



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16, 2021

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Conducted Via Zoom

NYLA President, Beth Merkle, Presiding

In Attendance: Arlene Laverde, President-Elect; Barbara Stripling, Immediate Past President; Kelly Harris, Treasurer; Cassie Guthrie, ALA Chapter Councilor; Karen Sperrazza, FLS President; Jean Currie, LTAS President; Meg VanPatten, PLS President; Annalee Dragon, LAMS Representative; Dawn Pressimone, SSL President; Amanda Schiavulli, YSS President; Alana Mutum, RASS Representative; Simone Yearwood, Councilor-at-Large; Lisa Kropp, Councilor-at-Large; Tom Vitale, Councilor-at-Large; Kristina Graves, Councilor-at-Large; Ginger Tebo, Councilor-at-Large; Steve Bachman, SMART President.

Absent: Beth Merkle, President; James Teliha, ASLS President; Todd Schlitt, SCLA Representative; Jane Verostek, Councilor-at-Large; Treasurer-Elect [VACANT].

Guests: Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Amanda Travis, Kevin Verbese, Frank McKenna, Courtney Tsahalís, Lauren Strong, Lisa Richland, Maura Albertson, Terry Lucas, Amanda Perrine, Laura Osterhout, Rebecca Fuss, Anne de la Chapelle.

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
 - a. President Beth Merkle called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.
 - b. Lisa Kropp asked the chair for a motion to accept the agenda. Immediate Past President Barbara Stripling asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the Special Meeting of NYLA Council of September 9, 2021. Meg Van Patten made the motion and Karen Sperrazza seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
2. Update on Alternative Pathways to Librarianship Task Force
 - a. Tim Furgal provided an update on the task force's work and the application for an IMLS applied research grant. Written report attached.
3. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2021, Special Meeting
 - a. Steve Bachman made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021, with the correction of Arlene Laverde's name. Karen Sperezza seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
4. Finance Report
 - a. None.

5. Executive Session

- a. AnnaLee Dragon made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Jim Teliha seconded, and Council entered Executive Session at 3:12 pm. Council left Executive Session at 3:45 pm.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Presentation of Candidates for Treasurer-Elect
 - i. Past President Barbara Stripling presented Frank McKenna, Director of the Seaford Public Library, and Jessica Pacciotti, Director of the Warner Public Library, as the candidates selected by the Nominating Committee. AnnaLee Dragon made the motion to approve the candidates selected by the Nominating Committee. Jim Teliha seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

- i. None.

8. Updates

- a. Interim Executive Director Search
 - i. Executive Committee created job description which resulted in several interviews – none of which were successful in finding a candidate.

MOTION I: Motion to task the Executive Committee with developing a proposal no later than the October 7th, 2021, meeting for:

- Executive Director job description
- Compensation package
- Search plan and timeline for ED
- Plan for interim management and staff support

Made by: Arlene Laverde, Seconded by: Jean Currie

Approved unanimously

b. Governance Task Force

Headed up by: Barbara Stripling

- i. Dates to note:
 - 30 Sept. 2021 – Bylaw recommendations sent to council.
 - 7 Oct. 2021 – Special Council Meeting to review/approve.
 - 11-29 Oct. 2021 – Membership review & comment period.
 - 4 Nov. 2021 – Membership Meeting
- ii. Progress has been made by creating subgroups and group to deal with issues, consolidation of recommendations, and clean copy. The group will meet on 17 Sept. 2021 in which time they will finalize items and circulate information to council for review/suggestions. Task Force will then vote on recommended changes during the 7 Oct. 2021 meeting. Information will then be sent for general review/comment.
- iii. Changes will be accessible to everybody in the membership via wide distribution. Task Force is amidst deciding to: have membership vote at conference when there are limited number of members available OR discuss the changes at conference and do an electronic vote, which will be sent out to all NYLA members.
- iv. Task Force primary focus is by-law changes, secondary focus is on policies and job descriptions. Despite the absence of tangible changes, a multitude of

recommendations are being discussed such as: development of strategies for policy reviews.

- c. Balanced Budget Task Force
 - i. Treasurer Kelly Harris provided an update on the Balanced Budget Task Force.
 - d. Urban Libraries Trauma Study
 - i. President Beth Merkle provided an update on the Urban Libraries Trauma Study being conducted by Urban Libraries Unite.
 - e. Legislative Committee
 - i. Director of Government Relations & Advocacy Briana McNamee provided an update on legislative issues.
 - f. Annual Conference
 - i. Professional Development Manager Sarah Sherlock provided an update on the upcoming Annual Conference and Trade Show.
 - g. Communications & Marketing
 - i. Communications and Marketing Manager Christina Romeo provided an update on marketing and communications.
 - h. Finance & Administration
 - i. Finance and Administration Manager Colleen Smith provided an update on financial operations.
9. Review/Adjournment
- a. Jim Teliha made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 PM, and it was seconded by Meg Van Patten. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Merkle, President
December 9, 2021