



NCPLDA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes 8/16/12
Asheville, NC

In attendance were: Dan Barron, Becky Callison, Ruth Ann Copley, Elizabeth House, Louise Humphrey, Jennifer Pratt, Jody Risacher, Ed Sheary, Cal Shepard, David Singleton, Lynn Thompson, Harry Tuchmayer, Mollie Westmoreland, and Carol Wilson.

NCPLDA President Carol Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Carol asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes for the March 2012 meeting. Harry Tuchmayer moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Louise Humphrey. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Treasurer Louise Humphrey passed out copies of the Treasurer's report for discussion.

- She noted that it is reconciled monthly with the online bank statement.
- She noted that she had dropped a \$2 monthly charge for a service from BB&T as it was unnecessary.
- Louise brought attention to the Ancestry payments recorded on the report. The county libraries former in regional systems will be rebilled as individual libraries.
- In October, a new annual cost for the Ancestry database will be received and distributed to the participating members.
- The donations by Friends groups were slightly under what was projected.

Library Representative Reports:

- Regional: Jackie Beach had reported via email to Carol that there was nothing to report.
- Municipal: Lynn Thompson reported that Kathleen Thompson was retiring from Chapel Hill Library. Lynn hoped that there would be some recognition of her service to the library community. Ed Sheary reported that this was in the works. Lynn reported that municipal libraries are concerned about State Aid.
- County Libraries: Becky Callison reported that the main concerns for county libraries are money, budgets and State Aid.

State Library Report: Cal asked those present for specifics of their concerns regarding State Aid. There was some discussion of revisiting the formula. Cal reported that currently the State Library, under the auspices of the State Library Commission, is looking at affiliated and non-affiliated libraries to see if the State library can offer support. However, state library staff members are aware of the complexity of the issue. These range from libraries a short distance from receiving state-aid to small facilities offering a variety of services through the use of volunteers. This issue is related to State Aid, of course. If some of these libraries are added for support, there will be less State Aid for the libraries currently receiving funds. A discussion of the state aid history and formulation began. According to Ed Sheary, the formula was set up in

order to help equalize funding. But it was also formulated to overcome the inherent inequities if adequate funding was applied. Adequate funding would be \$35-40 million range and it would become a per capita fund. Any change in the formula would not require legislation. No decision was made to pursue revisiting the formula. The State Library will continue with completion of the study of the affiliated and nonaffiliated libraries. This will yield more information on the state of library service in North Carolina.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg question: Dan Barron reported that there is a genuine concern over the organizational structure of the newly-reorganized library system and that it could have impact on other libraries if the funding entities look for a different structure. Correspondence and other information had been requested and received this summer from both the State Library and Charlotte-Mecklenburg. On July 23rd they received a five page informational letter accompanied by legal justifications stating that the structure appears to be legal. CML is unique given that it was created by the General Assembly, and a specific local statute was passed outlining the structure which defines CML as its own entity, not a department of county or city government. According to the organizational chart, the CEO (the position does not require a MLS) reports directly to the Board, while the Library Director does not. The CEO appears to have oversight over the library as a department while the Director has oversight over daily operations.

David Singleton, Library Director of the Charlotte/Mecklenburg system, was in attendance and participated in the discussion. Louise asked David to comment on how well the current structure is working. David said that currently the CEO spends most of his time fundraising and building relationships in the community, and that David is completely in charge of the strategic plan for the library. He said that currently he and the CEO are working well together and the CEO is not interested in making library decisions, but he acknowledged that could change. David said he has told the board that he doesn't believe that this is a long term solution. He suggested to the board that it should be a joint reporting to the board of himself and the CEO, but the board chose the current structure. He said that they are still working to build the library system back up, that they still have several branches with limited hours, but that having 2 leaders doing different things has helped them towards recovery. The CEO has a goal of raising \$1 million per year, which he himself could do, but it would be harder to do that and the work he is doing. He said he understands the concerns, but he is just trying to do what his library board has asked him to do.

Dan said that in no way was the intent of the committee to undermine David.

Dan said the committee asked Ed Sheary to look at the letter. Ed reported that he had asked a lawyer he knows who is familiar with state law about the situation. She said that a local law can supersede state law if it is specific. She suggested that further legal review by an attorney with more experience dealing with state law would be advisable.

Dan asked that we consider the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing the issue. Louise was concerned about the financial drain on the organization. Ed brought up the possible political concerns, particularly considering that Mecklenburg controls the General Assembly and the next governor is likely to be from Mecklenburg.

Becky said she felt it was important to pursue the issue to retain the integrity of the title of professional librarian. Harry expressed concern that any county trying to save money might decide to combine the library with parks and recreation department for organizational efficiency.

Dan suggested that we could send a letter expressing our concerns and asking them to comply

with the state statute mandating that the CEO be a certified public librarian.

Ed expressed concern that any county could pass a local bill such as Mecklenburg's. He suggested we get a proper legal opinion from an attorney with expertise in state legal issues.

Cal said that DCR's position is that CML is unique and this situation couldn't occur in any other library in the state, and if one tried, State Library could simply deny their eligibility for State Aid.

Dan said if the committee chose to pursue the matter he would consult with our lobbyist Theresa Kostrzewa to get her recommendation as to Raleigh attorneys who might be qualified to advise us on the matter.

After consulting the treasurer's financial report, the committee's consensus was that the organization could afford to spend up to \$5000 on attorney fees to analyze and deliver his opinion.

Dan moved that the committee consult with an attorney specializing in state level legal issues to find out how much it would cost to render an opinion on the legality of CML's current structure. The committee could then vote electronically whether to proceed with hiring the attorney. Becky seconded the motion. The 4 voting members present voted unanimously to approve.

Cal said she would let the Department of Cultural Resources know our intent.

Carol asked if there was any other business.

Harry asked if he could get clarification as to the relationship of the LSTA funding for NC Cardinal and other LSTA funding. Cal explained that the project is currently being funded by LSTA to set up the project and migrate libraries to the open source software, but that NC Cardinal will eventually be supported by its member libraries. Each library is given an LSTA grant to migrate, and the statewide project grant is for maintenance each year, but once established the member libraries will pay the maintenance costs.

Harry asked how much LSTA money is being eaten up by NC Cardinal, and if libraries getting these grants are also eligible for other LSTA grants. Jennifer said that the annual cost will be \$300,000 but that money is not coming out of the portion used for competitive grants, and that yes, NC Cardinal libraries are still eligible for competitive grants. Becky expressed concern that the \$500,000-600,000 used for the first year of setting up NC Cardinal was the same amount that was not being offered for School Collection Strengthening Grants. Jennifer said that the money for schools is still there, but they have decided to look for a better way to spend that money that will have a greater benefit, such as a digital collection of K-12 materials that would be available to all school libraries and also be available to public libraries, such as E-Brary.

Lynn Thompson asked if there is some way that information from NCPLDA meetings can be shared more quickly for the benefit of those unable to attend. Elizabeth said that she can post minutes more quickly, and Cal said that she is posting monthly State Library reports online, and that webinars will be archived online.

Carol asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Becky moved to adjourn, and Lynn seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elizabeth House and Jody Risacher.