

Mid-Michigan Library League
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2023
Cadillac Wexford Public Library
10:00 a.m.

Call to Order: Diane Eisenga, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Call to Order: Cindi Place (Group 1); Tracy Logan-Walker (Group 3); Diane Eisenga (Group 4); Eric Smith (Group 5); Lois Langenburg (Group 6); Valerie Church-McHugh (Group 7); Sarah Welch (Group 8); Justine Peterson (Group 9)

Members Absent: Debra Greenacre (Group 2)

Also Present: Jennifer Balcom, Director, MMLL

Approval of Agenda: M/S Church-McHugh /Place to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: M/S Church-McHugh/Langenburg to approve the minutes from April 20, 2023 Board Meeting as amended. Motion passed.

Public Participation and Communications: Members Place and Logan spoke for the Advisory Council. Twelve members attended the May 11 meeting. David Diller reported for the E-Resources committee on Kanopy, a streaming movie service. He encouraged interested members to try a demo. The committee has contact info for the Kanopy rep. Paula Roman. The Maker Team is working on possible items for purchase and are discussing the possibility of making items loanable directly to patrons. The Council discussed the importance of advocacy. More information on best practices in advocacy is available on the MLA website. There was time for libraries to share current happenings.

Financial Report: M/S Place/Church-McHugh to approve the purchase journals from 4/23. Roll Call: Place- Aye; Logan-Walker- Aye; Eisenga- Aye; Smith- Aye; Langenburg-Aye, Church-McHugh- Aye, Welch- Aye, Peterson- Aye

M/S Place/ Church-McHugh to accept the Financial Reports for 4/23. The motion passed.

Director's Report: Director Balcom informed the board that state aid payments are being disbursed and the league is issuing bills and receiving payments.

The Library of Michigan continues to offer a stipend for continuing education.

The Library of Michigan grant program is offering a medium sized grant this year. The deadline for applications is May 31.

The Michigan Activities Pass has new branding. New promo materials are being distributed through the co-ops. Talk to the Director if you haven't received yours yet.

Jessica Hanson has been named the new director of the White Pine District Library. Debra Greenacre has accepted a position at the Alpena Library. Manistee County Library is expected to announce their director search soon.

Committee Reports:

Finance: No meeting/report

Personnel: No meeting/report

Old Business:

The board discussed changes to the plan of service that included revisions to sections on Continuing Education, board eligibility, and the number of meetings required per year.

M/S Smith/Place moved to accept the changes to the plan of service as amended. The motion passed.

New Business:

The MLA paid for a survey of Michigan residents to learn their views on censorship and book challenges. The results are available online for the entire state and specifically by co-ops. While the area of our co-op is more conservative leaning than the state as a whole the results are heartening. The Director encouraged library staff to look at the results.

The Annual Meeting date is 9/21/23. The Director inquired as to the usual process for planning the meeting. The board discussed possible changes to make the day more valuable including two 45 minutes break out sessions on leadership, advocacy, and youth services. The Director agreed to call for volunteers to serve on the committee via the listserv. The issue will also be added to the next Advisory Council meeting agenda. Cindi Place and Sarah Welch both agreed to assist with the meeting planning.

Director Balcom also shared her annual timeline of goals for 2023 and sought feedback from the board.

Public Comment: None

Advisory Council Comments: The Youth Services Committee held an in person meeting on May 17 at the Cadillac Wexford Public Library. Seventeen library staff people attended. They enjoyed training on STEM education and bridging the gap between STEM and literacy. The hands on activities and conversations between attendees was the highlight of the day. Sarah Welch, committee head, went on to say that the committee would be suspending meetings during June and July because of summer reading but would resume zoom meetings in August. The Committee has applied for a mini-grant through the league to assist with the costs of a league-wide Battle of the Books. In November, the committee intends to discuss summer reading planning for 2024.

Board Member Comments: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:20 a.m.