Minutes

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board Meeting December 11, 2021 Zoom Conference Call

Present:

- Kathy Enger Executive Director, NLLN
- Glenn Heinecke, President, NLLN; NLLN School Library Representative; Media Specialist, Roseau School
- Linda Schell, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Reed Olson, Vice President, NLLN; Kitchigami Regional Library Representative (KRLS); Beltrami County Commissioner
- Sheri Levasseur, Secretary, NLLN; School Library Representative; Teacher Librarian, Pequot Lakes Public School
- Linda Holecek, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Nanette Albright, Viking Library System Representative (VLS); Children and Young Adult Librarian, Pelican Rapids Public Library
- Deb Keena, Office Manager, NLLN
- Aleta Sanford, Intern, NLLN
- 1. Call to Order.
 - a. 10:00 AM
- 2. Agenda vote for approval.
 - a. Linda S., Reed MCU
- 3. Minutes from September 18, 2021, meeting vote for approval.
 - a. Reed, Sheri MCU
- 4. Financial Reports vote for approval.
 - a. The profit and loss statement is at the 40% spent mark, which is appropriate for being 5 months into the fiscal year.
 - b. Sheri, Linda S. MCU
- 5. Old Business.
 - a. October 30, 2021, Destiny Training.
 - i. Glenn hosted about 15 attendees at MSUM from all over the region. It went very well, with great questions and discussion. Another session is planned for February.
 - b. Monthly library conversations.
 - i. These have been happening every month and have had some very interesting discussions.
 - c. eBooks for LARL.

- i. The Board has determined to send \$5,000 annually to each of the four regional public library systems. LARL just received theirs for eBooks and has used it to create a feature in which schools can connect with LARL to access their eBook collection through Overdrive without needing a library card. Two schools have partnered already.
- d. Ongoing support for Ojibwe collections.
 - i. NLLN has a budget line item for this each year. This year the Circle of Life Academy requested the funds be used for purchasing graphic novels. NLLN ordered the books through Macken, which sets them up so they're cataloged and sent directly to the library. The books have been received and are now circulating in the Circle of Life Academy library.
- e. Diversifying collections and antiracist library culture training from ALA through Metronet.
 - i. The Federal government gave Minnesota funds through ARPA, and the Metronet multitype system has used the funds to offer two workshops for all librarians in the state. One about diversifying collections and the other for antiracist library training. Five people from our region attended and there was a good turnout from across the state.
- f. Media Landscapes Training (23 Things) ongoing. https://levelupmn.org/23things/
 - i. The multitype systems, the Star Tribune, and Minitex are offering this as a media landscape approach with modules people can go through to learn about and address misinformation and disinformation propagated by new forms of media that no longer require fact verification before distribution.

6. New Business.

- a. New accounting firm with Olsen, Thielen, CPA.
 - i. NLLN partnered with Mosaic Consulting for approximately 15 years until their last accountant recently retired. After a request for proposals, a new firm was selected. It has been working out very well. Particularly, the use of a secure portal to submit financial reports has been a big improvement.
- b. David and Marilyn Bengston donation.
 - i. David was an English teacher and poet and Marilyn was the choir director at Long Prairie for many years. They are now cleaning out their book collection and have donated five boxes to NLLN. They will be distributed to libraries when possible.
- c. Support for the Wesley Hospital building in Wadena and the Wadena County Historical Society.
 - i. Lina Belar, a member of the NLLN Board and director of the Wadena County Historical Society, is in the process of acquiring the Wesley hospital building as the new location for the Historical Society. An

ongoing process, it would be a good move and provide more space for the large collection of historical artifacts and it has a space for archives.

d. Story walks and DVDs from MDE.

- i. The Minnesota Department of Education has donated some story walks and DVDs to NLLN as MDE moves from large offices to a smaller space due to the changes during the pandemic. These will also be distributed to the region when possible.
- e. Comstock-Gag Read Aloud Book Award participation.
 - i. Kathy is participating this year in the program, established at MSUM. Participants receive books they can then donate to libraries. Kathy's will be distributed throughout the region.
- f. Library Strategies consulting.
 - i. Kathy is now on the list to do some consulting for this organization run by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library. It will likely be a small and intermittent time commitment, but she is now on their list for when they need consultants.
 - ii. Glenn has also been doing impromptu consulting projects throughout the NLLN region on an as needed basis for things like Destiny training, managing collections, and other needs in our region.

g. Reports from the region.

- i. Linda Schell noted that Detroit Lakes just rolled out the recommendations from their consultation with Library Strategies and is seeing the positive impact. The original Carnagie library has been transformed into the Youth section and made appealing to that demographic. Since then, it has been great to see kids' excitement to go to that part of the library. Additionally, they are forming a facilities committee to maintain the interior and exterior appeal of the library and to improve things in the future.
- ii. Nanette Albright has moved from the Pelican Rapids High School to the Pelican Rapids Public Library and now serves as the Children and Young Adult Librarian. She has started a book club for teens and has seen a good turnout. Additionally, she hosts a weekly story time for younger children.
- iii. As a person devoted to intellectual freedom and the library bill of rights, Sheri is working with the new administration at Pequot Lakes to protect the library's collection and students' access to important information, sometimes being less vocal about representative works and careful about using politicized terms in order to protect the collection as a whole and students' access to it.
- iv. Linda Holecek is doing well in Breckenridge.

7. Adjourn 10:55 AM.