

Executive Board Meeting - November 10th, 2009

Present: Ron Gagnon, Lorraine Jackson, Myron Schirer-Suter, Brian Courtemanche, Dennis Kelley, Martha Holden, Linda Hummel-Shea, Pat Cirone

Call to Order – Martha Holden

Meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Ron Gagnon

Motion to approve: Dennis

Seconded: Linda

All approved.

Treasurer's Report – Ron Gagnon for Doug Rendell

Ron distributed the FY2010 budget expenditures as of 10.31.09 for review.

Nothing out of the ordinary – we are on track.

Motion to Approve: Pat

Seconded: Lorraine

All approved.

Approval of FY2009 Financial Statements – Ron Gagnon

Documents prepared by C.P.A. Robert Guimond – financial statements, IRS Form 990, Mass. Form PC – were sent out prior to meeting by Ron for Executive Board review.

Motion to approve: Myron

Seconded: Brian

All approved.

Copies of the Conflict of Interest policy were circulated to all Executive Board members present around the table for signatures.

Executive Director's Report – Ron Gagnon

State House Rally:

Ron Gagnon attended the State House rally last week on his own time and expense. There were between 200 and 300 attendees; three legislators spoke as well as library users, and there were several other legislators present.

Though criticized as being too quiet, the rally was a success in numbers and appearance. The event was covered in the Quincy, Brockton, and metro-west dailies, but not any mention within NOBLE communities that Ron Gagnon could find.

The Governor did institute 9C cuts late last month. The Governor did not reduce funding in line item 7000-9506 (Technology and Automated Resource-Sharing, line item 7000-9101 (MBLC Administrative account), or in line items 7000-9402 (Worcester Talking Book Library) or 7000-9406 (Perkins Talking Book Library).

However, the Governor has reduced funding for line item 7000-9401 (State Aid to Regional Libraries) by \$514,000 in FY2010. The Governor has also reduced funding by \$284,000 for line item 7000-9501 for State Aid to Public Libraries in FY2010.

Open Source Information Sessions:

Two open source project information sessions were held late last month, in Palmer on October 21st and in North Andover on October 29th. Both were well attended and the attendees were supportive. Elizabeth Thomsen, Martha Driscoll, and Ron Gagnon spoke at the meetings, as well as C/W MARS Executive Director Joan Kuklinski and MVLC Executive Director Larry Rungren. All three networks are voting on the same motion this month and this is part of the information effort.

Future Catalog Session:

In between the two open source sessions, NOBLE held a Future of the Catalog session on October 27th. The meeting was to explore possibilities and gather input, not focusing solely on library databases but also places like Home Depot and Sears to demonstrate how faceting can help to refine a search. The presenters were all members of the Electronic Resources and Database Working Group.

Heating Problem:

Late in October, the heat failed for about a week across the NOBLE front offices. The large blower bearing failed, damaging the blower and the shaft. There was a several days' delay for needed parts; one of the parts arrived damaged, necessitating another delay. However, once all parts were delivered, successful repairs were made to the heating system. NOBLE has received partial billing for the repairs and is waiting on a final invoice.

Windows 7 and PC Group Purchase:

NOBLE is upgrading PC Group Purchase data to reflect Windows 7. The price for staff PCs has dropped by \$5 per unit to \$855 with an improved video card; the price for low-cost public PCs has increased by approximately \$30 per unit that reflects a higher grade of installed Windows software. The prices are still approximately \$200 better than the normal state contract on the Dell website for the lower cost public PC, and over \$400 better for the staff model. NOBLE can also custom order PCs and laptop computers.

Unlike NOBLE's usual "wait a while" recommendation with new Windows releases, NOBLE is recommending the new PCs, which come loaded with Windows 7; those libraries that purchased computers since late June should take advantage of the free upgrade to Windows 7. Windows 7 has earned excellent reviews. Windows XP will not be supported in several years and Vista's performance has been disappointing.

Vote to Commit to Evergreen Library System – Ron

Proposed motion: NOBLE votes to commit to implementing the Evergreen open source library system in cooperation with C/W MARS and MVLC in approximately two years, contingent on development of software needed by Massachusetts consortia to be funded by the three networks and an LSTA grant from the MBLC.

Ron distributed copies of an MBLC memorandum regarding the open source ILS project and LSTA grant for review.

Ron stated that first use of funds would be to secure a grant-funded project coordinator

Dennis: where will person be located?

Ron: whichever of the networks that they are nearest to. All networks are prepared to host the project coordinator.

NOBLE membership must vote next week to adopt the Evergreen system, but first Executive Board must vote to recommend the Evergreen system to the membership.

Martha – any questions?

Motion to approve: Lorraine

Seconded: Pat

All approved.

FY2011 Annual Action Plan Approval – Ron

Ron distributed copies of the NOBLE FY2011 Annual Action Plan.

Goal 1, Section E will be removed from the plan.

Ron commented that there are two big projects within the action plan:

Open source is the first big project.

Telecommunications is the other big project. No more dedicated lines – all connections will go through “regular” Internet connections (Comcast) and/or through colleges’ Internet networks.

Motion to Approve: Linda

Seconded: Lorraine

All approved.

Consideration of Expansion of NMRLS ILL Contract for FY2011 – Ron

Andover Library is ceasing its ILL operations as of the end of this fiscal year. Prior to and outside of this Executive Board meeting, Greg Pronevitz of NMRLS has asked Ron if NOBLE would want to assume the ILL operations that Andover is discarding. Ron thinks that NOBLE could assume this operation.

Greg Pronevitz has requested a formal fee proposal from NOBLE to assume the ILL operations.

Presently, NOBLE staff member Marilyn Graves is NOBLE’s full-time, professional ILL coordinator. If assuming the additional ILL duties, Ron wishes to add part-time paraprofessional and professional hours to this effort.

Ron thinks that NOBLE will propose a \$190,000 annual fee for assuming this ILL operation.

Pat: If NMRLS dissolves, what happens?

Ron: A good question; right now, no certain answers. Whoever might absorb NMRLS would likely have to honor this obligation.

Dennis: any competition for this bid?

Ron: NMRLS seems to want to move on this, and NOBLE seems to be in a good place to pursue this operation.

Linda: Ron, if you think it’s a good deal, then let’s go for it.

Martha to Ron: do you need a Motion to go forward.

No formal motion required at this time. There was board consensus around the table that Ron go forward with this proposed operation.

Vote to Participate and Contribute to Automated Sorting RFP – Ron

A copy of the Oct. 16th Delivery Meeting minutes were distributed to members of the Executive Board prior to our Nov. 10th meeting for review.

The crux of the matter is that to move forward with an RFP, the Auto Sort Working Group is asking for approximately \$800 from each of the six regions, nine networks, and MBLC. This is a one-time fee to get the project off the ground.

Martha – we have to go in this direction to improved ILL – automated sorting. The \$800 is a show of support, not a shift in the funding model.

Ron: looking for a vote to commit the funds to the project.

Pat: what account line would the money come from?

Ron: we'd find it in a miscellaneous line.

Linda: motion to contribute \$800 (approximately) to automated sorting.

Myron: seconded.

All approved.

Review of State Funding Situation - Ron

All libraries continue to be very concerned about state funding situation and continue to closely monitor the situation.

Adjournment – Martha adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Courtemanche
Secretary