



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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NYLA Council Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Conducted Via Zoom

NYLA President, Beth Merkle, Presiding

In Attendance: Beth Merkle, President; Arlene La Verde, President-Elect; Barbara Stripling, Immediate Past President; Kelly Harris, Treasurer; Cassie Guthrie, ALA Chapter Councilor; James Teliha, ASLS President; Karen Sperrazza, FLS President; Jean Currie, LTAS President; Meg VanPatten, PLS President; Annalee Dragon, LAMS Representative; Todd Schlitt, SCLA 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: Jane Verostek, Councilor-at-Large; Treasurer-Elect [VACANT]

Guests: Terry Mulee, Lisa Wemett, Tim Furgal, Lisa Neuman, Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Brian Harborfields, April Bliss, Rebecca Fuss, Tony Iovino, Alexander Mercado, Amanda Travis, Sally Stieglitz, Danielle Paisley, Sara Dallas, Jill Hurst, Min Liu, Lisa Jacobs, Liz Burns, Anne de la Chapelle, Maura Albertson, Kevin Verbesey, Frank McKenna, Erica Freudenberger, Courtney Tsahalís, Laurie Rosenthal, Rebecca Mulhearn-Budinger, Jennifer Fowler, Nicola McDonald.

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
 - a. President Beth Merkle called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.
 - b. President Beth Merkle asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the Special Meeting of NYLA Council of August 25, 2021. Jean Currie made the motion and Steven Bachman seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
2. Approval of Minutes from August 23, 2021, Meeting
 - a. Karen Sperrazza asked for the appendices to the August 5, 2021, be added to the minutes from that meeting. Beth Merkle said she would have NYLA staff add them to the minutes posted on the NYLA website. James Teliha made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2021. Meg Van Patten seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
3. New Business
 - a. Approve Charge and Composition of Governance Task Force

- i. Meg Van Patten made a motion to approve the task force charge as presented. James Teliha seconded. After discussion, Lisa Kropp made a motion to return the phrase “for the review and approval of NYLA Council to the charges 2 and 3. Meg Van Patten seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- ii. Council voted unanimously to adopt the charge of the task force as follows:

Charge

The Governance Task Force will

1. *Review the existing governance structure (by-laws, policies) and other relevant documentation and recommend amendments, updates, and other changes for the review and approval of NYLA Council and NYLA membership.*
2. *Review and recommend changes to Council roles and responsibilities for the review and approval of NYLA Council.*
3. *Recommend changes to the Executive Director’s job description and propose the charge and composition of a search committee for the review and approval of NYLA Council.*

- iii. AnnaLee Dragon made a motion to approve the task force’s timeline as presented. Karen Sperrazza seconded. Council voted unanimously to adopt the timeline for the task force as follows:

Timeline

1. *The Governance Task Force will bring their recommendations for changes to the existing governance structure to the September 16, 2021, Council Meeting for discussion and approval.*

The NYLA membership will have an opportunity to review and comment on proposed changes to NYLA’s governance structure and by-laws from September 23 – October 25, 2021.

The Governance Task Force will report on member feedback and final recommendations at the November 3, 2021, Council Meeting.

The Governance Task Force will present final recommendations to the NYLA membership at the Membership Meeting held at the Annual Conference in Syracuse, NY, November 3-6, 2021.

2. *The Governance Task Force will bring recommended changes to Council roles and responsibilities to the November 3, 2021, Council meeting for discussion and approval.*
3. *The Governance Task Force will bring a revised Executive Director job description to the September 16, 2021, Council meeting for discussion and approval.*

- iv. Tom Vitale made a motion to approve the recommended membership for the task force with the addition of a representative from the Youth Services Section. Jean Currie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports

- a. **Balanced Budget Task Force** – Cassie Guthrie reported that the Balanced Budget Task Force (BBTF) continues with its work as scheduled and is on pace to make its deadlines for reports to Council. The next meeting will be the week after Labor Day. Lisa Kropp asked about the members of the BBTF, given the changes in leadership. Cassie Guthrie reported that the BBTF consists of the President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, Treasurer, and

the past three (3) Treasurers. Currently, Beth Merkle, Cassie Guthrie, Tim Burke, and Kelly Harris are serving. Cassie Guthrie reached out to Claudia Depkin, Grace Riario, and Roger Reyes to see if they would like to continue their work with the task force. Roger Reyes has agreed to continue to serve; Claudia Depkin and Grace Riario had not responded by the time of the Council meeting.

- b. Pathways Task Force – Tim Furgal reported that work continues with a slight adjustment to the timeline of deliverables. In May of 2021, Tim began looking into applying for IMLS applied research grant in partnership with Syracuse University to fund the work of the Task Force over a three-year period. Tim asked to delay the December 31, 2021, deadline for delivering the planned white paper and framework to Council until he hears back from IMLS regarding the grant application. Lisa Kropp spoke to the need for Council to have more information on NYLA’s involvement in IMLS grants.
 - c. Advocacy
 - i. Cassie Guthrie explained the legislative process for new Council members who might not have been part of the process before. The Director of Government Relations and the Legislative Committee work over the summer months on a recommendation that is presented to Council at the September meeting. Library Advocacy Day will be a hybrid event (virtual and in-person components) on March 2, 2022. Cassie made note that we now have the first female governor in New York, and the first governor from outside of the New York City metropolitan area in over a century: Kathy Hochul. Bri reported that Hochul appointed Brian Benjamin as Lieutenant Governor. Benjamin is from downstate and has been involved in housing and social reform in the past. Bri is excited to see how Hochul and Benjamin interact with the legislature, what their budget will be, and the content of the State of the State address. The new leadership gives NYLA an opportunity to create new talking points with a new tone and refresh the information and how we disseminate information. Hochul has already shown that she is an ally of libraries – she worked closely with the NYPL during the pandemic on at least four separate occasions. Cassie said that the Legislative Committee will have a lot more information to share at the September 16, 2021 Council meeting.
 - ii. Art Friedman asked about ALA’s Key Contact program. James Teliha is involved with this group and will provide an update to Council at the next meeting.
 - d. Conference (attached)
 - e. Inclusion Internship Initiative (attached)
5. Review / Adjournment
- b. James Teliha made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tom Vitale. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Merkle, NYLA President
September 8, 2021