NOBLE

MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION ANNUAL MEETING

AT ABBOT PUBLIC LIBRARY, MARBLEHEAD

JUNE 10, 2010

PRESENT: Nineteen libraries were represented at the meeting, attendance sheet attached.

1. **Call to Order/Welcome – Martha Holden (5 min.)**
   Martha acknowledged and thanked Patti Rogers of Marblehead Public Library for organizing the luncheon to follow the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes (5 min.)**
   Minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report –Douglas Rendell (5 min.)**
   Spreadsheet of NOBLE, INC. FY2010 Budget Expenditures as of 5.31.10 distributed to members.
   Doug summarized that we are on track.
   Doug reported that Bob Guimond would be NOBLE's accountant for FY2010-2011.
   Treasurer's Report unanimously approved.

4. **Managers' Report (30 min.)**

Executive Director's Report – Ron Gagnon

As anyone who's been to the "going away" parties over the past couple of weeks knows, it's been a tough year for library funding, both this year and next. NOBLE is moving on some very important initiatives that will require work from us and your staff, but will put us in a better place in terms of cost and service.

Most obviously and importantly, is the MassLNC Evergreen project, which changes the model in many ways, particularly the use of open source and coordinating with other networks, and involves a great deal of Federal grant money.

Also important is the telecomm project, with a grant about to be approved by the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners.

There are many smaller projects that have the same do more with less spirit, making technology more accessible for our libraries, including our revamp of the NOBLE Digital Library, which is a core service moving to a new, easier to use, open source platform.

These and many more initiatives were demonstrated at our Tech Expo on Tuesday.

Tech Expo – Had a very successful Tech Expo on Tuesday, good attendance and we had a lot to show, including Evergreen, our upcoming telecomm changes and our new digital library site, plus demonstrations and discussions of mobile devices, social networking sites for libraries and graphical ways of looking at data.

Telecomm Grant Report Favorable – SACL, the Statewide Advisory Council on Libraries, has favorably recommended our $41,000 grant application to the Board of Library Commissioners for action at their July meeting. The money would become available this fall.

With this grant, matched with $22,000 from NOBLE capital plus staff support, we will switch over exclusively to cable connections for our public libraries and rely on institutional networks at our academic libraries. The conversion would take place next spring and save about $33,000 per year. The grant will provide new equipment at the public libraries and provide client software at the academic libraries to preserve the security of data over the Internet, plus a new central site firewall.

Server Grant Extended – Our current year's $56,000 grant to replace our Innovative server hardware has been extended for another Federal fiscal year. We will have until September, 2011, to acquire the central site hardware.

The grant was originally conceived as a replacement for our Innovative system, before we investigated and decided to go with the MassLNC open source project. After further consultation and paperwork, the grant could be used to subsidize the hardware needed for our new Evergreen system.

State Budget – The FY2011 state budget continues to be an uncertain mess. Most of the dollar amounts line up among all the budgets, including level funding for the networks and public libraries, which is about as good as you can hope for.

The Boston branch-closing amendments, which have been extended to Springfield and Worcester, continue to be a problem. In Boston's case, they would essentially become uncertified and not required to participate in resource sharing, access to their collections in the way we've become accustomed would not be guaranteed. Both houses passed some differing language, both problematic.

Now we hear of further cuts if promised Federal funds don't come through, we'll see.

Website for MLS – We've agreed to be the contractor to host the website for the new Mass. Library System for their first year. We've hosted the NMRLS website for a few years, and that website will continue through most of next fiscal year.

New Release – NOBLE will be loading the next Millennium Release after libraries close on Tuesday, June 22nd to be ready for going live on Wednesday morning. Getting on a more current release was required to guarantee maintenance for our remaining time on Innovative, support for our current release would end before our migration. Martha will tell more about the process in her report.

Question from Martha Holden: What is the worst case scenario if the server fails?

Ron Gagnon: We have a maintenance contract, plus Innovative says that we can load the current release and one additional/future release on our current server and be OK.

Question from Dennis Kelley: Does Innovative know that we are severing our Millennium ties?

Ron Gagnon: Yes. When we applied for the grant, we told the local Innovative representative, who may not have reported that fact up the chain of command. Open Source is as much a learning process for Innovative as it is for library networks. Innovative is looking on at our conversion with interest. It is a "whole new world" and Innovative is playing catch-up.

