



**MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION**  
LEADERSHIP ADVOCACY SERVICE

**MINUTES**

Mississippi Library Commission  
Virtual Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting  
March 29, 2022

**Board of Commissioners (BOC) Present via Zoom:** Ann Marsh, Becky Wright, Stephen Cunetto, Lori Barnes, and Jolee Hussey

**Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) Staff Present via Zoom:** Hulen Bivins, Tracy Carr, Lynn Burris, Jennifer Peacock, and Kristina Kelly

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

**AGENDA**

**Recommendation:** *Adopt agenda as presented.*

**Motion:** Ann Marsh; *Second:* Lori Barnes

**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Lori Barnes, Ann Marsh, and Becky Wright*)

**MINUTES**

**Recommendation:** *Approve minutes of the regular meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Motion:** Stephen Cunetto; *Second:* Ann Marsh

**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Ann Marsh, Lori Barnes, and Becky Wright*)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

Commissioner Barnes expressed looking forward to the return of summer programming.

Commissioner Hussey thanked the MLC staff for helping to get libraries open again with people coming in and activity at libraries. Commissioner Cunetto agreed while also mentioning the April 7 Grape Gatsby fundraising event in his area. He also expressed thanks for MLC staff and librarians who reached out to legislators advocating for Libraries. Commissioners Marsh and Wright concurred with the funding and advocacy efforts.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

### **BUDGET**

MLC seems to be in a good position regarding the budget of state dollars for the next fiscal year. Business Director Burris is monitoring expenses and both Burris and Deputy Director Peacock will be reviewing projections.

Commissioner Cunetto led the discussion stating that this is the first year that it may have been understood the importance of MAGNOLIA and the many different groups that benefit from MAGNOLIA. MAGNOLIA has not received an increase to the current allotment, and MLS has requested an increase by \$350,000. Difficult decisions will have to be made by the steering committee if it is not fully funded, such as cutting some of the databases. Some libraries have pledged additional dollars to help cover the costs. A robust discussion about the funding of MAGNOLIA ensued among the Commissioners regarding advocacy efforts about MAGNOLIA and the breakdown of the entities that contribute to its funding.

### **MLC FINANCIALS**

LSTA grant payments totals: \$196,954.28. State Dollar for health, life and PIGP totaled \$304,359.81. ARPA program grants are still open, and many have problems finishing the grant due to supply chain issues.

### **NATIONAL LEG/ GRANT FUNDING**

Much of the Federal legislation has died in the US Congress. Federal programs have been greatly affected by world events. Extensions are expected to be granted on a case-by-case basis for ARPA projects due to supply chain issues.

### **IMLS FUNDING FY22**

*Mississippi should receive \$1,907,865, with a match requirement of \$982,839.55.*

### **MS IMLS REPORTS**

The LSTA five-year evaluation is due for submission on Thursday, March 31, 2022, is being completed by Administrative Services. The federal LSTA five-year plan for 2023-2028 is due at the end of June.

### **ALA CONGRESSIONAL MEETING**

MLC's Director participated in a virtual meeting with Mississippi's two U.S. Senators. The items discussed included the CARES Act, the pros and cons of the American Rescue Plan Act funding in Mississippi, and the continued need for Grants-to-States program funding as part of the IMLS appropriation.

## **EMPLOYEE UPDATE**

The agency is looking forward to the adoption of the SEC2 – the increase in salaries will help with the retention of employees.

New Hires:	Amy LaFleur ---- Library Services
Separations:	None

## **MLC BUILDING**

The architectural agency Duvall Decker conducted a tour of our award-winning building for a group of out-of-state architectural students.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

MLC held their Day at the Capitol event on February 16.  
A series of videos for various events for the agency have been created.  
MLC's website had over 12,000 visitors.

## **PODCAST**

Four new episodes were produced with 319 downloads.

## **TALKING BOOK SERVICES**

The Executive Director participated in a visit to one of the assisted living centers served by TBS and met with residents to hear how they used TBS. Total number of patrons served is 5,357. More than 20,000 items are in circulation and there were 9,139 BARD downloads.

