

Mid-Michigan Library League
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2024
Cadillac Wexford Public Library
10:00 a.m.

Call to Order: Lois Langenburg, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order: Mary Peterson (Group 1), Amanda McLaren (Group 2); Tracy Logan-Walker (Group 3); Diane Eisenga (Group 4); Eric Smith (Group 5); Lois Langenburg (Group 6)

Members Absent: Justine Peterson (Group 9), Group 8 Vacant

Also Present: Jennifer Balcom, Director- MMLL, Zach Frederickson- UHY

Approval of Agenda: M/S Logan-Walker/McLaren to approve the agenda as amended. Amendments were moving Audit Presentation by Zach Frederickson of UHY up in the agenda and added 'Group 8 Appointment' to 9. New Business.

Approval of Minutes: M/S Eisenga/McLaren to approve the minutes from Nov. 11, 2023 Board Meeting. Motion passed.

Public Participation and Communications: None.

Financial Report: M/S M. Peterson/McLaren to approve the purchase journals from 11/23, 12/23, 1/24, and 2/24. Roll Call: M. Peterson-Aye, McLaren-Aye, Logan-Walker-Aye, Eisenga-Aye, Smith-Aye, Langenburg-Aye

M/S Eisenga/Langenburg to accept the Financial Reports for 11/23, 12/23, 1/24, and 2/24. The motion passed.

Director's Report: Director Balcom noted that the annual state aid reports had been submitted by all members of the co-op but one, an affiliate member.

The MLA is cooperating with legislators on a proposed bill about the freedom to read. The bill includes language that would prevent out of area citizens from submitting material challenges to public libraries. It would also prevent patrons from objecting materials because they feature members of constitutionally protected classes. The bill will be introduced sometime after April.

The Library of Michigan has added new staff members. Michelle Bradley is the new Library Development Manager and David Votta is now the Head of Special Collections. The Library of Michigan has provided a link on who to contact for what issues, to help library staff deal with these changes. Clair Membiela, Library Law Specialist will be off work for eight weeks beginning April 18. Please, direct library law issues to Jennifer Balcom or your library lawyer. No large legal changes pertaining to libraries are expected during this time but it is possible the Supreme Court will rule on government agencies and their right to delete Facebook comments.

The Michigan Library Co-operatives Association has rebranded. Their new name is 'The Library Cooperatives of Michigan'. They have been working on strategic planning and hope to unveil the results at the MLA conference in the fall.

Mini-Grants for round 2 have opened. There were fewer applications in the first round than anticipated. Because of this, the requestable amount for Round 2 has been increased to \$ 1,000.

Manistee County Library has hired Julie Cirrone as their new director. Reed City District Library has hired Christy Fugere as their new Director.

Three MMLL libraries received grants from the ALA to improve library access for people with disabilities. Central Lake, Bellaire, and Big Rapids have all received \$10,000 each. Well done!

Committee Reports:

Finance: No meeting/report

Personnel: No meeting/report

Old Business:

The board is pursuing taking the oath of office. The Director is looking for a notary who could witness the oath.

The MMLL office lease is up in May. M/S Logan-Walker/McLaren moved to renew the lease for one more year, from May 2024 to May 2025. The motion passed.

New Business:

Zach Frederickson of UHY presented the board with the 2023 audit. The board discussed the fund balance amount. Mr. Frederickson affirmed that the amount was well within recommended amounts. The board also discussed changes to the defined benefit liability. The consensus of the board was to watch the number and consider if changes need to be made to contributions in 2025.

Director Balcom discussed the difficulties she has had accessing MMLL funds through 5/3 Bank. M. Peterson also noted that a second authorized user was a recommended security practice.

M/S M. Peterson/McLaren made a motion to reaffirm Jennifer Balcom as the Mid-Michigan Library League Director and authorize her to place her name and the name of Lois Langenburg, MMLL Board Chairperson on the MMLL 5/3 Bank checking and savings accounts. The motion passed.

Due to some issues navigating 5/3 Bank's staff shortages and difficult policies, Director Balcom suggested the possibility of moving MMLL funds to a different bank. More than one local bank offers a municipal money market account which would allow the League to make interest on current funds. Municipal money markets are not available through 5/3 Bank. Director Balcom will gather more information about this potential move.

Director Balcom has been considering greater changes to the MMLL website, including moving away from PLOUD as the website design software. She will gather information and quotes from other services and businesses for a new website framework and design software.

Group 8 has proposed Jean Gaskill to fill their board seat. M/S M. Peterson/Langenburg motioned to accept Jean Gaskill as the Group 8 board representative.

To make up for the cancelled meeting in January, the board must amend the board meeting schedule to include a new meeting. M/S Logan-Walker/Eisenga moved to amend the MMLL board schedule to include a meeting on August 15, 10 am to be held at the Cadillac Wexford Public Library. The motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Advisory Council Comments: Advisory Council Co-Chair Tracy Logan-Walker gave an update. With the retirement of Cindi Place, a new co-chair is needed. Amanda McLaren of the Benzonia Public Library graciously offered to take over for Cindi. Director Balcom has suggested two improvements to Advisory Council procedures that have been implemented. These improvements include sharing information via google drive and adding short training sessions to the monthly meeting to increase their value. The April 11 meeting will include training on Artificial Intelligence.

Board Member Comments: Lois Langenburg informed that board that she has resigned from the Luther Library Board of Trustees.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:22 am.