

**North of Boston Library Exchange
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2013**

Present: Pat Cirone, Brian Courtemanche, Ron Gagnon, Martha Holden, Linda Hummel-Shea, Karen Pangallo, Myron Schirer-Suter, Martha Driscoll and Elizabeth Thomsen.

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Pat Cirone.

2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from February 6, 2013 meeting was made by Martha Holden and seconded by Karen Pangallo.

3. Treasurer's Report: A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2013 was made by Martha Holden and seconded by Brian Courtemanche.

4. Executive Director's Report:

System Support Specialist Vacancy

Suzanne Paterno, the new Systems Support Specialist, will begin Work on March 14 and continue to work one day per week (Thursday) for three weeks. She will start her full-time schedule on April 1. Suzanne is a student in the Library Science program at Simmons College who previously worked for ten years as a software engineer for Lockheed Martin and also worked in customer service at Disney World.

MBLC Budget Hearing

Ron attended and provided testimony at the Joint House and Senate Ways and Means Committee hearing in support of the MBLC budget request.

Legislative Breakfast

The Legislative Breakfast scheduled for March 8 was cancelled due to inclement weather. Ron served on the planning committee who is encouraging members to attend MLA Legislative Day at the State House on March 26.

Rob Maier Retirement

Elizabeth and Ron attended Rob Maier's retirement reception at the JFK Library on March 5. Ron is serving on the selection committee for Rob's successor. Closing date for applications is March 20.

Network Administrators

Ron attended the Network Administrators meeting in February and reports that MBLC is expecting a \$200,000 to \$250,000 reduction in LSTA funding. The Virtual Catalog project is taking over half of the available grant funds over the next couple of years, making all grants highly competitive and large networks grants nearly impossible to get. There was some debate over maintaining the infrastructure by prioritizing large grants vs. small local library grants, and whether the local grants are cost effective in terms of the amount of grant paperwork involved.

Also discussed at Network Administrators were the Statewide Resource Sharing Committee projects as follows:

eContent Platform

MLS is the project manager for e-books owned and run on a server controlled by Massachusetts libraries. Starting with 50 pilot libraries, \$300-\$400,000 is committed to the project. This will also require a sizable contribution from participating libraries.

Discovery platform

The platform will integrate library catalogs and databases in one searchable entry and include mobile access.

One Card

The survey ended last week with about 8,000 usable returns. There will be a meeting, and focus groups of librarians. How the card will be implemented and privacy concerns were discussed at a brainstorming session.

Virtual Catalog

A new version is coming soon and networks and standalone librarians will be introduced in waves over the next year or so. There will be no cross searching or cross requesting. There is not yet a specific date when NOBLE will be moving to the new version.

Long Overdues and Bills Plan

The Resource Sharing Working group is developing a better process for long overdues and billing. The block will go into real time for all libraries on April 8. The long overdue block is for patrons that are 42 days overdue and blocks circulation and holds. It was decided not to block renewals. The system will check periodically during the day for long overdue items that have been returned. Per request of the college libraries, college faculty will be excluded from the block.

Billing notices will be the same system wide and will note that patron circulation privileges have been blocked. When a patron attempts to place a hold they will receive the message: HOLD WAS NOT SUCCESSFULLY PLACED. PROBLEM: PATRON EXCEEDS LONG OVERDUE". Staff view will show a stop sign and a note: PATRON HAS A LONG OVERDUE ITEM. Individual libraries can customize their overdue notices to warn patrons that their privileges are in danger of being suspended.

Strategic Plan Process and Consultant

Owen Shuman, the recently retired Groton librarian, has agreed to lead the planning process on April 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a reduced rate of \$2000, down from the original proposed amount of \$2700. Libraries have been asked to send Paula the names of three staff members who will attend the meeting. The scope of work will include researching issues in a S.W.O.T (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) format.

The participants will look at NOBLE 5 years out beginning in FY' 15 and continuing to FY' 19. Owen will prepare a report with future areas of growth and concern. The NOBLE staff will follow-up the report with development of 5 year goals and a set of first year objectives. The plan will be presented for approval of the membership at the June or September members meeting in time to submit to the MBLC by the October 1 deadline.

Evergreen Update

NOBLE held off on implementation of Release 2.3 after hearing from CW Mars and online developers about multiple issues including serious "memory leaks". CW Mars is currently working with Equinox to on issues such as slowness of staff computers and memory issues. Equinox is working on streamlining of the patron client.

MassLNC is the lead sponsor on a project that will allow alphabetical index browsing in the catalog. Support for "see and "see also" reference will also be available. They have sponsored development for an interface to support traditional Boolean search operators. Coding is complete and the project is now in testing phase. If approved by the community, the functionality should be available in version 2.4. MassLNC is also

sponsoring development to allow activity or popularity to be a factor in the relevance of retrieved search results. This functionality will be highly configurable, allowing activity to be measured by checkout activity, number of holds, number of copies, or a combination of these factors.

Ron hopes to move up to a new version of 2.3 when client fixes are in place. NOBLE will not load any new releases until after the semester ends in May. Equinox has updated our server software with a set of security patches.

MBLC is funding a \$50,000 grant to hire an outside analyst familiar with high transaction systems to look at system issues,

OverDrive Interface Changes

Elizabeth demonstrated the new OverDrive interface search and navigation improvements via the MVLC site. The upgrade should improve ease of use and still carries forward the logo, subject collections, lending policies along with some additional features such as better entry points. Users can start a search at a children's page instead of the main page.

Readers can access the same book on different devices and do not need to download or install software, and can read on their computer offline. The interface allows mobile and desktop experience to be the same and optimized for any size screen regardless of a user's device. The backend is also redesigned.

Elizabeth will work with the Collection Development Group on a system to give interested libraries the ability to add new titles to the collection. Currently the Group is implementing a pilot project of selectors. Later on, libraries that opt in as selectors will have access to funds according to the existing formula. Some funds will be reserved for Network purchases.

Crisis Plan

Ron is working with the staff to develop a Business Continuity Plan for NOBLE that will strengthen existing practices and provide for offsite space in case of an emergency. He is also looking into cyberliability insurance. He expects to have more information at next month's meeting.

Karen Pangallo made a motion to adjourn at 4:05 p.m., seconded by Linda Hummel-Shea.

Submitted by,

Linda Hummel- Shea
Secretary Pro Temp