



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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NYLA Council Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 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: Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, Jessica Pacciotti, Sarah Glogowski, Amanda Travis, Mickey Cherry, Frank McKenna, Ellen Rubin, Swadesh Pachnanda, Rob Lusak, Terry Mulee, Colleen Smith, Christina Romeo.

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda

- a. President Beth Merkle called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.
- b. Meg VanPatten made the motion to approve the agenda for the Special Meeting of NYLA Council of October 13, 2021. Karen Sperrazza seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. Bylaw Update Recommendations from Governance Task Force
 - i. Articles: Overview of Recommended Changes, each article should be voted on separately. First is a change in article language.

MOTION: Articles I & II condensed to avoid redundancy.

Motioned by: AnnaLee Dragon. Seconded by: Dawn Pressimone

Approved unanimously

- ii. Article III:

- Clarification of who in an organizational membership is considered a personal member and clarification of organizational membership and trustees designated as personal members or under LTA rider.
- Change in allocation of dues to sections from “25%” to “a percentage” to provide flexibility.

Recommended the percentage be set to a minimum of 20% so as to give sections some stability. However, flexibility is also important, so an annual evaluation by vote of council should be conducted at the time of the next budget approval to reflect activity. The distribution of funds to roundtables and specifications on their allocations should be updated as well as the financial handbook/policies.

Discussion about further clarification in language included in organizational/personal/trustee memberships Bylaws. The technical wording surrounding voting privileges within memberships, discounts, and membership type perks were adjusted and clarified.

MOTION: Approve changes to Article III

Made by: Jean Currie

Seconded by: Jim Teliha

Approved unanimously

iii. Article IV:

- Addition of specific language about the search committee and process for selecting an Executive Director
- We were trying to keep the search committee at a reasonable size to be effective and to make sure that the 3 types of libraries were equitably represented. There are certainly different sections for functions (many of which are aligned more with the public library than academic or school), but we thought that the 3 representatives from type of library would have enough understanding of the broad needs of their library that they could speak for the members in different functions. (Barb Stripling)

MOTION: Approve changes in language to Article IV.

Motioned by: Tom Vitale

Seconded by: Dawn Pressimone

Approved unanimously

iv. Article V:

- Clarification of who can serve as Section and Regional Chapter representatives to Council
- Changes to language surrounding council/people councilors and Board of Directors

MOTION: Acceptance of changes in Article V

Motioned by: AnnaLee Dragon

Seconded by: Ginger Tebo

Approved unanimously

- v. Article VI:
Committees – Clarification of nomination process and timeline – conflict between Article V, Section 2.52 and Article VI, Section 3.2.1.1
 - Council needs to decide the timeline in nominating committee section
- vi. Article XII- IX: No changes made

MOTION: Approve Article X
Made by: Beth Merkle
Seconded by: Meg Van Patten
Approved unanimously

- vii. Article XI:

MOTION: Change “Director” to “Councilor”
Made by: AnnaLee Dragon
Seconded by: Meg Van Patten
Approved unanimously

- viii. Article XII: Fundamental Corporate Changes
 - By-law amendment changes congruent to when they’re permitted to take place required clarity. Language needs to be adjusted according to number of ballots being casted.
 - Specifications needed for virtual voting capabilities during the annual conference and how members will be able to vote in person versus online.
 - Changes in the number of ballots as well as the amount of time members have to review and comment on any proposed amendments to the bylaws.

MOTION: Approve changes to Article XII
Made by: Jean Currie
Seconded by: Jim Teliha
Approved unanimously

All amendments and recommendations are approved. However, definitions in the bylaws need to be clarified and updated in the appendix

3. Review/Adjournment

- a. Treasurer Kelly Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 PM, and it was seconded by Jim Teliha. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Merkle, President
December 14, 2021