

MINUTES
Mississippi Library Commission
Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting by Teleconference

May 19, 2020

Board of Commissioners (BOC) Present: Ann Marsh
BOC available through teleconference: Lori Barnes, Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey and Becky Wright
Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) Staff Present: Helen Bivins, James Dunaway and Jennifer Peacock
MLC staff available through teleconference: Lynn Burris, Ethel Dunn, and Tracy Carr
Guest available through teleconference: Jay Woods, Special Assistant Attorney General

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marsh called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone on the call.

AGENDA

Recommendation: *Adopt agenda as presented.*
Motion: Stephen Cunetto; *Second:* Jolee Hussey
Action: Approved

MINUTES

Recommendation: *Approve minutes of the regular meeting on March 24, 2020.*
Motion: Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Becky Wright
Action: Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chair Marsh thanked the MLC staff for all their hard work during this time of crisis.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COVID-19 Virus – Because of the corona virus the Library Commission has remained closed. Some staff have been working from home as well as some key staff have continued to work part-time in the building. In accordance with the Governor's directive, MLC plans to reopen on May 26, 2020. During the closure best practices have been developed regarding changes in handling library service. Library system challenges include communicating their processes to the public and protecting library staff. Public librarians recently completed a survey outlining their reopening plans.

CARES Act – IMLS has received funding, through the federal government, from the CARES Act to distribute to individual states. Mississippi libraries should receive approximately \$260,000 in funding. MLC has proposed to IMLS to primarily use these funds to offer grants to the public libraries in our state. All awarded grants will be based on the criteria set forth in the Act. The requirements are very specific and libraries can apply for these grants which identify specific categories. This funding should help libraries as they plan for reopening. MLC will be closely monitoring this process. Mississippi Congressional Delegation supports these appropriations for Mississippi libraries.

Budget – The status of the FY21 budget is unknown. Prior to the pandemic MLC was in a good position and on the right track to receive the projected FY21 budget request; however, now the outcome that face the state seems to indicate that even level funding may be a difficult status to achieve.

Special Note: Whenever the MLC final budget is received, a special called meeting of the BOC will be required to approve the FY21 budget.

Employee Update – New hire Kayla Martin Grant (Library Services – CE Coordinator); Separation – Eahmon Jamison (Administrative Services – Technology); and Retirement – Susan Liles (Executive Office – PR Director).

Contract 5000 – The Mississippi Supreme Court has affirmed that Mississippi ITS was correct in awarding the contract to C-Spire for technology services. AT&T has required another extension, however; we believe that C-spire will ultimately receive the contract, which will mean a cost savings for all libraries regarding their broadband and added benefits of improved broadband service.

MLC Business Services – The LSTA Quarterly Grant Report and the MAGIC Quarterly Security Report Review has been submitted. Preparations for the end of the year closure have begun.

Grants - \$1,452,233.40 has been expended in grant program funds; of this amount \$60,059.23 was LSTA and \$1,393,164.17 was state aid (Health/Life/P).

Talking Book Services – During this reporting period 18 new Talking Book users have registered for the service, 16,881 items circulated with 6,712 BARD downloads. Total patron count is now 4,854. During the closure the Agency received many calls from patrons requesting service.

MLC Library Use Statistics – For the month of April, MLC’s Library Development Division staff provided 241.5 consulting hours of service working with the public libraries. The hour count for March was unavailable at the time of this report.

379 Beehive Resource Sharing requests were filled out of 986 requests received.

99 Technology Services helpdesk tickets were handled successfully during this time. During the reporting period 1 children’s workshop was held in New Albany; 2 in-person library visits were made; and 4 new webinars were posted. Additionally, MLC’s Library Development staff have reported to the MLC listerv numerous articles and how-to-dos provided by other libraries across the country.

A virtual meeting with the public library directors was held on April 23 with 68 participating librarians.

Roof Repair – Workers are presently replacing the roof on the MLC building. The work began in April and is scheduled to conclude sometime in July.

2020 Mississippi Book Festival - The Mississippi Book Festival scheduled for August 2020 has been canceled.

Center for the Book Update – MLC will host a series of Zoom talks using the Mississippi Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. The first talk, “Ain’t That America” History and Culture in the County” by Dr. James C. Giesen, Associate Professional of History at Mississippi State University is scheduled for June 5, 2020 at 12 Noon.

Other News – On March 27, MLC Executive Director participated in a conference call with the First Assistant in offices of Rep. Trent Kelly, Rep. Mike Guest; Rep. Steven Palazzo, and Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith to discuss the present state of a statewide broadband network that would aid the spread of information and enhance the connectivity of all areas of the state.

MLC Conference – It has been decided that the 2020 MLA Conference will be a virtual conference.

Future MLC Board of Commissioners Meetings – The next meeting of the BOC is set for July 28, 2020, with the location to be determined. A special called meeting will be required after MLC receive the FY21 budget in order to get BOC approval.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jennifer Peacock, Administrative Services Bureau Director provided the financial report. Currently, we are on target to finish this year while working to expend state funding. In light of the pandemic, next year will be a challenge.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU REPORT

The report was provided by Jennifer Peacock, Administrative Services Bureau Director. The grant program is currently on target. During the closure, at least one person from this bureau has been coming to the building each day. Even though libraries are closed, Technology Services continue to answer multiple calls daily.

LIBRARY SERVICES BUREAU REPORT

Tracy Carr, Library Services Bureau Director provided this report. She discussed the recent meeting with public library directors that was held via Zoom, as well as, several continuing education workshops held recently. The Library Development staff have provided 140 consulting hours to assist the public librarians during the reporting period. Continuing to work on procedures for opening the MLC building.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Beanstalk Program – Tracy Carr provided an overview of this program that can assist with the summer library program activities. MLC has made an emergency purchase to obtain software for the products. Highlights of the program include - a way to be interactive, toggle between libraries and offer year-round reading challenges, and can possibly be used in the winter.

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation: *Approve an educational waiver for Elizabeth Alexander for a period of one year, starting June 26, 2020, for the Washington County Library System while an active search is made for a permanent, qualified director.*

Motion: Stephen Cunetto; *Second:* Jolee Hussey

Action: Approved

Recommendation: *Approve the FY21 Board of Commissioners slate of officers for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021:*

Chair – Stephen Cunetto

Vice Chair – Lori Barnes

Secretary – Becky Wright

Motion: Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Lori Barnes

Action: Approved

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: *Board entered into determination session to decide whether to go into executive session in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7(4)(k).*

Motion: Lori Barnes; *Second:* Stephen Cunetto

Action: Approved

Motion: *Board go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7(k).*

Motion: Lori Barnes; *Second:* Jolee Hussey

Action: Approved

ADJOURN

Recommendation: *Adjourn meeting at 1:11 p.m.*

Motion: Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Lori Barnes

Action: Approved

The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Commission Board of Commissioners is scheduled for July 28, 2020, 11:00 a.m., with location to be determined.

Lori Barnes

Lori Barnes (Aug 6, 2020 09:23 CDT)

Lori Barnes, Board Secretary

Aug 6, 2020

Date