded the motion.
- Morgan Miller called for a vote.
- The vote was approved - Updates to the Annual Report are approved.

### **Agency Reports**

MSLA

- Morgan Miller asked to go first and apologized for not being able to attend the whole meeting.
- Morgan agreed with Genive that LATI is wonderful. MSLA attended the graduation and helped pass out certificates. SLRC and everyone who provides training does a great job, and it has gotten better under Ryan O'Grady's leadership, and all of the other people who help out including SLRC staff.
- MSLA has been speaking with friends groups, with CML, with LBPD - all about being prepared for future funding.
- MSLA does not want to be on the sideline, but right in the mix advocating for libraries.
- Morgan said that soon they will be planning Voices for Libraries, a national event in DC that is organized by ALA. This will occur March 5-6. This will be a good opportunity to have discussions with our federal legislators, about all the things libraries do as well as funding and policy.
- Morgan noted that MSLA has submitted their budgets, and will be responding to questions until the hearings in January after we see the Governor's Budget.
- The legislative focus this year, in addition to SLRC funding, is funding for DCDL. It is mandated in state law and serves many Marylanders. It is largely virtual and they are continuing to build all of the electronic resources for it. Senator Nancy King will sponsor the bill.
- Tamar noted that they have been working in broad strokes on Freedom to Read and they will have something very soon for that.
- Morgan joined in to say that they have published the regulation. It went through a 2 week vetting period and is now live. MSDE is looking into theirs.
- Morgan said that there is a new member of the Maryland State Library Board, actually two: Chad Helton and Stephen Shooty who is from Washington County and chairs the Washington County Board. He's very active, has a tech business, and cares about teens. He was strongly recommended by Al Martin and others.

#### CALD

- Bea Hardy stated that the USMA library consortium is looking for an executive director to replace Andrew Pace. The search failed so they will be beginning a new search eventually.

#### LBPD

- John Owen talked about how they are working on getting parental acknowledgements for patrons under 18 as the National Library Service now requires.

- This also impacts institutional accounts so it can be challenging. It will not impact library branches with institutional accounts.
- During the first week of December they will begin a lighting project in the building to update to energy efficient light fixtures.

#### Frederick County

- James Kelly said that their latest branch to open was featured in LJ's design issue.
- They have another capital project on deck in West Frederick. There will be a vote in December to rezone a parcel of land to make that possible.
- In FY24 their circ and visits were record highs, and they are on track this year to beat both.

#### WMRL

- Elizabeth Hulett will be attended the LJ Director's Summit in Columbia, SC last week. She met with some librarians from Oklahoma who gave some uplifting news.
- Elizabeth will attend the Regionals meeting next week, so doesn't have updates from them yet.
- Friendsville is now in their temporary location but ground hasn't been broken yet. It should be very soon. Everyone is excited about the new building in Friendsville next year.
- She is working with Hoopla to get their junk out of her catalog, and is making a little progress.

#### DCDL

- Elizabeth Lang noted that she is a library administrator at Montgomery County Public Library as well as administering the Maryland Deaf Cultural Digital Library.
- Liz Sundermann-Zinger clarified that she was here primarily in her DCDL capacity, but is welcome to report on both.
- Elizabeth Lang noted that DCDL is looking for more funding.
- The staff is very focused on increasing digital resources, particularly deaf content creators. They are largely starting with YouTube and trying to catalog those and make them available.
- She noted that videos are very popular among the Deaf community.
- They are also figuring out how to participate in summer reading programs. This summer may be a test run between MCPL and DCDL to see how it goes, then it could expand to statewide.

## SAILOR Advisory Council

- Rudy Rodela noted that he is the new chair and just going through regular transition things. He said that everyone has been very supportive.
- Rudy gave a shout out to Daria Parry for all the great work she has done with SAC.
- There are a couple of vacancies in the committee, but he has some leads and will be reaching out to potential candidates soon.
- He offered to listen to any thoughts or ideas anyone may have for the committee.

## Wicomico

- Seth Hershberger talked about the ESRL Directors Advisory Board meeting the previous week. They are considering changing ILS vendors including looking at open source options. ESRL is also wrapping things up with the renovation of their new office spaces.
- For Wicomico he noted that there's a new branch in Parsonburg, and they're renovating a space where they will relocate their flagship branch sometime next year.
- Seth noted that he is the chair of MAPLA's Intergovernmental Taskforce which met last week. He noted that they have a meeting coming up with one of the sponsors for Freedom to Read and are steering away from doing any big push on that this year. They are focusing on DCDL and SLRC funding.

## K-12

- Kim Cowles attended the Citizens for Maryland Libraries meeting last week, and it was great to meet so many people on this Commission in person.
- K-12 is currently working on the MDK12 resource consortium. They just had their vendor day for that on Nov. 1 and they're gathering their trials for schools to try though January 15, then will go through procurement. Montgomery County Public Schools is the LEA that does the actual purchasing.
- They are working on their COMAR update, so each LEA has to write their own reconsideration policy that align with Freedom to Read. Those are due to Kim by July 1, so she's working with them in groups to answer questions and provide technical support. She is encouraging them to keep their language very tight.
- She is working with Carrie Sanders on the emerging adult summit that is coming up. She will try to get the high school librarians to involve their students since 11 and 12th graders are transitioning into that age group.

- She is collaborating with MSLA to present at the annual MLA/DLA conference.
- Seth Hershberger asked her who she was referring to when she says “LEAs”
- Kim responded that those are Local Education Agencies, so every county has to write their own reconsideration policy.
- She further clarified that this is just public schools
- Seth asked if they’re receiving some guidance based on what is in Freedom to Read. He asked if Kim is giving them guidance and then reviewing what they write.
- Kim confirmed, and said that she wants them to use language right from the Act. She also said that they have to get passed the Board of Ed, so it’s delicate.
- Seth asked if she had anything to go on other than the Freedom to Read Act.
- Kim confirmed that they have existing policies, and good selection policies, so they’re using those as reference material.

### **Adjourn**

- Liz Sundermann-Zinger asked if anyone else would like to speak, or any new business. There was none so she moved to adjourn the meeting in the absence of Tonya Aikens or anyone from MSLA.
- Kim Cowles moved to adjourn.
- Rudy Rodela seconded the motion
- Liz called for the vote, which was in favor.
- Liz thanked everyone for all they do and adjourned the meeting at 11:42AM

*Minutes compiled from AI Transcript by Liz Sunderman-Zinger*