



**STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER**

**OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

**September 23, 2024, 10:00 A.M.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Approved Minutes**

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

**Call to Order**, Tonya Aikens

**Introductions**, Tonya Aikens

Everyone introduced themselves. New Members:

Elizabeth Lang is the Assistant Facilities and Accessibility Program Manager at Montgomery County Public Library and administers the Deaf Culture Digital Library.

Rudy Rodela is the CTO at Anne Arundel Public Library, he will be Daria's successor as the Chair of the Sailor Advisory Committee.

Sri Veeramachaneni is the new CFO at EPFL

Kim Cowles is the Educational Specialist for School Libraries at MSDE

Bea Hardy is the Associate Vice President for the Library and Learning Commons at Goucher College and the President of CALD

Morgan Lehr Miller is the new State Librarian

**SLRC Presentation**, Liz Sundermann-Zinger

Shared Mission and Vision of SLRC - we want everyone in Maryland to have the resources we need. Liz also shared the history and scope of the State Library Resource Center.

Explained the mission of the SLRC Oversight Commission, pointed out that it is spelled out in the MOU. Expressed that we welcome input and conversation from the Commission. Tonya expressed that we do genuinely want to hear from everyone on the Commission.

Liz shared the link to the new website: <https://www.slrc.info/>

Liz shared the final stats from the Annual Report. Michael Johnson shared information about how the database, Digital Maryland, and MILO statistics are gathered and what they mean. Tonya asked if there is a target we are trying to reach in database use. Michael shared a link showing quarterly use of each Gale database, Heritage Quest, and Mango Languages.

Liz presented the Fy24 Annual Report for a vote for approval. Tonya called for the vote. Michael Blackwell moved to approve the report. Seth Hershberger 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted in favor of approving the report.

Liz asked if there were any questions about the report. Morgan Lehr Miller commented that she was pleased about the part of the report pertaining to accessibility. She asked if the 53 titles that were banned were from the school library or public library in Carroll County. Liz replied that they were from the school system. Kim Cowles asked for a list of those books, and Liz said that she would send the list to everyone.

### **FY24 SLRC Budget Report, Olivia Jacobs and Sri Veeramachaneni**

Sri noted that in Executive Direction the budget was spent 203% due to large payouts that were necessary. She also noted that we are still looking at the Access Services line because it seems very low. Olivia added that the number in Access Services is probably so low due to employees not being charged to the correct cost centers and noted that the Business Office is working with HR to determine if this is the case.

Liz thanked Sri and Olivia for jumping in and hitting the ground running, and stated her belief in them to iron out issues by next FY. Sri thanked everyone for their collaboration.

### **Annual Plan, Liz Sundermann-Zinger**

Liz stated that she has changed the format of the Annual Plan for FY25. It is still based directly on the SLRC Strategic Plan, but has been extensively simplified from previous fiscal years. Liz asked for comment on the new format. Tonya stated that she appreciates the new format. Morgan agreed with Tonya.

Liz asked if anyone wanted to change anything about the meeting format. Morgan stated that she needs to participate in more meetings before she will have input. Morgan noted that the meeting felt different when it was in person and wondered if there could someday be a hybrid version. Liz suggested maybe holding the kickoff meeting in person next FY. Liz suggested lunch at SLRC, Morgan suggested also having a tour. Liz agreed to this.

Liz talked about meeting dates. She discussed the change that was made last FY, and suggested the non kickoff meetings be held early the next month following each quarter. Liz asked if 11/12 would work for the next meeting. The group agreed that it would work. Liz stated that she would send out a poll for the remaining meetings.

### **General SLRC updates**, Liz Sundermann-Zinger

Liz asked everyone to look at the website and provide feedback. Michael Johnson shared: Overview of FY24 – renewal of contracts for digital resources. MPERLS group helps decide these things, but we can always add more voices. Digital Maryland was understaffed in FY24, but will be fully staffed in FY25. Crowdsourcing and AI are helping transcribe handwritten texts. More institutions are moving to more digital gov docs. University of Baltimore library and Law Library have been added to the SPDDP group. There will be an RFP for new MILO delivery in FY25. There will also be an RFP for software to replace Relais for MILO. Mike Brown shared: Upgrades happening on the network for St. Mary's. The new point is finally being installed in the City – it has taken a year and half to get all the permits. An upgrade was done at Hagerstown, unfortunately the new circuit has been very problematic. There will be new fiber installed by Comcast, but there is no ETA from them. If it's going to take too long, he will find another way to fix things.

### **CEO Search**, Liz Sundermann-Zinger

Finalist interviews were held August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. An announcement will be made soon.

### **Staffing Update**, Liz Sundermann-Zinger

Vacancies: Chief of HR, Chief of Digital Transformation, Chief Operating Officer, SLRC Admin.

New Hires: CFO, Sridevi Veeramachaneni

### **Sailor Advisory Committee Updates**, Daria Parry

Daria noted that this will be her last update; Rudy Rodela will take her place at subsequent meetings. There are still two vacancies, the group will send suggestions over to Morgan. There is no report from Carla Moore or the State Digital Equity group.

DEI Conference at SLRC will be at the end of October. Mike Brown gave Hagerstown updates. Michael Johnson gave updates. SAC meeting schedule will be determined by SLRC Oversight Commission dates. SAC will meet before the commission each quarter.

Michael Johnson expressed gratitude to Daria for all of her work over the years. Liz added her thanks, and welcomed Rudy. Rudy said he's looking forward to it.

### **Member Updates;**

Bea: CALD Board of Directors met recently, spring meeting will focus on AI. There will be registration scholarships for various relevant conferences to CALD members. USMAI is still engaged in its executive director search

K-12: FTR legislation is going through the process to be enacted, hopefully will go before the State Board of Ed in October.

### **Public:**

Seth: MAPLA meeting will be in October in Ocean City, IGR has started work on the legislative session, there is a new CEO at ESRL. Michael Blackwell asked which legislation IGR is focusing on. Seth stated that expanding FTR, particularly library board concerns, are at the top of the list but conversations are just starting. Michael Blackwell said that a senator reached out to MLA about digital costs, and Josh sent him to Michael Blackwell who talked with him.

### **Regionals:**

Elizaeth Huelett: There have been a few meetings with the new director at ESRL, Ashley at SMRLA is taking classes and has been busy working on MILLI, things are business as usual at WMRL. She appreciated Mike's report about connectivity issues – the outage had significant impact on Washington County. Thomas's bid for Friendsville came in under budget, so they need to do asbestos remediation then can start that. Allegany is facing a significant deficit. John is looking at all possibilities including branch closures. MSLA has done everything they can do to help, as has WMRL. There was a safety and security town hall in Hagerstown; there is a crisis with open air drug markets, homelessness, shootings, etc.

### **MSLA:**

Morgan: They have worked on the budget for the state. Morgan is excited about this grant cycle because there are proposals for three new libraries where there have never been libraries before. It will be a challenging year for the state fiscally. They have proposed a bill to fund the DCDL and to increase SLRC funding. Holding two AI

summits. Morgan toured SLRC with Liz. She appreciates the focus on technology and AI with teens at SLRC. Maryland Joins Forces will be at Odenton, AACPL will be about all the ways that libraries support military families. We have also been doing work to bring information about Youth Mental Health services in libraries to the forefront. MSLA had their first board meeting of the year. MSLA Board approved the FTR regulation. Hatchlings is a national early literacy program piloted in Cecil and other libraries in MD. It connects parents who are expecting with Judy Centers, then they return with the baby after it is born. CML will be Saturday, November 2.

LBDP: Morgan stated that they were the library of the year. Morgan discussed how extraordinary Maryland's LBDP is compared to those in other states, especially the Maryland Accessible Textbook Network. John Owen talked about how they are making the Black Eyed Susan books accessible. Looking forward to the Spring SLRC Conference which will be about accessibility. Fusion licenses are still available to any library that wants them. There will be an LBDP renovation. Public and Tech Services areas will be updated. Not everything has been planned yet. As of October 21<sup>st</sup> all LBDP accounts need parental permission for all customers under 18. This was mandated by LOC, Dr. Hayden stated that we need to be in alignment with what Congress wants. No one is happy about this. There is national dissent. NLS Conference was the first one held in six years, so that was great to attend.

**New Business:**

No new business was reported

**Adjourn,** Tonya Aikens

*Minutes compiled from recording by Liz Sundermann-Zinger*