Elizabeth Thomsen: Severing ties is always a little awkward. So far it is a verbal goodbye, but coming up there will be a 90 Day Notice to formally cancel our Millennium maintenance contract.

Question from Alan Thibeault: What is the cost of the telecommunications switchover?

Ron Gagnon: Approximately $41,000 grant from the Board of Library Commissioners matched with $22,000 from NOBLE capital plus staff support. Expected savings from eliminating private network, $33,000/year.

Elizabeth Thomsen's Report to Members:

Overdrive is planning a statistical overhaul. Elizabeth is spending time on end-of-year Overdrive book selection acquisitions, budgeting, etc.

Organizing Overdrive Help material: around July 1st, there should be a link on the Overdrive page to a page under NOBLE's control.

Elizabeth is speaking at ALA on NextReads.

The new EBSCO contract: Considering them a completely new vendor in terms of implementation and authentication. The State is using geo-location for Gale so that if you are in Massachusetts, you will not need to log in using a barcode. We need to look at better ways of EBSCO authentication. Also, text-to-speech is a new EBSCO option that can be activated for your member library (ask Elizabeth) as well as Search Box Builder (ask Elizabeth).

Martha Driscoll's Report to Members:

Millennium Release 2007 is going live on June 23rd. It is nothing major, but systems start-up may be a little slow on that morning due to new files downloading.

5. **Election of Officers (10 min.)**

Nominating Committee recommends reelection of **Doug Rendell** as Treasurer (2-year term) and **Brian Courtemanche** as Clerk (1-year term) .

Unanimously approved.

6. **Evergreen Update – NOBLE Staff (60 min.)**

Our Evergreen project is largely funded through a grant awarded to a cooperative of three Mass. networks – C/W MARS, MVLC and NOBLE, working together as MassLNC.

The grant is for $412,000 for a project manager and software development, matched by a total of $200,000 from the three networks for software development and data migration.

It is a real learning process for us, on many levels. The MassLNC project involves learning a new system, but also a new way of making decisions, with two other networks who have different ways of working and different relationships with their members. We've also been trying to coordinate member input and information as part of the project, but given the different service models and relationship each network has established with its members over the decades, that's also sometimes complicated.

Given the scale of the Federal funds involved, the bidding requirements are more rigorous, which is somewhat contrary to the open source way of collaborating with other libraries for development.

Thus far, the three networks have identified some Day One needs and are working to prioritize them for development. The project has a budget for development and migration of over $400,000.

Network staffs will also be having some training on the basics of system setup and administration, parameters, migration and interacting with other systems over the summer.

The first network to migrate will be MVLC in May, 2011. C/W MARS is considering a late summer 2011 migration and we are planning on an early January, 2012 changeover.

Still continue to be excited by the depth of the new system and prospects for improved service.

Martha Driscoll gave a Powerpoint presentation on some of Evergreen's utilities (receipt template editor; closed dates editor; holds management; offline interface for manual checkouts). For patron loads to database, Martha reports that Evergreen does not (yet) have an easy-to-use template to do this. So, for now, Martha will continue to manage patron loads into the database.

Elizabeth Thomsen detailed new features such as shelving locations in the online catalog (Collection Management working group currently engaged with this), book-bags in the catalog, the report templates. Acquisitions & Serials module is currently under development; we need to have this as soon as it is developed.

Question from Ruth Urell: is Date of Birth required in the new system?

Ron Gagnon: Date of Birth is already required in our present system and is NOBLE policy. It will be a feature in the Evergreen system.

Question from Martha Holden: Are we comfortable with the present Evergreen roll-out/activation timetable?

Martha Driscoll: We are a bit nervous – it takes time to learn all the new features and utilities of the new system.

Question from Patti Rogers: After development by the initial three networks, will Evergreen roll out to the other Massachusetts networks?

Ron Gagnon: It is not a mandate, but probably will be widely adopted, as most networks will not have state funding to purchase expensive new proprietary library automated systems.

Martha Driscoll: We are path-finding. We are a test-bed that other state networks may follow, which may include opportunities for NOBLE to train members of other networks on Evergreen.

There will be upcoming non-required summer working sessions at NOBLE for NOBLE members, including sessions on the Evergreen Client (how to download the Evergreen client and test out its functions & utilities) and Evergreen Codes (discussing data & codes).

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by **Brian Courtemanche**.