

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK LIBRARY COUNCIL

Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, February 10, 2012 10:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Colleen Cuddy, Milan Hughston, Norman Jacknis, James Neal, Jeffrey Olson, Patricia Skarulis, LaRuth Gray, Thomas Galante, Hal Higginbotham, Ann Thornton

Not Present: Heike Kordish, Betty Rosa, Sandra Galef

Staff: Jason Kucsma, Executive Director President

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING:

- Jason Kucsma to provide plan outline by April 1, 2012 for Board consideration.
- Bylaws revision to be voted on at next Board Meeting on May 7, 2012.
- Colleen Cuddy to draft resolution regarding Board comment on Research Works Act.

Norm Jacknis called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Jeff Olson moved to accept the minutes from the November 10, 2011 Board meeting. Hal Higginbotham seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Jason Kucsma presented a detailed update on activities at METRO, focusing on service areas (digital services, professional development, documentary heritage program, member services, delivery, and hospital library services).

Norman asked that Board get a calendar of all events, and Jason said he would make sure the Board was added to important distribution lists for METRO emails. Jason also encouraged the Board to let him know if they know of potential speakers coming to NYC that they think METRO should host for the members.

Jim Neal offered some suggestions for possible programmatic areas for METRO, including:

- Digital Public Library of America is moving from more theoretical areas to now having some initiatives/momentum that our members should be aware of and involved in.
- Digital Preservation Network: nodal framework with Virginia, Michigan, Stamford leading way
- Web Collection/Archiving: stewardship of born digital materials
- Last Copy Print Repository: strategic movement/conversations happening around this in regions throughout N. America.
- Open Access: progress being made on this front (legislation; Elsevier boycott, etc...)

Milan Hughston agreed that web archiving is a priority and cited a NYARC (Mellon-funded) planning grant to look into opportunities.

Jim also recommended that Ebooks are an important front for METRO to consider when programming. Publishers recently met with ALA in NYC. Jim is talking at American Association of Publishers.

Hal Higginbotham delivered the finance report, which is generally positive. Government funding for FY 11/12 has been received, and the budget for 2012/13 has been proposed with flat funding for the year (same level as previous year). METRO's expenses are well within the proposed budget ranges, suggesting that there is room for more growth. Personnel expansion is needed to realize new strategic initiatives.

Hal mentioned that a strategy for managing the fund balance for METRO is necessarily tied to new strategic initiatives, and proposed such conversations might be best positioned after strategic growth areas have been proposed/considered. Conversations will focus around how much of the fund balance should be set aside for emergency operating expenses (one year? no opposition to this approach).

Break at 11:45a.m.

Milan Hughston mentioned that MOMA will be holding an Open House on March 13 from 10:00a.m. to 7:00p.m for LIS students. METRO will be represented at this Open House.

Jason provided a brief summary of the membership levels, proposing that current levels are broadly defined enough to be inclusive to a wide range of organizations not currently METRO members. METRO's attorney recommended changes to the bylaws to incorporate individual myMETRO members. Those changes will be voted on at the next meeting.

Jason initiated a discussion around strategic plan, and invited input from the Board. METRO has been doing things that fit with strategic goals, such as regular lecture series, conferences, etc. Jason cited a need to diversify METRO's sources of revenue, and is working on an "Engagement Kit" for potential underwriters/sponsors/partners. One revenue source might be realized in a staffing program for our members, providing short- and long-term placement for new and seasoned professionals coming out of the LIS programs in the region.

Jim stated that METRO (and the membership community) needs to focus on the 21st Century Library Collections/Services/Staff. How do we realize all of these changes? Professional development is a key component here, one that is not necessarily supported by member institutions internally; suggesting METRO stands to play an even larger role in this arena than it has in the past.

Tom Gallante stated that he would like to see more collaboration between public library and universities (online/distance education, for example. While it might exceed METRO's resources, bringing technologies under one roof could help members realize efficiencies). What about

unified services where one library card gets access to all public libraries; leave a book at one library, and it will find its way back to its home library.

Ann Thornton mentioned that we are seeing real movement in libraries from cooperative initiatives to doing real deep collaboration between institutions.

Jeff agreed, and stated that although LIS programs have traditionally had very strong senses of competition between each other, there is room for more collaboration. Norm asked if there was a way for METRO to help facilitate organizing online courses for staff/students?

Tom discussed the focus of NYLA, stating that the organization's work is critical, but that most of the rural/urban distinctions made at the state level are less relevant to our members. Still, METRO can play an important role in hosting conferences like NYLA for members in the city and surrounding regions.

Jim agreed and suggested METRO ramp up our existing ideas and brand them accordingly, "METRO University" or "METRO Academy," for example. METRO might also consider: innovation awards for library-specific apps, think tank meetings in the region around key issues, etc...

Jason mentioned that some of these ideas are in the works, for example, changing the focus of our annual meeting or do it with quarterly meetings -- also recommended by Colleen. Jason mentioned hosting two yearly project briefing sessions for members to discuss new initiatives, successes/failures, etc...

Tom suggested that METRO might consider doing more networking events as well and endorsed the idea of think tank meetings, which could generate some revenue while providing a key service for the membership.

Jason mentioned that METRO will soon launch Community Partnerships Program, an initiative aimed at providing leadership for professional organizations serving librarians/archivists/information professionals in the region as well as an entree into METRO for potential members. Additional staff will be needed to realize these kinds of projects; someone whose job it is to work on events/opportunities for bringing our members together.

Milan asked if it would be possible to get a seat at the table for technology campus on Roosevelt Island. Colleen said that work is already moving along, MSKCC is involved.

Norm asked Jason to prepare a proposal by April 1st that outlines new directions and financial resources needed to realize them for the Board to consider before May meeting.

Tom agreed and offered to help if a working list of items is available for consideration.

The group turned to new business. Colleen mentioned that The Research Works Act is a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Darrell Issa and Carolyn Maloney that proposes to eliminate the requirement for publications resulting from NIH-funded research to be deposited in

NIH's digital repository, PubMed Central. Colleen would like to propose a resolution that the Board write Carolyn Maloney to discuss our concerns with the bill on behalf of our member libraries and the library and communities at-large.

LaRuth said that a resolution should be drafted, allowing the Board to comment on these types of issues as they arise. Colleen will work on a resolution and distribute via email.

October will mark Jason's anniversary as Director. There are significant opportunities to show movement/change/vision in this period that should be seized upon.

Per requests at the prior meeting, Jason distributed a roster of Board members and a snapshot of finances for all 3Rs organizations.

Pat asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Milan seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:35.