



*The Voice of the Library Community*

**New York Library Association**

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084  
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX  
info@nyla.org  
www.nyla.org

## **NYLA Council Special Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 9, 2021

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Conducted Via Zoom

NYLA Immediate Past President, Barbara Stripling, 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. Immediate Past President Barbara Stripling 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 VanPatten made the motion and Karen Sperrazza seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
2. Approval of Minutes from August 25, 2021, Meeting
  - a. Annalee Dragon made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2021. Lisa Kropp seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
3. Executive Session
  - a. None.
4. Unfinished Business
  - a. Council Statement to Membership

- i. After discussion on the body of the statement, Cassie Guthrie made a motion to adopt the statement and direct President Beth Merkle to have it transmitted to the entire membership via electronic mail.

5. New Business

a. Interim Executive Director Job Description

- i. Immediate Past President Barbara Stripling made a statement on the spirit of the job description, including the value of seeking someone outside of the library community.
- ii. It was decided to seek an individual and not a management company.
- iii. There are three (3) individuals on a short list; one had a phone conversation with members of the executive committee earlier in the day, and the other two were sent messages via LinkedIn, but have yet to respond.
- iv. The executive committee is open to recommendations for leads.
- v. After discussion, Karen Sperrazza made a motion to accept the job description, and it was seconded by Jean Currie. Approved unanimously.

6. Updates

a. Nominating Committee

- i. Committee met to establish a timeline for the Treasurer-Elect special election.
- ii. Recruitment form was sent out to the membership and is due by Tuesday 9/14/21. Recruitment form should include a short bio, and statement.
- iii. On 9/15/21 the committee will meet to select two candidates to bring to full Council on 9/16/21 for approval. If approved, a petition period from 9/16/21-9/30/21 will be allowed for any member in good standing to receive petition signatures (1% of total membership as of December 2020 – roughly 60-80 members).
- iv. The full Council will then approve the full slate of candidates at the 9/16/21 Council meeting and establish the election period to go from 10/4/21 – 10/18/21 via electronic ballot.

b. Governance Task Force

- i. Task force is made up of phenomenal members, they have had two (2) meetings.
- ii. First meeting was to divide into sub-groups to address the Bylaws.
- iii. The 9/8/21 meeting will be to recommend changes.
- iv. There are three issues that have not yet been resolved: qualifications and criteria of membership, duties of the officers, and duties of the executive director.
- v. A subgroup will meet to clean up these issues.
- vi. Another crew will then incorporate all changes to a cleaned-up copy to be distributed to the full Council for review.
- vii. Task force will not make the original 9/16/21 deadline, so the task force will meet again on 9/21/21 and then present all changes to the full Council at a 10/7/21 special meeting for approval to then go to the full membership for ratification at the NYLA Conference in November 2021. The membership will be provided with both a fully cleaned up copy for read through, and a copy tracking all changes.
- viii. Immediate Past President Stripling also thanked Amanda Schiavulli for the recommendation to add a YSS member to this task force, and that the person selected was a great choice.

- c. Lisa Kropp asked about having conference update added to the 9/16/21 meeting agenda, and there were questions about where NYLA was with conference sign-up. Treasurer Kelly Harris explained that at this time in the past we would normally be at 500 signed up members, and we are currently at 150 members signed up.
  - d. There were also some questions about the Balanced Budget Task Force, which Treasurer Kelly Harris is leading, along with Tim Burke, Cassie Guthrie, Arlene Laverde, Beth Merkle, and Roger Reyes. Treasurer Harris answered a few questions about the task force and their direction.
7. Review/Adjournment
- a. Treasurer Kelly Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 PM, and it was seconded by Jean Currie. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas S. Vitale, NYLA Councilor-at-Large  
September 14, 2021