

**MINUTES**  
**Mississippi Library Commission**  
**Virtual Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting**

**January 26, 2021**

**Board of Commissioners (BOC) Present via Zoom:** Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh (*at MLC*) and Becky Wright **Absent:** Lori Barnes

**Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) Staff Present via Zoom:** Hulen Bivins, Lynn Burris, Tracy Carr, Ethel Dunn, Kristina Kelly, and Jennifer Peacock

**Guests via Zoom:** Jay Woods, Special Assistant Attorney General

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cunetto called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

**AGENDA**

**Recommendation:** *Adopt agenda as presented.*  
**Motion:** Ann Marsh; *Second:* Jolee Hussey  
**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh and Becky Wright*)

**MINUTES**

**Recommendation:** *Approve minutes of the regular meeting on November 17, 2020.*  
**Motion:** Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Becky Wright  
**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh and Becky Wright*)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

Becky Wright stated that she has enjoyed keeping up with happenings at MLC through social media. Jolee Hussey announced that she is chairing the search committee for a new director at the First Regional Library. Stephen Cunetto recently submitted a letter of support on behalf of the Starkville Public Library in their efforts to get funding for a new library building.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Budget** – On Jan. 12, MLC presented the FY22 budget before the Senate Education Subcommittee and will provide this information to the House Education Subcommittee on Feb. 1. The Governor's FY22 proposed budget includes level funding; however, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee recommendation is a 2.5% general fund reduction. MLC priorities include: 1) restoring \$227,731 in general funds; 2) recover loss of \$165,000 in federal funds; 3) cover \$105,336 in cost of health insurance premiums increase; and 4) additional PIN.

**MLC Financials/Reporting** – All grants program payments were made on time. LSTA quarterly reports were submitted and payments processed as needed.

**Employee Compensation** – Recently some MLC staff have received pay raises. This was necessary to stop the outflow of valuable employees leaving MLC for higher pay.

**IMLS** – To date federal legislation has not been approved where additional dollars are provided to IMLS to share with states.

**Employee Update:**

**New Hires** – Jessica Parson (*Library Services*) and Russell Hawkins (*Administrative Services*)

**Separations/Retirements** – Kristen Buie and Scott Higdon (*Administrative Services*)

**Newsletter/Annual Report** – The Winter issue of the Library Commission's newsletter *On the Same Page* was distributed during this reporting period. The Annual Report was also completed and distributed according to the *Mississippi Code 1972, Annotated*, Section 27-101-3 and Section 39-3-107, which consist of a summary of the agency's activities from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

**Center for the Book** – Staff members Mac Buntin and Demetra Hayes recently read holiday picture books at the Welty House that were recorded and posted to social media platforms.

**Podcasts** – MLC continues to produce and release new episodes of podcasts. A total of 268 listening sessions were reported recently.

**Talking Book** – This service continues to be very popular and usage increases monthly. Stats: 44 new users registered for the service, 17,051 items circulated with 7,031 BARD downloads. 662 requests were handled through Large Print Direct.

**MLC Library Use Statistics** – A total of 576 consulting hours were provided by the Library Development consultants, three site visits, 683 Beehive Resource Sharing requests were filled out of 1,329 requests, and 14,957 titles were cataloged. 130 training sessions provided to patent customers. 43 Tech Services Helpdesk tickets for staff and 47 Helpdesk tickets for public libraries were handled. Use of MAGNOLIA databases was 5,541,648.

**Other News –**

Both the MLA Day at the Capitol and the MLC Day at the Capitol are cancelled due to the pandemic.

The Carnegie Library of Clarksdale & Coahoma County has appointed a new director.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial report was provided by Jennifer Peacock, Administrative Services Bureau Director. Currently all expenditures are on target.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU REPORT**

Jennifer Peacock, Administrative Services Bureau Director, reported that bureau staff have completed several reports due by year end and continue to maintain COVID-19 cleaning in the building. Technology staff have been busy visiting libraries to get accurate square footage measurements for E-Rate requirements. Continue to attend weekly meetings with CSpire for updates.

**LIBRARY SERVICES BUREAU REPORT**

Tracy Carr, Library Services Bureau Director, provided this report. She discussed the partnership with the Department of Education, virtual meeting with public library directors on Feb. 4 and MLC book club. Other projects include website with programming ideas, digitalization of old state documents and time

capsule event on Jan. 28 at MLC with items related to events in year 2020. The time capsule will be placed on the grounds of the Library Commission and opened in 20 years.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Recommendation:** *Approve a waiver for Monique Joseph for a period of one year from this date for the Wilkinson County Library System to conduct an active search for a qualified director.*

Motion: Ann Marsh; *Second:* Becky Wright

Action: Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh and Becky Wright*)

**Recommendation:** *Approve a maintenance of effort waiver for the Hancock County Library System.*

Motion: Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Ann Marsh

Action: Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh and Becky Wright*)

#### **ADJOURN**

**Recommendation:** *Adjourn meeting at 12:07 p.m.*

Motion: Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Becky Wright

Action: Approved

The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Commission Board of Commissioners is scheduled for March 23, 2021, 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

*Becky Wright*

Becky Wright (Mar 24, 2021 19:19 CDT)

Becky Wright, Board Secretary

Mar 24, 2021

Date