

MINUTES
Mississippi Library Commission
Virtual Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

March 23, 2021

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

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

Guests via Zoom: Jay Woods, Special Assistant Attorney General

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cunetto called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Recommendation: *Approve minutes of the regular meeting on January 26, 2021.*
Motion: Ann Marsh; *Second:* Jolee Hussey
Action: Approved by unanimous roll call (*Lori Barnes, Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh and Becky Wright*)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Becky Wright thanked Tracy Carr for providing information to the Mississippi Federation of Women Clubs on ways to assist libraries. Lori Barnes stated that all libraries in the Jackson-George Library System are back open and adjusting to the new normal operations. Stephen Cunetto thanked MLC for help in assisting public libraries. He also reported that during the month of April several MAGNOLIA training sessions will be held and open to all librarians in the state. So far, registration is going very well and he will be working with Mississippi Public Broadcasting to broadcast the trainings on TV and radio.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – On March 10, Congress passed legislation including \$200 million in support to the national LSTA program. This increased funding will provide each state with an additional \$2 million. We are waiting to hear from IMLS with instructions on spending guidelines.

Building America's Library Act – This legislation gives funding to public libraries for construction projects. Funding includes \$5 billion nationally and distribution depends on a state's population numbers figured into a formula. Each state is promised a minimum of \$10 million to fund projects in their state. Under the current guidelines, libraries awarded funding will have up to 3 years to complete a project.

Budget – MLC legislative priorities are: 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. Conference weekend begins on March 27-28, 2021, where conferees will discuss the FY22 budget.

MLC Financials/Reporting – All grants program payments were made on time. Remaining balances for the year in state general funds, federal funds, and special federal COVID relief funds.

Reporting/Audit – Reports submitted for the reporting period include – LSTA quarterly report, state's MAGIC Security Report, the semi-annual state report on performance measures, and the FY20 IMLS State Library Survey report. All payments processed as needed.

REALM Project – Guidelines for the REALM (Reopening Archives, Libraries and Museums) project has been distributed. This information has been formatted to create and distribute science-based information designed to help reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 among the staffs and visitors of libraries and museums.

Employee Update:

New Hires – Jason Walker (*Administrative Services*)

Separations/Retirements – None

ALA Diversity – ALA has discussed the issue of diversity in employment at libraries to better enhance the ability of libraries to service a diverse citizenry. The Humanities Council has addressed this issue as well in recent topics.

Newsletter/Annual Report – The development of the Spring issue of the Library Commission's newsletter *On the Same Page* has begun. Also, the planning stage of the Summer Reading Program kickoff campaign is underway.

Time Capsule – MLC held an event to bury a time capsule containing elements to remind others 20 years from now of the difficulties faced in year 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and how the public libraries adjusted to provide quality services to library users statewide.

Podcasts – During this reporting period 5 new podcasts were released with 330 listening session downloads.

Public Library Director's Meeting – On Feb. 4, a meeting with public library directors was held via Zoom with 41 directors participating.

Talking Book – This service continues to be very popular and usage increases monthly. Stats: 51 new users registered for the service, 19,893 items circulated with 4,957 BARD downloads, and 770 requests were handled through Large Print Direct.

MLC Library Use Statistics – A total of 543 consulting hours were provided by the Library Development consultants, 58 libraries received direct contact in some way, 1,149 Beehive Resource Sharing requests were filled and 14,301 titles were cataloged. 112 training sessions provided to patent customers, 75 Technology Services Helpdesk tickets for staff and 37 Helpdesk tickets for public libraries were handled. Use of MAGNOLIA databases was 7,028,844.

Technology – MLC continued to assist libraries with the E-Rate program by providing workshops/trainings and assistance with completing forms as well as working to correct AT&T building issues.

IMLS Grant – MLC partnered with NSPARC at Mississippi State University to achieve stage one of the National Leadership Grants for Libraries program; however, the grant was withdrawn after MSU could no longer fulfill the level of matching dollars they had previously pledged.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was provided by Jennifer Peacock, Administrative Services Bureau Director. Currently all expenditures are on target as we are more than half way through the year.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU REPORT

Jennifer Peacock, Administrative Services Bureau Director, reported that all grants payments dispensed on time, one new hire (Jason Walker) during the reporting period, reports submitted and all payments made on time through Business Services. Technology Services provided 18 in-person site visits to collect square footage measurements for E-Rate requirements. Monitoring roof for leaks following recent ice storm.

LIBRARY SERVICES BUREAU REPORT

Tracy Carr, Library Services Bureau Director, provided this report. She explained a new project called StoryWalk which is a way for patrons to enjoy walking outside and reading at the same time. Dixie Regional Library will be receiving the first kit. Also, effective March 1, Kristen Hillman of Talking Book Services relocated to Library Development in the Consultant position. The National Library Services has changed their certification process and will now allow educators to certify patron applications.

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation: *Approve a provisional director waiver for Naomi Jones of Greenwood-Leflore Public Library System.*

Motion: Becky Wright; *Second:* Jolee Hussey

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Cunetto called for a motion for the Board to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7(k).

Motion: Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Ann Marsh

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

Board Goes into Executive Session

Board Returns to Open Meeting

Chair Cunetto announced that the Board considered awarding a salary increase of 5% for the Executive Director. Chair Cunetto reported that Commissioner Hussey made a motion that the Board approved said increase. Lori Barnes seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

ADJOURN

Recommendation: *Adjourn meeting at 12:40 p.m.*
Motion: Lori Barnes; *Second:* Jolee Hussey
Action: Approved

The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Commission Board of Commissioners is scheduled for May 25, 2021, 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Becky Wright

Becky Wright (May 25, 2021 11:05 CDT)

Becky Wright, Board Secretary

May 25, 2021

Date