



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX
info@nyla.org
www.nyla.org

NYLA Council Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 23, 2021

11:00 AM – 1:00 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; 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: Arlene La Verde, President-Elect; Jane Verostek, Councilor-at-Large; Treasurer-Elect [VACANT]

Guests: Liz Burns, Anne de la Chapelle, Maura Albertson, Kevin Verbese, Frank McKenna, Erica Freudenberger, Jen Park, Rosemary Winters, Glenna Wisniewski, Al Oliveras, Courtney Tsahalís, Emily Spinner, Lisa Richland, Jill Hurst-Wahl, Dave Jones, Rob Lusak, Terry Lucas, Marcie Litjens, Laurie Rosenthal, Rebecca Mulhearn-Budinger, Jennifer Ferriss, Jennifer Fowler, Ellen Rubin, Lisa Erickson, Mamie Eng, Henry Wal, Eric Trahan, Lisa Palmer, Roger Reyes, Terry Mulee, Mickey Cherry, Sarah Potwin, Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Laura Osterhout, Marc Horowitz, Amy Peker, Susan LeBlanc, Tony Iovino, Jay Dela Cruz, Nicola McDonald, Lisa Jacobs, Michael Squillante.

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
 - a. President Beth Merkle called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.
 - b. President Beth Merkle asked for a motion to add approval of the transfer of funds to fulfill an employee separation agreement under Unfinished Business. Kelly Harris made the motion and Tom Vitale seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
2. Approval of Minutes from August 5, 2021, Meeting
 - a. The following amendments were recommended to the minutes of the August 5 meeting: identifying and noting the time of adjournment; correcting the spelling of Mr. Teliha's name throughout; addition of the information that four members of the Executive Committee left the meeting before it ended; and correction of "project budgets" to "program budgets" in item 5.a.ii. Karen Sperrazza made the motion to

approve the minutes of the August 5, 2021, as amended. Jean Currie seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from August 12, 2021, Meeting
 - a. Approve with following changes: removal of the reference to the meeting being a continuation of the August 5 meeting; clarify motions and seconds for award winners; attach referenced appendices. James Teliha made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2021, as amended. Karen Sperrazza seconded the motion. Cassie Guthrie, Alana Mutum, Meg Van Patten, and Steven Bachman abstained from voting due to not being present at the August 12 meeting. Motion passed with 15 votes for approval.
4. Anna Lee Dragon moved for the Council to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel issues. Motion seconded by Alana Mutum. Approved unanimously.

The Council reconvened in Executive Session at 11:27 a.m.

Jean Currie made a motion to leave Executive Session. The motion was seconded by James Teliha. Approved unanimously.

The Council returned to open session at 12:15 p.m.

5. Cassie Guthrie made a motion to charge the Executive Committee in recommending changes to the job description for Interim Executive Director and to reach out to individuals that have been identified as potential candidates and to report back to Council at the September 9, 2021, meeting. Tom Vitale seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
6. Unfinished Business
 - a. Approval of transfer of funds to fulfill Employee Separation Agreement – Tom Vitale made a motion that Council authorizes a fund transfer from NYLA’s invested cash account to the NYLA operating account to pay its obligations under the Separation of Employment Agreement negotiated with Mr. Jeremy Johannesen. James Teliha seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
7. New Business
 - a. Update authorized signers on the SEFCU bank accounts – James Teliha made the following motion:

Whereas a change in leadership of NYLA took place, and,

Whereas the financial institutions at which NYLA conducts its banking activities requires that NYLA designate those individuals who are authorized to sign checks and receive financial statements,

Be it hereby resolved that effective immediately, only the following individuals are authorized to be signatories on NYLA banking accounts: Elizabeth Merkle and Kelly Harris.

Be it hereby resolved that effective immediately, the following individuals be removed as signatories on NYLA banking accounts: Dr. Jennifer Cannell, Michelle Young, Roger Reyes, and Jeremy Johannesen.

Cassie Guthrie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- b. Approve appointments to Nominating Committee (to seek candidates for Treasurer-Elect) - Lisa Kropp made the following motion:

Be it resolved that, due to a declared vacancy in the office of Treasurer-elect, Council authorizes the Nominating Committee to conduct a Special Election, open to voting by the NYLA membership from September 15-October 15, 2021, to fill the position of NYLA Treasurer-Elect to serve for a term from October 15, 2021, through end of the 2023 NYLA Annual Conference, with nominations due, in accordance with the bylaws, no later than September 3, 2021.

President Beth Merkle submits the following names of NYLA members to serve as the Nominating Committee to solicit nominations for the position of Treasurer-elect and conduct an election to fill the vacancy that exists:

- Barbara Stripling, Immediate Past-President
- Meg Van Patten, PLS President
- Dawn Pressimone, SSL President
- AnnaLee Dragon, LAMS representative
- Angela Hackstadt, ASLS representative

Kelly Harris seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Review / Adjournment

- a. Kelly Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Meg Van Patten. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Merkle, NYLA President
August 24, 2021

Upcoming NYLA Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday, August 25 – Special Meeting

Thursday, September 9 – Special Meeting

Thursday, September 16 – Update Meeting

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 @ NYLA Conference in Syracuse

FULL meetings are 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM / Update Meetings are 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM



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NYLA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 19, 2021

3:00 PM – 3:50 PM

Conducted Via Zoom

In Attendance: Beth Merkle, President; Barbara Stripling, Immediate Past President; Kelly Harris, Treasurer; Arlene La Verde, President-Elect

Absent: Treasurer-Elect [VACANT]

Purpose: Interim Executive Director Position

The Executive Committee met on August 19, 2021, to discuss the options for an Interim Executive Director for NYLA. Beth Merkle had explored management firm options and Barbara Stripling had sought recommendations for retired library or non-profit individuals in the Albany area that might be a good fit for the association. The Executive Committee intends to present these options for discussion by the full Council in an Executive Session at the August 23, 2021, Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Merkle, NYLA President
August 24, 2021



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NYLA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 23, 2021

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Conducted Via Zoom

In Attendance: Beth Merkle, President; Barbara Stripling, Immediate Past President; Kelly Harris, Treasurer

Absent: Arlene La Verde, President-Elect; Treasurer-Elect [VACANT]

Purpose: Governance Task Force Charge and Composition

The Executive Committee met on August 23, 2021, at the request of the NYLA President to discuss her recommendation to Council that a Governance Task Force be created. A charge, composition, and timeline were discussed, and Barbara Stripling was tasked with preparing documents to be shared with Council in advance of the August 25, 2021, Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Merkle, NYLA President
August 24, 2021