



NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 5, 2021

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

NYLA Office, Guilderland, NY

NYLA President, Claudia Depkin Presiding

In Attendance: Claudia Depkin, President; Dr. Jen Cannell, Immediate Past President; Beth Merkle President-Elect; Roger Reyes, Treasurer; Grace Riario, Treasurer-Elect; Karen Sperrazza, FLS President; Jean Currie, LTAS President; Meg VanPatten, PLS Vice President; Annalee Dragon, LAMS Representative; Todd Schlitt, SCLA 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; Jim Teliha, ASLS President; Ginger Tebo, Councilor-at-Large; Cassie Guthrie, ALA Chapter Councilor; Jeremy Johannesen, NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)

Absent: Jane Verostek, Councilor-at-Large; Steve Bachman, SMART President; and Jennifer Byrnes, PLS President

Guests: Briana McNamee, NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy; Sarah Sherlock, NYLA Professional Development Manager, Christina Romeo, NYLA Communications & Marketing Manager; Colleen Smith, NYLA Finance & Administration Manager; Tim Furgal; Terry Mulee; Lauren Comito; Jen Park; Tim Burke; Kelly Yim; Christian Zabriskie; and Joanna Goldfarb

NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda

- a. Move the Executive Director Evaluation to the Beginning – Dr. Jennifer Cannell made a motion, Roger Reyes seconds motion – All Approved

2. Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2021 NYLA Council Meeting

- a. Dr. Jennifer Cannell makes motion to approve, Jean Currie seconds motion – All Approved

3. Executive Director Evaluation Discussion (distributed separately)

- a. Jeremy has resigned as Executive Director of the New York Library Association effective yesterday, August 4th. Jeremy was offered a severance package from the Executive Council and accepted it.
- b. Cassie Guthrie made motion for the staff to be able to speak, Thomas Vitale seconds motion - All Approved.
 - i. Briana McNamee asked Claudia Depkin if she should also include her written report since it was not included in the agenda verbally, Claudia

Depkin said it was not necessary and it will be reflected later in the agenda.

- ii. Briana McNamee, Director of Government Relations and Advocacy made her statement, Colleen Smith, Finance and Administration Manager made her statement, Christina Romeo, Communications and Marketing Manager, and Sarah Sherlock, Professional Development Manager
- c. Tom Vitale makes motion to move into Executive Session, Jim Teliha motion – Cassie has asked to amend to an open floor discussion. Claudia Depkin asked to vote on the first motion – Not Approved
 - i. Tom Vitale re-visited his motion to move to an open floor discussion, Jim Teliha seconds motion - All Approved.
- d. Claudia Depkin made motion to approve Jeremy's resignation, Roger Reyes seconds motion – Not Approved.
 - i. Claudia asks if Jeremy would like to come back to the table, Jeremy says he can, but he is not looking to rescind his resignation.
- e. Jim Teliha made a motion to remove Roger Reyes from the Council. Thomas Vitale seconds motion. The Council votes 7 Yes, 7 No, and 4 Abstentions – Motion not made.
- f. Roger Reyes, Claudia Depkin, Dr. Jennifer Cannell, and Grace Riario left the meeting.
- g. Beth Merkle has assumed the ability to continue the meeting but not the NYLA Presidency, until written statements from the Council Members who have resigned are submitted, via NYLA Bylaws ([Article IV. Officers. Section 3 – Vacancies. 3.1](#)) of succession of leadership. At future meeting, Council will discuss Treasurer and Treasurer-Elect. There is a quorum, so Council can continue the meeting and vote on items if need be.

4. Finance Report

a. June Monthly Statement

- i. Cassie Guthrie has a question to Colleen Smith regarding the Deficit and the PPE Loan. Colleen says that we have a \$263K deficit, and then we have ended this quarter with \$43K, but we have received the PPE Loan in April and they will send us the link to confirm forgiveness. This will rollover into the next year and will cover the remaining deficit.
- ii. Jean Currie asked about the mis budgeting of payroll taxes and Colleen Smith and Cassie Guthrie have fixed the budget to reflect this in the following year.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Balanced Budget Task Force Update

- i. The Balanced Budget Task Force has developed a list of documents and job descriptions that have been felt to be looked at to fully understand the budget. July 20th was the last meeting. Membership dues was a question of concern and have received a recommendation of changing

the structure of dues. This has been provided in the minutes and will be approved later in the agenda. The charge of the committee is at the bottom of the report.

- ii. Jean Currie has asked if there are going to be program budgets, but Cassie Guthrie mentioned that this was added that there would be added after the structural assessment in 2022.
- iii. Lisa Kropp makes a motion to reschedule this meeting to ensure we have clear heads at least one week but will vote on the Disaster Relief Fund before adjourning the meeting and AnnaLee Dragon seconds motion - All Approved.

6. Disaster Relief Fund Request – Cuba Circulating Library

- a. This Library was damaged due to flooding in their basement. They are asking for any assistance from the Disaster Relief Fund.
- b. Cassie Guthrie motions that we allocate \$1,000 to the Cuba Circulating Library, Lisa Kropp/AnnaLee Dragon second the motion simultaneously – All approved.

7. Additional Notes

- a. Ginger Tebo mentions the need for a written resignation from Claudia Depkin, Grace Riario, Roger Reyes, and Dr. Jen Cannell, in order for them to be officially resigned according to NYLA Bylaws ([Article V. Board of Directors. Section 2 Membership. 2.4 Resignation](#)).
- b. Thomas Vitale made a motion to have a special meeting on Thursday, August 12th from 11AM-4PM via Zoom. Jim Telhia seconds motion. 1 abstention - All Approved.
- c. Lisa Kropp makes motion to adjourn, AnnaLee Dragon seconds motion at 1:52 PM - All Approved.

8. Unfinished New Business (Moved to Next Meeting on Thursday, August 12th from 11AM-4PM via Zoom)

- a. Recommendations from the NYLA Awards & Recognition Committee for 2021
 - i. Distinguished Achievement Award <action anticipated>
 - ii. Outstanding Advocate for Libraries – update
 - iii. Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director <action anticipated>
 - iv. Intellectual Freedom Award – update
 - v. Academic/Special Librarian of the Year Award - update
 - vi. Public Librarian of the Year Award <action anticipated>
 - vii. School Librarian of the Year Award <action anticipated>
 - viii. Lake Placid First Time Conference Stipends <action anticipated>
- b. Membership Dues Category Revisions (recommendation from Membership Committee)
- c. NYLA Unit Requirements (recommendation from Membership Committee)
- d. President's Report
- e. President-Elect's Report

- f. Past-President's Report
- g. Executive Director's Report
- h. Section / Roundtable / ALA / Committee Reports

Upcoming NYLA Council Meeting Dates

Thursday, August 12, 2021 via Zoom

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 @ NYLA Conference

Thursday, September 16 – Update Meeting – Syracuse *FULL meetings are 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM /*

Update Meetings are 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM