

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting

5.12.10

Present: Ron Gagnon, Elizabeth Thomsen, Brian Courtemanche, Martha Holden, Patricia Cirone, Lorraine Jackson, Douglas Rendell, Karen Pangallo, Linda Hummel-Shea, Dennis Kelley

2:09 p.m.: Call to Order - Martha

2:11 p.m.: Approval of last meeting's minutes. Motion to approve: Lorraine. Seconded: Linda.
Approved by members.

2:11 p.m.: Treasurer's Report – Doug

Budget spreadsheet distributed. No surprises with the budget. Motion to approve: Pat. Seconded: Karen.

Ron says there was an approximately \$1,800 (\$1,876.03) transfer for the Evergreen system test/training server from capital, less than the maximum \$2,500 approved last month.

2:13 p.m. – Executive Director's Report – Ron

MLA – Elizabeth and Ron spoke at the Massachusetts Library Association annual conference in Hyannis last month. Ron was part of the Massachusetts Evergreen program; Elizabeth was part of the top tech trends panel.

Telecomm Grant – In early March NOBLE submitted an LSTA grant to the MBLC to complete NOBLE'S conversion to cable Internet service for NOBLE'S public libraries and completely utilize institutional Internet for NOBLE'S academic and special libraries. To do so will require new routers at NOBLE'S public libraries, a new firewall at central site and VPN client software for NOBLE'S academic libraries to provide security of patron data through encryption. NOBLE is seeking \$42,000 from the MBLC with another \$23,000 to come from NOBLE capital. (Please also see "NOBLE Response to SACL" handout from Ron).

NOBLE and the other three networks applying for similar grants received a long list of questions from SACL which are due now.

As noted in the grant and the more recent answers, NOBLE is looking at savings of \$33,000 annually on its library data lines by switching from NOBLE'S private dedicated Paetec/Verizon network to commercial cable Internet connections.

Ron has been in contact with both Comcast and Fios for central site cable Internet connectivity, which as the potential of five-figure savings as well. Fios is not yet built out and not yet offering business services in Danvers, but expects to within two years. Comcast connectivity is on the pole in front of the building, but there's a bit of bureaucracy to complete the connection. Since NOBLE has a year or so before conversion, it looks very hopeful.

ILL Center – The new regional system has redirected ILL requests from NOBLE'S ILL center to the Wellesley Free Library center starting last week. In the process of winding down operations, on April 27th NOBLE hosted a meeting to explain the changes with presentation by Sue Kaler of Wellesley. Marilyn is off for seven work days starting Monday on a previously scheduled vacation, so she's largely

wrapping things up this week and will have three days when she returns from vacation. One of those days, Thursday the 27th from 2 to 4 p.m., NOBLE will be having a reception, a tea, for Marilyn. Friday the 28th will be her last day of work, with accrued vacation time effectively paying her through late June. Beth Willis of the NOBLE staff will be our contact person for any questions and to assure anything turning up here will be promptly processed.

State Budget Mess – As you may have seen from messages forwarded by Ron from the MBLC and MLA, the state budget situation is in a political mess. See also Ron’s handout “Plan to Support the Six Regional Library Systems.”

The House has approved the FY2011 budget with two problem amendments. One cuts off state aid to the Boston Public Library if it closes any branches; the other mandates a Western Region.

The BPL amendment is problematic on a few levels. It could be interpreted that eliminating state aid essentially decertifies the BPL, which means they would not be mandated to participate in resource sharing. It also makes a bad funding situation worse for them and meddles in local politics and budgeting and bypasses MBLC’s regulations and process.

The Western Region mandate tries to stretch the sharply reduced regional funding further and undoes the economies of scale from merging the regions.

The Massachusetts Library Association is encouraging librarians to contact their senators to alert them against adopting these provisions in their budget, and of course to encourage greater funding for library programs.

In the House budget, line items for networks, public libraries and the visually impaired are level funded, the MBLC administration account is reduced with the regional line item taking the brunt of the cuts.

Automated Sorting – NOBLE continues to participate in automated sorting project meetings. In addition to Ron and Martha Holden being on the group, Pat Cirone has been named to represent the new MLS. The RFP has two elements, automated sorting and manual sorting, both with delivery.

Ron received an e-mail from Topsfield Public Library asking if a policy is being drafted to address new ILL costs for return postage and handling that are being passed on to requesting libraries in the new fiscal year. Topsfield would prefer to absorb the costs and not pass them to patrons, but given their MVLC-NOBLE border location, director Jackie White is exploring whether the networks might adopt a more uniform policy on the charges for their member libraries. NOBLE has never passed policies regulating member library charges and so the consensus was not to start with this issue.

