

MINUTES
Mississippi Library Commission
Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

January 22, 2019

Mississippi Library Commission
3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, Mississippi

Board of Commissioners (BOC) Present: Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh, and Suzanne Poynor.

Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) Staff Present: Hulen Bivins, Lynn Burris, Tracy Carr, Ethel Dunn, Susan Liles and Jennifer Peacock.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hussey called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and recognized that no guests were present.

AGENDA

Recommendation: *Adopt agenda as presented.*

Motion: Ann Marsh; Second: Suzanne Poynor

Action: Approved

MINUTES

Recommendation: *Approve minutes of the regular meeting on November 13, 2018.*

Motion: Suzanne Poynor; Second: Stephen Cunetto

Action: Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS

IMLS Waiver Update – Executive Director Hulen Bivins presented an update on the IMLS waiver/Appearl. After going through the process, IMLS rejected MLC’s appeal of the waiver request. This means a reduction of \$355,000 in MLC’s amount of federal dollars under the “Grants to States Program” of IMLS.

Mississippi Senate Appropriations Education Subcommittee Hearing – Hulen Bivins provided an update on the hearing. There were three legislators present, including Senator Gray Tollison, Senator Philip Moran, and Senator Angela Turner-Ford. Hulen gave a summary of the agency’s budget needs. Those in attendance were very receptive to the requests. The MLA legislative day at the Capitol is set for January 31, 2019, and MLC’s Advocacy Day is March 12. We are expecting a large showing of librarians and library supporters from across the state.

Mississippi public and university librarians will continue to visit the state capitol each Wednesday to talk with legislators and get out the message of MLC's requests.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Jolee Hussey stated how she appreciates the hard work of the MLC staff and she also shared a card that was sent to the BOC from MLC staff.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

House Budget Hearing - MLC presented its budget request for FY20 before the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee on January 16. MLC ask contains a request to increase PIGP funding by 10%, provide for a 3% pay increase for MLC employees, an increase of funding for MAGNOLIA to the level of 1.3 million dollars and funding of a building/facility renovation/repair fund whereby said funds could be used in a match grant program to correct the deterioration of public library buildings in the state.

Employee Update – New hires include Scott Higdon, IT Director; and Louisa Whitfield-Smith, Library Consultant. Resignations include Ally Mellon, Information Services Director and Amanda Redmond, Reference Librarian.

Talking Books Service – National Library Service consultant Mary Beth Wise will be visiting MLC on Feb. 4-5, 2019, to assess agency compliance, create a report, and offer suggestions on areas of change or improvement.

Webinar Availability – The CE webinars have been moved to the agency's YouTube channel from the website. This way anyone can view at any time.

Staff Engagement – Tracy Carr is working to create a finding aid for 100+ boxes of historical library materials. Ethel Dunn in the process of digitizing all Board of Commissioners meeting minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jennifer Peacock gave update on agency's finances. We are currently on target with about half way through the fiscal year. Select MLC staff have met with the House Appropriation Education Subcommittee to discuss the FY21 budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU REPORT

It was noted that 2 new hires and 2 employee separations have occurred since the last BOC meeting. One of the separations was Chris Bratcher who, as the new E-rate Coordinator had shown great promise during his approximately two-month tenure. He left for a higher paying position. Scott Higdon has been employed as a full-time coordinator of IT services at MLC.

LIBRARY SERVICES BUREAU REPORT

Currently all consultant positions are filled, with latest hire Louisa Whitfield-Smith joining the Commission as a consultant.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Susan Liles shared list of publications she has been working on lately. Additionally, she has been traveling with consultants to give PR advise to public librarians.

UPDATES

Board of Commissioners Vacancy – An email has been submitted to the Governor’s appointment director notifying her of the vacancy and need for appointment. This appointment will complete the remainder of Janet Armour’s term which ends on June 30, 2021.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Personal Incentive Grant Program Formula – Three options shall be presented to the public library directors at the meeting scheduled for Feb. 21, for discussion:

Option 1

- Personnel Incentive Grant program as present.

Option 2

- Personnel Incentive Grant program as present, with:
 - Use the population numbers for the county. Do not use service area population.
 - Have a minimum of \$20,000 per system.
 - If major budget cut of 5% or more, minimum is cut same amount.

Option 3

- Personnel Incentive Grant program with data elements already available on statistical reports.

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation: *Approve a provisional director waiver for Copiah-Jefferson Regional Library (CJRL) and Roxanne Mack under the following terms and conditions:*

Local Board must:

- *Sign and return agreement to agency showing intent to comply*
- *Comply with reporting requirements for duration of waiver as detailed in the agreement*

Provisional Director must:

- *Sign and return agreement to agency showing intent to comply*
- *Immediately pursue master’s degree in library science from school accredited by American Library Association*
- *Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA (or equivalent)*
- *Obtain said degree within three years from beginning date of waiver*
- *Comply with all reporting requirements for duration of waiver period as detailed in the agreement.*

Motion: Ann Marsh; Second: Stephen Cunetto

Action: Approved

Recommendation: *Approve a Resolution calling for increased financial support of public libraries via a one dollar (\$1) per capita funding of the Grants to States program as administered by the Federal Government through the Library Services and Technology Act.*

Motion: Ann Marsh; Second: Suzanne Poynor

Action: Approved

CALENDAR

Updated Agency calendar was provided.

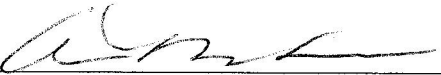
ADJOURN

Recommendation: *Adjourn meeting*

Motion: Ann Marsh; Second: Stephen Cunetto

Action: Approved

Next regular meeting of Mississippi Library Commission Board of Commissioners is scheduled for March 26, 2019, 11:00 a.m. in the main meeting room.



Ann Marsh, Board Secretary



Date