



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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NYLA Council Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2021

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Conducted Via Zoom

NYLA President, Beth Merkle, Presiding

In Attendance: Beth Merkle, President; Barbara Stripling, Immediate Past President; Kelly Harris, Treasurer; Cassie Guthrie, ALA Chapter Councilor; James Teliha, ASLS President; Todd Schlitt, SCLA Representative; Karen Sperrazza, FLS President; Jean Currie, LTAS President; Meg VanPatten, PLS President; Annalee Dragon, LAMS Representative; Dawn Pressimone, SSL President; Amanda Schiavulli, YSS President; Alana Mutum, RASS Representative; Simone Yearwood, Councilor-at-Large; Lisa Kropp, Councilor-at-Large; Tom Vitale, Councilor-at-Large; Kristina Graves, Councilor-at-Large; Ginger Tebo, Councilor-at-Large; Steve Bachman, SMART President.

Absent: Arlene Laverde, President-Elect; Jane Verostek, Councilor-at-Large; Treasurer-Elect [VACANT].

Guests: Amanda Travis, Laura Osterhout, Lisa Hewel, Mamie Eng, Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Samuel Simon, Glenna Wisniewski, Terry Mulee, Jill Hurst-Wahl, Tony Iovino, Mickey Cherry, Joyce Laiosa.
Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
 - a. President Beth Merkle called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.
 - b. President Beth Merkle asked for a motion to accept the following changes to the agenda: removal of the approval of minutes from the September 16, 2021, Council Meeting and moving the Updates to the beginning of the meeting. Treasurer Kelly Harris made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Jim Teliha seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
2. Updates
 - a. Special Election for Treasurer-Elect: the ballot will be open from October 4 – 18, 2021.
 - b. Annual Conference: President Beth Merkle provided an update from Sarah Sherlock on the upcoming conference.
 - c. Pathways to Librarianship: President Beth Merkle provided an update from Tim Furgal that the grant application has been submitted to IMLS.
3. Unfinished Business
 - a. None.
4. New Business

- a. Executive Director Search Committee: Meg Van Patten made a motion to approve the Charge, Timeline, and Composition of the Executive Director Search Committee. Jean Currie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. President Beth Merkle shared the news that Sarah Sherlock has submitted her resignation from her position of Professional Development Manager, effective November 19, 2021.
 - c. Treasurer Kelly Harris made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the temporary staffing proposal and personnel issues. Lisa Kropp seconded the motion. The motion passed via a majority; Beth Merkle and Cassie Guthrie were opposed. Jim Teliha made a motion for Briana McNamee to attend Executive Session to speak to the temporary staffing proposal. Simone Yearwood seconded the motion and it passed via a majority. Kelly Harris was opposed. Council and Briana McNamee entered Executive Session at 3:29 pm.
 - d. Council exited Executive Session at 4:59 pm. Jim Teliha made a motion to approve NYLA contracting with Express Employment Services in Albany, NY, for a temporary administrative office worker for 15 hours a week, reporting to Colleen Smith, Finance & Administration Manager, for the period of October 12, 2021, through December 31, 2021, at which time Council will review extending the contract. Jean Currie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - e. Ginger Tebo made a motion to provide each NYLA staff member – Briana McNamee, Colleen Smith, Sarah Sherlock, and Christina Romeo – with a bonus of \$1,000 in acknowledgement and gratitude of the work performed and the dedication shown the New York Library Association during this time of transition. Meg Van Patten seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - f. Bylaw Update Recommendations from Governance Task Force: Council arranged to meet on October 13, 2021, to discuss the proposed changes to the bylaws.
5. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Merkle, President
December 14, 2021