## **MLC LIBRARY STATISTICS**

Consulting hours 465.5  
Continuing Education Trainings – 6. This was a combination of in-person and online.  
Beehive Resource Sharing Requests – 1,999  
Tech Stats – 200 help desk tickets completed at MLC and public libraries  
MAGNOLIA searches – 7,432,095  
LearningExpress Library sessions – 1,217  
Hoopla checkouts – 11,237  
Patent Training Sessions – 102

## **FUTURE MLC COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the MLC Board should take place on May 24, 2022.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU REPORT**

The report was presented by Jennifer Peacock, Deputy Director Administrative Services. We have started interviewing and hope to be more successful in the recruitment process after July 1 and the full implementation of the SEC2. No major changes in operations. The new lift

purchased will assist in the light conversion. E-Rate coordinator Sharmaine Frazier assisted 47 libraries with their E-Rate filings.

The migration to C Spire continues and has moved to VOIP phones. The LSTA five-year plan evaluation is almost completed. The department worked with Shawn Owen of MSU to complete. He held focus groups with libraries by size to survey to get statistics. The new federal LSTA five-year plan for 2023-2028 is due on June 30.

Commissioner Hussey asked for additional information on the light conversion process.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

MLC is on target as we move to the end of this fiscal year.

#### **LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

Presented by Deputy Director Library Services, Tracy Carr. The Little Free Library (LBL) grant is doing well. 30 have been built across the state and branded with MLC and IMLS logos. Completed the first Meyers-Briggs training via Zoom with Central Mississippi Regional Library System. It was difficult but it worked out. MLC will start offering virtual Meyers-Briggs training to other libraries. Deputy Director Carr met with the MS Federation of Women's Clubs and outlined an upcoming project that will involve public libraries. MLC is looking forward to this new partnership.

Commissioner Wright explained the processes of the MS Federation Club and how this opportunity will benefit libraries.

Both MS and National book festival will be in-person. The dates are August 20 and Saturday of Labor Day in Washington DC, respectively.

#### **ACTION ITEM**

**Recommendation:** *Personnel Incentive Grant Program Waiver Request for Educational Requirements– Humphreys County Library System*

**Motion:** Ann Marsh; *Second:* Stephen Cunetto

**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh, Lori Barnes, and Becky Wright*)

#### **ACTION ITEM**

**Recommendation:** *Personnel Incentive Grant Program Waiver Request for Educational Requirements– Kemper-Newton Regional Library System*

**Motion:** Lori Barnes; *Second:* Jolee Hussey

**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh, Lori Barnes, and Becky Wright*)

#### OTHER DISCUSSION

None.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Recommendation:** *Move to executive session*

**Motion:** Stephen Cunetto; *Second:* Ann Marsh

**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Ann Marsh, Lori Barnes, and Becky Wright*)

All Commissioners were moved into a private meeting room on the Zoom call in accordance with Miss. Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(k) to discuss a personnel matter.

At 12:34 returned to normal session. All Commissioners returned to the main Zoom meeting area. The commissioners approved a salary increase for the Executive Director salary to \$120,000.

#### FINAL REMARKS

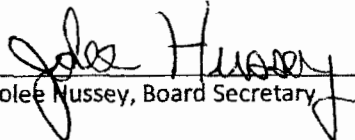
The Executive Director stated we have a small but dedicated staff. We are very pleased with our working relationships at MLC and appreciate your endorsement.

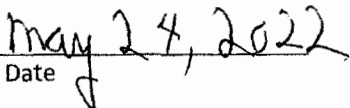
#### ADJOURN

**Recommendation:** *Adjourn meeting at 12.38 pm*

**Motion:** Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Stephen Cunetto

**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call (*Stephen Cunetto, Jolee Hussey, Lori Barnes, Ann Marsh, and Becky Wright*)

  
Jolee Hussey, Board Secretary

  
Date