CRPLSA
Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators

Minutes: May 28, 2020

Online (via Zoom Meetings)

Approved

Attendees: Ann Hokanson, Stephanie Johnson, Michele Leininger (left meeting at 10:33 a.m.), Carla Lydon, Liz Lynch, Laurie Ortega, Karen Pundsack,   Krista Ross, Erin Smith (left meeting at 11:00 a.m.), Jim Trojanowski, Scott Vrieze, Jim Weikum

Guests: Jen Nelson, State Library Services (joined the meeting at approximately 10:08 a.m.); Sam Walseth, Capitol Hill Associates (joined the meeting at approximately 10:08 a.m.); Maggie Snow, Minitex (joined the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Liz Lynch.

ACTION	MOVED BY	RESULT
Motion to approve draft Agenda	**Trojanowski/Ortega**	**Approved**
Motion to approve March 26, 2020 meeting minutes	**Trojanowski/Smith**	**Approved**
Motion to approve April 9, 2020 meeting minutes	**Hokanson/Lydon**	**Approved**
Motion to approve April 29, 2020 meeting minutes	**Vrieze/Lydon**	**Approved**
Motion to approve May 8, 2020 meeting minutes	**Trojanowski/Vrieze**	**Approved**

Motions to accept Financial Reports

● CRPLSA Fund	**Ortega/Vrieze**	**Approved**

Under budget, MLA lobbyist (2nd Q, 3rd Q,4th Q).

● CRPLSA Library Legacy Fund	**Ross/Vrieze**	**Approved**

Previously approved 4 author programs via e-mail (May 14?) @ VLS, GRRL, MELSA, Plum Creek; remove this item from future agendas.

● CRPLSA –sponsored program for MLA Conf.	**Hokanson/Ross**	**Approved**

Program on regional systems to be re-submitted for online conference (Carla Lydon will represent consolidated systems and Ann Hokanson will represent federated systems + multitypes.

COVID-19 discussion topics included: strategies for re-opening libraries, libraries that remained open or have since re-opened, book drops, curbside services, the Amelia platform for scheduling, time limits for patrons, mask requirements, appointments for computer access, hot spot devices, and Chromebooks.

Lynch recessed the meeting at 10:02 a.m. and resumed meting at 10:15 a.m.

Legislative Report

Sam noted that Governor Walz has signed all of the bills presented to him by the Legislature at the conclusion of the 2020 [Regular] Session, including the Education Finance bill that includes expansion of allowable uses for RLTA (a permanent, not a one-time, change). The bonding bill was not passed which would have included $3,016,000 for Public Library Construction grants. There might be a special session called for June 12. Also passed was a Legacy bill that includes new language about 'financial stability' during a peace-time emergency. Jen Nelson indicated that she would need to consult staff within MDE staff about the impact of such language. With revenues down, Library Legacy allocations likely to be reduced (possibly 14% ?), and payment could possibly be delayed. Sam also discussed the Governor's authority pertaining to unallotment and advised that an eye should be kept on the State Budget and likely deficit amounts.

Sam reported that language passed permitting the cessation of distributing the State Register to public libraries. Reference was also made to legislative language specific to the Polk County Law Library. Sam plans to follow-up on the RLTA language change with the Education committees and the MDE Commissioner. There was conversation about potential cuts to Local Government Aid (LGA) and County Program Aid (CPA) as possible tools to attack a deficit. Another tool used in past years was altering the distribution schedule for state payments to K-12 schools and public library systems.

Minitex Report

Maggie reported that the week of June 8 is the tentative target for (some) Minitex staff to return to the University campus, possibly Delivery staff. The new selection of statewide databases (eLibrary MN) to be announced yet this week. A new Minitex website will be unveiled in the near future.

State Library Services

Jen reported that Hannah Buckland will together a group to talk about RLTA, with topics including the possibility of an earlier Category Two deadline than presently exists. Concerns about the *20 hours per week* "rule" were mentioned at MDE is likely to take a liberal interpretation relating to emergency closings. It was also noted that regional systems still retaining 'reserve' RLTA funds could use such funds for so-called "Category 3"-eligible expenses. Jen also discussed federal CARES Act funds at MDE. After administrative expenses and expenditures for tribal colleges, an estimated $390,000 will be available for State Library Services. Jen described the possibility of three grants of $130,000 each for qualifying entities with a focus on such issues as unemployment. The grants would be "less about devices and more about people."

Governor's Task Force on Broadband

Jim W. reported on discussions surrounding support for the RLTA program for public libraries and the TEA (Telecommunications/Internet Access Aid) for K-12 schools. Ann noted that some MN schools have asked students and families to return borrowed "hot spot" devices for the summer.

Committee & Liaison Reports

- Continuing Education = no report

- CRPLSA Fund Committee = see above

- Legislative Committee = see Sam's report

- Marketing Committee = no report

- Website Committee = no report

- MN Center for the Book = Erin provided a written report (MN Reads book #2 to be announced)

- LegWork Committee = no recent meetings

- Minitex = Jim T. noted that the Minitex Advisory Committee has a June 12 meeting planned

- MLA Board = no report

- Legislative Steering Committee = no report

- Multitype Directors = online meeting scheduled for this summer

Other/Miscellany

A new grandson in the Vrieze family; Delivery a hot topic at TdS; Liz indicated that the pandemic has created an opportunity to think hard about existing services.

July CRPLSA Meeting?

The group decided that the July meetings will be virtual instead of in-person. There will also be a "COVID check-in" in mid-June.

There being no further business to conduct, Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Jim Weikum, 2020 CRPLSA Secretary