



Minutes: December 7, 2020

Online (via Zoom Meetings)

Approved

Attendees: Stephanie Johnson, Michele Leininger, Liz Lynch, Laurie Ortega, Karen Pundsack, Krista Ross, Erin Smith, Jim Trojanowski, Jim Weikum, Ann Hokanson, Carla Lydon

Guests: Sam Walseth, Capitol Hill Associates; Britta Torkelson, Capitol Hill Associates; Rob Vanasek, Capitol Hill Associates; Jen Nelson, State Library Services (joined meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Liz Lynch.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>MOVED BY</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
Motion to approve draft Agenda	Lydon/Trojanowski	Approved
Motion to approve October 22, 2020 minutes	Trojanowski/Hokanson	Approved

Legislative Issues: Legacy

Discussion resumed from the last meeting concerning ongoing funding for the Minnesota Center for the Book given the expected competition for any “library dollars” in the 2021 Legislative Session. Erin spoke with staff from The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library about possibly using Library ACHF funds for the Center. Staff from the Friends have approached the Governor’s office about possible funding options. Britta noted that her research shows that Minnesota is the only state providing a direct appropriation for its Center for the Book. CHA staff will prepare a “Library legacy” bill similar to the 2019 bill with no funding earmarked for the Center. Ann suggested that CRPLSA consider asking for an increase in ACHF funding which would cover the Center for the Book funding if necessary.

Legislative Issues: Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS)

It was noted that some regional library systems are facing serious financial challenges due to the lack of RLBSS funding increases and corrective action on the RLBSS formula. At the same time, the group is uncomfortable making a plan for the legislative session without a MELSA representative present today. Sam will reach out to staff from the Governor’s office to try and arrange a meeting including some CRPLSA members to discuss the impact of (too) many years without increased funding.

Legislative Issues: Maintenance of Effort (MOE)/Minimum Level of Local Support

It was noted that any effort to modify the existing statutory language will likely be a complicated process. There could be a number of Minnesota libraries that might not be able to meet MOE requirements for 2020. Sam noted that the operative statutory language for the current MOE 'freeze' can be found in Minnesota Statutes §275.761

Regional Library Telecommunications Aid (RLTA)

Discussion resumed from the November 30 online meeting concerning possible distribution formulas for RLTA "Category 3" funds. The group reviewed the possible formula models distributed by Hannah Buckland (State Library Services) in an e-mail dated December 3. The consensus of CRPLSA members present was that the so-called "Equitable" model is preferred. There will be another online meeting devoted to this topic on December 14.

OverDrive and RBDigital (eMagazines)

Jim W. reported on a conversation with an OverDrive representative about ALS's subscription to RBDigital magazines being moved into OverDrive, along with the contents of the entire RBDigital "Unlimited Package" of e-magazines. OverDrive currently plans to offer only the "Unlimited Package" option when libraries reach their renewal dates. Pricing for ALS would be \$40,000. Laurie reported that Pioneerland was quoted a price of \$70,000. It was suggested that Minitex be contacted to see if their Cooperative Purchasing program might be able to negotiate better pricing.

Roundtable Sharing/Other Topics

Ann mentioned subscriptions to the Creativebug online service <https://www.creativebug.com/> offered by the JOANN Fabrics & Crafts chain of stores. She will look into possible group pricing. Carla noted that the ECRL Board is considering extending employee leave options for an additional 90 days (through March 31, 2021). A question was asked about the possibility of libraries or systems requiring employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Liz asked about internal process for spending from reserve funds.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., most likely via Zoom.

There being no further business to conduct, Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Jim Weikum, 2020 CRPLSA Secretary