

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting--Minutes

Wednesday April 7, 2010

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 2:15 pm.

Attending: Linda Hummel-Shea, Dennis Kelley, Doug Rendell, Ron Gagnon, Karen Pangallo, Lorraine Jackson, Pat Cirone, Myron Schirer-Suter

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed.

Dennis motioned for approval of the minutes; Lorraine seconded the motion; approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Doug presented the Treasurer's Report. Ron noted that office insurance will be less than stated on spreadsheet. A discussion of lease renewal will occur in May.

Lorraine motioned for approval of the budget; Dennis seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report:

Ron updated the Board on the MassLNC project and the work of Kathy Lussier as coordinator. Working groups continue to work on catalog issues. The issue of cards—multiple or single—continues to be discussed and needs clarification. Lorraine feels strongly that card should reflect the city that issued it because it tells patrons that their tax money is working to provide library resources and services. Grant timetable a little behind but not a concern. Innovative interested in grant documentation and is in contact with MBLC.

Ron and Elizabeth are attending MLA Conference in April. Elizabeth is keynote speaker at NELA ITS on June 11. Elizabeth is attending Computers in Libraries conference in April. Ron and Elizabeth are attending Evergreen Users Conference in April.

Telecomm upgrade grant is now under consideration with SACL. Grant of \$41,000 will upgrade security and routers at public libraries and VPN clients at the academic libraries. Involves converting to cable Internet and will save \$35,000/year. NOBLE's capital match for the grant is \$22,000.

Comcast upgrade is in the works with assistance from Danvers Asst. town manager. Comcast looked at NOBLE situation and will have work completed in time.

Gale reference ebooks are enabling a geolocation upgrade, later this month, that will provide access to the ebook collection in the catalog. Only downside to this is that individual library stats will not be available.

Revere PC donated over 20 old computers and Pingree donated 19 computers for clean up and reinstallation in PC Support libraries.

Ron updated the group purchase quote on the Dell Vostros for staff and public models. Current cost is a \$483 savings on the staff model and \$489 savings for public PC. This includes Windows 7 Professional, a more powerful processor, and a larger monitor. NOBLE ordered 2 to replace 5 year-old machines used by Ron and Christine.

New OverDrive PR materials (bookmarks, mini-posters, and big posters) for ebooks and audiobooks have been ordered. NOBLE will contact when they are ready to distribute.

MBLC has delayed the second and final payment of NOBLE's telecommunications and resource sharing subsidies until May.

Employee Health Insurance Discussion: Ron explained issues surrounding pending increases in five NOBLE employees' health insurance and the impact of current lawsuit between health insurers and the state regulations. Broker for the Mass. Business Association has provided comparable rates and changing to Advantage HMO is recommended. New plan has a slightly

higher cost to NOBLE and employees, as well as a higher deductible, but the new plan's cost is far less than the 25% increase in our current Tufts plan. NOBLE currently pays the \$350 copay of day surgery and hospitalizations (although this has never been used). Changing to new plan increases the deductible to \$500 and includes tests, surgery, hospitalizations, blood work, etc. Ron acknowledges that \$500 deductible is difficult for some people to come up with. Linda motioned that NOBLE change to Advantage HMO and employees will be reimbursed by NOBLE toward the deductible up to \$350. This replaces the hospitalization and day surgery reimbursement that was voted on in October 2006. Pat seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

Mediated ILL Contract Proposal: Ron reviewed the background of NOBLE's part of mediated ILL, the current state of the merger of the regions, the workload increase as NOBLE would be expected to provide services for libraries beyond the northern and southern libraries of the former NMRLS (most of these libraries are not NOBLE members), and the negative financial impact on NOBLE should it continue to be the provider of these services. Given that it is not in NOBLE's financial or political interest, Ron recommended to the Executive Board that NOBLE should not take on the increased mediated ILL after the dissolution of the regional library systems.

Linda made the motion that NOBLE will decline the NMRLS/MLS offer to continue mediated ILL services. Lorraine seconded the motion. Pat abstained from voting; remaining Board members voted to approve the motion.

EBSCO Contract Renewal Proposal: The current contract with EBSCO expires 6/30/2010. Ron presented current proposals from EBSCO: a 3-year 2%, 4%, 4% and a 4-year 2%, 3%, 3%, 3%. Ron explained EBSCO's exclusivity contracts and the fact that he had encouraged libraries to budget for a 5% increase in FY11. Pat expressed concern with the 4 year offer, if the state decided to go with EBSCO rather than Gale and what would happen to NOBLE's contract with EBSCO. Ron said that would be renegotiated but he will get clarification. Linda pointed out that MCCLPHEI just renewed its EBSCO contract—3 years for 2%, 2%, 2%. Ron will go back to EBSCO with those figures and the need for an escape clause because of concern about the state databases. Executive Board will meet before the start of the next Members meeting, to review Ron's meeting with EBSCO.

Capital Transfer to Purchase Evergreen Server: Ron explained the need to purchase Dell starter server for not more than \$2500. Server will be part of Evergreen modular system and needs to be purchased at this time to temporarily house web, mail, and digital library while Martha makes upgrades; and to act as a multi-user test/trainer for Evergreen system (currently only on desktop and is single-user). In the future, NOBLE will either rent space on a server or host the server. Off the topic but related to Evergreen, Karen asked about impact of Evergreen, once it's implemented, on NOBLE's pricing structure for members. Ron agreed that it will be something to start to consider and is not going to be easy to figure out the best and most fair measure for all libraries.

Dennis motioned that NOBLE transfer not more than \$2500 from capital to authorize the purchase of the Dell starter server. Doug seconded the motion; all approved.

Mutual Fund Investment: Ron explained his research into the various no-load, no purchase price funds that NOBLE will invest \$60,000 in. Dennis asked if the money would be put into one fund or split into a couple of funds. Ron stated that since it was not much money, it would go into one fund. Dennis recommended that it be spread over two months and not spent at one time. Ron recommended the Fairholme mutual fund.

Dennis made the motion to accept Ron's recommendation to invest \$60,000 with Fairholme. Pat seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Adjournment: Dennis motioned for adjournment at 4:30 p.m.; Karen seconded; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Pangallo,
ACTING Secretary