

Liaison Report to DA from MHLS Board Meeting

July 13, 2011

MHLS Auditorium

Trustees Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baker Brill, Lisa (Greene) | <input type="checkbox"/> Miller, Martin (Putnam) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benton Profera, Caroline (Greene) | <input type="checkbox"/> Miller, Patricia (Putnam) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bickford, John (Dutchess) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor, Michael (Ulster) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conine, Bill (Greene) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patterson, Roland (Dutchess) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ehnebuske, Jean (Putnam) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perry, Matthew (Columbia) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hoffmann, Peter (Ulster) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sameth, Myrna (Ulster) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MacNish, Steve (Dutchess) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schnitzer, Janet (Columbia) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuttle, Jim (Columbia) |

Staff Present: Peggy Winn, Linda Vittone, Mike Nyerges, Laurie Shedrick, Merribeth Advocate, Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich

Directors Present: Erica Freudenberger (Red Hook), Tom Lawrence (PPLD)

Visitors: Mary Keelan, Susan D. Lorenzo, Frank Van Zanten

Action Items:

1. Agenda - Approved
2. Minutes of May 11, 2011 – Approved
3. Minutes of June Executive Committee Meeting – Approved
4. Financial Report for April – Approved
5. Financial Report for May – Approved
6. Warrant for May – Approved
7. Warrant for June – Approved
8. Appointment of Myrna Sameth (Trustee of Saugerties Public Library)as Ulster County representative to MHLS BOT – Approved
9. Direct Access Plan – Approved
10. Material Modification to Flexible Spending Account Plan -- Approved

Discussion Items:

1. Myrna Sameth replaces MHLS trustee Sally Rhoads to represent Ulster County.
2. Nyerges reported on Finance Committee's meeting to review a draft of the Preliminary Budget for 2012 – restricted fund balances of 58% of total expenditures will support cash flow 2012-2014. Expect the state aid to be cut again. Member fees will be collected in 2012, with no planned increases for 2013 & 2014.
3. Negotiations with CSEA will focus on cost-of living increases for 2011 & 2012. Planning & Personnel Committee will be reviewing compensation & benefits in the fall.
4. Capital repairs may begin this fall to address safety concerns in parking lot & upkeep of auditorium. MHLS will submit a grant application to the Public Library Construction Grant Program to help defray costs. Should MHLS be awarded a grant, it would match funds at a higher rate than 50%.
5. Finance Committee discussed GASB 45 review and report; cost of retiree health benefits will affect future MHLS budgets (retirees currently account for 67% of health insurance costs at MHLS). Concern that this unfunded liability could potentially affect the credit rating of MHLS, auditors suggest MHLS put \$270K aside each year to cover future health care costs.
6. Plan of Service is in its final draft. The DA will need to endorse the plan before it is adopted by MHLS BOT on September 14.

7. Finance Committee Report: Tom Lawrence expressed concern about the level of unrestricted fund balances in the preliminary budget and reminded the Board about the level agreed to in exchange for 2012 member assessments. Nyerges indicated that the budget projections are very tentative and ongoing adjustments can still be expected.
8. Planning and Personnel Committee Report: MHLS BOT will aim to visit at least two BOTs of member libraries each year; Trustee Bickford recommends establishing measurements to monitor whether MHLS is meeting the needs of member libraries; Annual Survey will be coming, focusing on the items that are in the 5-year plan; Director's Evaluation is being revisited by the committee, Nyerges suggested interviewing senior staff for their input as well.
9. Mary Keelan, representing a number of MHLS retirees, expressed concern that they are being asked to contribute to health insurance costs.

*Next meeting 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 14, at MHLS Auditorium
Respectfully submitted by Erica Freudenberger*