The NOBLE 2010 Tech Expo is June 8th. Information is posted on the NOBLE Staff Information System.

Motion to approve Executive Director’s Report: Brian. Seconded: Linda.

2:32 p.m.: Update on the Evergreen System Project - Ron

There were 185 attendees at the Evergreen conference, which was a positive, interesting meeting. NOBLE is getting into the Evergreen project at a good time. At the conference, there was a wide range of attendee exposure to and experience with the Evergreen system, novice to expert. One standout aspect is the difference between vendor-provided and open-source system improvement processes: a small core of dedicated Evergreen code developers determine what goes into the shared Evergreen release. They are called “the Committers.” This small group serves as a sort of quality-control board.

Regarding Evergreen's serials & materials booking programming, there is an individual college currently sponsoring this development. At present, the result is rather plain and basic, meeting the needs of that institution, but the code is open to further development.

Ron reports a flurry of Evergreen development; a "documentation interest group" has formed to collect and coordinate related documentation.

There has been discussion around the potential creation of a non-profit organization to manage Evergreen licensing, logos, assets, accounts payable, etc. Similar to the Wikipedia organizational model. The "Liblime/Koha" scenario is a sort of cautionary tale that Equinox/Evergreen hopes to avoid.

On Sept. 25th, King County, Washington, is going live on the new Evergreen system. They are the third-busiest library system in the country and are moving from Innovative.

NOBLE has approximately 1.5 years to plan for Evergreen's implementation, unlike the hurried Millennium implementation. NOBLE is still learning about Evergreen, and so has not yet committed development funds. NOBLE will host a series of informal information sessions on Evergreen over the course of this summer. This is not official Evergreen training. Dates to be announced. NOBLE has the Evergreen test system in-house, and will be showing it off during the June Tech Expo.

[at this point Brian had to leave the meeting, and recording of the minutes was transferred to Martha Holden – thanks Martha! - BC]

New Member Discussion:

Library director of Manchester-By-The-Sea approaches NOBLE every so often – hemmed in by NOBLE, likes geographical proximity – practical to join NOBLE. In the past, Innovative charged \$10,000 "initiation fee" for the new library, the core of NOBLE's \$25,000 total charges to fully incorporate a new library. With Evergreen, transitional costs would be minimal (hardware, training, de-duping/data processing, etc.).

Malden is also a potential NOBLE candidate.

Winthrop/Revere/Chelsea considering some consolidations.

Nahant – resident write-in interest in joining NOBLE.

Montserrat College of Art – has new director: Sylvia Welsh. She is interested in better automation. In 2007 the Executive Board amended the definition of "Associate Member" to accommodate Montserrat – flat \$10,000 fee – comes with service limitations: fewer modules, limit on collection size (15,000 items), etc. Montserrat is now financially healthier and more motivated.

The model that NOBLE developed for Montserrat may be attractive to other institutions such as St. John's Prep, Marian Court, etc. The assessment formula is currently based on licenses from Innovative or other vendors. NOBLE will need to develop a new model that takes into account diverse users and balances population, services and collections. Elizabeth Thomsen suggests that NOBLE should consider FTE in assessment calculations.

Discussion of ideal number of NOBLE members – strains on staff & resources.

Elizabeth, Pat, Ron, and Martha will speak with motivated libraries and see what their expectations are – start in Manchester-By-The-Sea. Ron will set up an appointment with Manchester-By-The-Sea.

Massachusetts Library System – reported by Pat Cirone:

Open search for Executive Director – deadline for applicants last Friday.

First interviews are being scheduled. Approximately 12 applications received. Other staff openings are limited to current regional staff.

10 advisors (2 who will be Information Technology people).

If there are available funds for an Assistant Director, the Executive Director will file for that position. The goal is to have offers to adjunct staff by the end of May, with the Executive Director shortly thereafter.

The merger committee is responsible for consolidation of personnel, benefits, policies, delivery contracts, etc.

NMRLS will be open for wrap-up duties into the first couple of weeks into July. NMRLS has a small pool of residual funds; any remaining funds will transfer to MLS (some severance funds will be paid from this pool).

The Western Region has no reserve funds – no money to provide any severance.

Western Region Initiative – if this passes without additional funding, it would cut into MLS funds, but if per capita formula is implemented, the Western Region will probably not have enough funds to operate. If pass through the House and Senate, then there may be increased funding (however, unlikely to be adequate). If regions vote not to accept the merger, they will be left without funding.

The Boston Initiative – Document delivery could be unavailable in the future if this passes.

Nominating Committee Report – Pat Cirone reported that Brian and Doug have agreed to serve again as Clerk and Treasurer, respectively.

Adjournment of Meeting at 4:50 p.m.