

Eastern Shore REGIONAL LIBRARY

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Eastern Shore Regional Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020 11:00 am
ESRL - Zoom Virtual Meeting

In attendance: John Venditta, Crystal Henningsen, Annie Woodall, Amanda Watson, Kacey Martin, Dana Newman, Debby Bennett, Jonah Owens, Cheryl Nardiello, Ed Goyda, Jennifer Ranck, Janet Salazar

Call to Order: Crystal called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Changes to the Agenda: John Venditta added “Kent and Wicomico director search” to Old Business.

September 23, 2020 Minutes: Ed Goyda made motion to approve the September 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Debby Bennett seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Financial Report (John Venditta):

- Looking at the Budget Comparative, there hasn't been much going on this year. We are still doing what we have always done, despite the shutdown. Everyone is doing well on using their CARES and Zoom grants. John would like to see more done with Grants to Libraries. Please be sure to get your reimbursement requests in.
- The Balance Sheet shows that everything is in budget and doing well.

The Financial Report was filed for audit.

Administrator's Report (John Venditta):

- We are trying to stay alert and informed enough to make the adjustments required during the pandemic.
- News from the Maryland State Library Network meetings: Irene has started a survey of the organizational structure of the Regional Libraries. She has enlisted the help of Jody Malmstrom, who is MSL's liaison to the Attorney General. All three regionals have submitted their historical organizational documents and Jody will be reviewing them for inconsistencies or irregularities. This includes articles of incorporation, bylaws, etc.
- John is serving on this year's version of MAPLA's intergovernmental relations task force. We will not be submitting or promoting any new funding bills this year/session. The “Building Lifelong Learners” act from last session, which promoted fine-free for children, was vetoed by the Governor. Veto over-rides aren't going to happen until February this year due to everything being virtual; if they happen at all. There is a Digital Content bill, which will inform Amazon that we are concerned that they are not charging the same amount for libraries on digital content as they are the public.

IT Report (Rick Simpson): Rick's board report was included in the handouts.

Information Services Report (Amanda Watson):

- Usage updates have been included in the report that was sent out. Mostly, she has focused on changes between this year and last year with the pandemic. We have a lot of resources that have gone up, including streaming and downloadable resources. A lot of the lower usages have to do with resources that the schools are unable to promote during the shutdown.
- Mira is now located and working from ESRL's office. She performed authority control yesterday and we have noted a couple of issues on the Polaris end of it that we are going to work on for the future.
- Dana Newman asked about database stats, now that the number of temporary card requests have gone up due to the pandemic. Is there any differentiation between one county's temporary cards and another? Amanda explained that there isn't a difference. The PAC registration cards are assigned into a template of ESRL, which is based on how they work in Polaris. This will attribute usage to the ESRL statistics. Ultimately, it would be best to get these transferred to a full card as soon as possible.
- John Venditta spoke about the continued, consistent growth of Hoopla usage over the four years that we have had it. We can contribute some of this to Covid, but it has been growing since the beginning.

Training & Programming Report (Sam Eddington):

- A written report was included in the board handouts.
- The latest MSL Digest talked about dismantling institutional racism on the Niche Academy. You will be getting more information on that from Sam; how to connect to that and how to use our Niche Academy with the login you receive from MSL.

Graphic Design Report (Kacey Martin):

- We had a Unicorn marketing meeting this month. Kacey had sent out a template to everyone for a transition form or "marketing legacy" form. This is basically a document with suggested information that you might want to keep track of, in case your marketing team needs to share or transition people.
- Print account balances were given out to you in the board packet. Let Kacey know if you have any questions about that.
- You are encouraged to have some wording prepared for various situations, such as a branch being exposed or having to step back services. This will help everyone to be on the same page as far as what an announcement says and where it is released, when and if the time comes.

Maryland State Library (Renee Croft): Renee has no report included but encourages the board to read the Maryland State Library digests.

Old Business:

- Annie Woodall reported on the Kent County director search. So far, Kent's board is in conversation with their chosen candidate, but a contract has not been signed.
- Cheryl Nardiello reported on the Wicomico County director search. They have a board meeting on Tuesday; during which, the board will vote to hire a headhunter company that they have chosen. After that, the search will be on.

Next Meeting:

March 18, 2021 at 11:00 am. Location: ESRL - Zoom Virtual Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.

