

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting October 10, 2018

Present: Ron Gagnon, Linda C. W. Gardener, Diane Wallace, Myron Schirer-Suter, Amy Lannon, Michael Hearn, Elizabeth Thomsen, Brian Courtemanche and Kathryn Geoffrion-Scannell.

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Meeting was called to order by President Linda C.W. Gardener at 2:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes Minutes for August 2018 were presented. Myron moved to approve, second by Amy, all in favor.

3. Treasurer's Report Myron reports that the audit is underway and there's nothing unusual expected to be found.

4. Executive Director's Report Comcast lines are up for renewal, and the renewals were done at a more favorable rate, with upgrades. The 2-year contract will save \$1,080 per year, for the same service at main libraries, but with upgrades at the branches to 75 Mbps download. Gloucester is moving to a city-provided Internet service, so that gives Noble another savings of \$1,618. Total savings is \$2,700 per year.

National Grid was finally able to connect our generator to its gas service. However, still waiting for the landlord's contractor to complete the gas connection piping before the generator is back online.

There was a well-attended and active community history roundtable on October 2. ERDWG and RSWG have met this year, but not Collection Management as of yet. Suzanne Paterno is writing an improved signup program for Noble meetings that will be rolled out very soon.

Novelist Select recently implemented a new, more mobile-friendly version. We've been a beta site working with EBSCO for some time. There were issues with implementation due to incompatible software, but it was worked out.

Evergreen Web Client was prevented from rolling out due to an internal networking problem within our Evergreen servers. New software and been installed and tested, and we will be announcing rollout plans and training soon. The plan is to have the transition completed by next summer.

MassLNC. Ron was voted treasurer of MassLNC for FY19 at the most recent meeting.

5. Vote to Approve FY20 OverDrive Assessment Recommendation There have been many changes in OverDrive recently. One of them is that we share our collection state-wide and can access all the other networks as well. With all of the other changes, such as local Advantage, it's difficult to forecast costs. Circulation is up, holds are being filled quicker, but 16% still have holds ratio greater than 5:1. Numbers grow

monthly. Ron is suggesting an increase of \$38,000 to OverDrive to maintain momentum, but will keep an eye on circulation, etc. Donations from libraries were down last year, over the past year. To summarize, Noble has the FY19 assessment of \$212,000, with \$30,000 for magazines in another line, add \$18,000 and use the \$12,000 from MLS. If we want to increase book budget we should allot \$250,000. There are options on charts, showing percentage increases as well as dollar amounts, distributed by Ron. Elizabeth discussed the fact that OverDrive Advantage is attractive to individual libraries because they can customize what they purchase and use it to support local programs.

There was much discussion regarding future increases in cost and how those could be sustained. Everyone agrees that OverDrive is a valuable resource but needs have to be balanced.

Executive Board needs to recommend an amount to the membership at the next meeting. Brian makes a motion for a 10% increase this year and next, to be presented to the members. Mike seconds, all in favor.

6. Vote to Approve FY20 PC Support Rates Ron recommends returning \$1500 to the line item to cover increases and maintain rates same as in FY19. Diane moved to approve, Kathryn seconded and all in favor.

7. Further FY20 Budget Considerations In considering the discussion from last month about possibly returning funds to members rather than adding to the capital fund, should Noble rethink our formula for libraries? Do we hold onto our money or return it to members? Reworking our formula is a large task, but should we be proactive by looking at it for possible tweaking? This could take more than a year and we may find that it's fine, but perhaps there are changes to be made. We should not be complacent about it. Formula would need to be dealt with separately from the annual budget. The strategic plan needs to be done soon as well. FY22 might be feasible for the formula review to be complete. It's agreed that addressing the assessment is important, but will not provide any immediate relief.

8. Library Membership Discussion The Gloucester Library Director, Deborah Kelsey approached Ron about the possibility of leaving Noble to join MVLC. She's exploring options but it's clear that it's geographically better for them to be in MVLC, in that they do lots of cooperative events with the Cape Ann libraries. Those efforts are made difficult by being in different networks which have different rules and policies. Kelsey is very happy with Noble, but needs to be with partner libraries in her area. Ron suggested that she share her feelings with the other libraries who might want to join Noble, but Ron cannot approach them himself. There are many details that we don't know yet therefore, no action needs to be taken at this time. If Gloucester does leave Noble, it won't be until FY21.

9. Vote to Recommend Overdue Cleanup Policy Amendment This issue will be tabled for now. The language needs some adjustments. It should be addressed at our November meeting.

10. MassLNC Changes Kathy Lussier is leaving to be the new Executive Director of the SAILS network. She will remain with MassLNC until late November. Kathy has been with MassLNC since the beginning about 10 years ago. She's been a very active member of the Evergreen community and will be missed. Kathy has coordinated a lot of Evergreen development on our behalf.

With Kathy leaving it's time to look at the role of MassLNC and if changes should be made. At this point many Noble employees are very proficient and capable of handling Evergreen issues. We could save money by scaling back, but still working on development. Other development partners are committed through the end of the FY19. We are looking at various options for managing development, which Kathy has put a lot of time into. MassLNC is finishing the process of becoming a non-profit as well.

11. Other Business None.

12. Adjournment at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wallace

Clerk