

URBAN LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS CONSORTIUM (ULAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 27, 2023 10:00am – Meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Sheryl Bass (Durham), Mat Bose (Concord), Sylvie Brikiatis (Windham), Deann Hunter (Laconia), Yvette Couser (Merrimack), Marti Fiske (Keene), Miriam Johnson (Bedford), Denise LaFrance (Dover), Marie Lejeune (Rochester), Jen McCormack (Nashua), Heather Rainier (Hooksett), Eric Stern (Derry), Denise Van Zanten (Manchester)

1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:12AM

2. Treasurer's Report – 12/31/2022 Balance: \$6,417.75. Thanks to Betsy for her service!

3. Association reports

a) NHSL – No update

b) NHAIS – No update

c) NHLA –

- Denise Van Zanten reports that Exec. Officers have met, first full membership meeting is in February. Keeping an eye on legislation. Christine Friese is requesting people to join the listserv for the advocacy section.
- Sylvie mentioned that she was surprised that the legislation that held municipal workers responsible for infringing on individual rights has resurfaced after being killed last year.
- Heather noted that NHLA should offer training for people willing to advocate for libraries. Denise agreed. She mentioned that it is a public speaking role and feels that it should be Library Directors stepping up to advocate. Denise also stated that she would like to see representation from libraries of different sizes and governance types.
- Heather inquired about HB 256 – Denise explained that the bill is aimed at requiring all public buildings with meeting spaces to let ALL groups in the public to use the public rooms.
 - Yvette reports that Merrimack has removed any control over content from their policies. Also, despite libraries being all over the policies regarding meeting space, other Town department in Merrimack do not have meeting room policies. Believes state is over-legislating when one problem occurs in one community.
 - Martie reports that while they don't have content requirements, they do charge for private meetings as opposed to public meetings, which are free.
 - Eric and Heather described a situation in Chelmsford. Church requested meeting room to do a "Pastor's storytime" that was intended to be a religious program. It was originally approved during a difficult time, but then cancelled. The pastor came back with the RSA that allowed them to have the event, the event was subsequently approved, but it was blasted all over social media. It turned into a whole mess with both sides reacting to the event. Heather stated that there was a simultaneous LGBTQ+ event on the day the "Pastor's storytime" occurred.
 - Deann added that libraries should make sure that policies include language so that it can't be inferred that events are sponsored by the Library.
 - Heather added that policies should require outside entities should include language in promotions that explicitly states that the program is not sponsored

by the Library.

- Yvette mentioned that their policies excludes canvassing and soliciting at the Library but the Town policy includes language that allows it. She advised to be on the lookout for conflicting policies.

d) NELA – No update

e) ALA; PLA – No Update

4. Old Business

- Tracking Digital Collections situation – laws/publisher news
 - Denise and Eric are tracking this. Eric inquired whether anyone has heard anything with regards to this.
 - Marti wondered if there was a statement from perhaps the ALA with regards to digital resource pricing issues and having to constantly explain what the situation is even to sales reps from the digital resource providers themselves.
 - Sylvie mentioned that it is hard to synthesize the problem into a one or two sentence statement and that perhaps that NHLA should work on Synthesizing a statement.
 - Marti suggested contacting State Legislators.
 - Sylvie mentioned that there was an op/ed piece in Publisher’s Weekly explaining why the issue was both bad for users and the publishing interesting.
 - Mat mentioned that Concord is considering Cloud Library, and inquired about a potential GMILCS collaboration. GMILCS currently uses Cloud Library.
- Follow-up re ULAC-sponsored presenter for NHLA Conference, 5/4 & 5/5 – Carol Kilmister
 - Eric followed up with Carol, who has agreed to stay overnight at the NHLA conference and present at the end of first day and beginning of second day.
 - Denise reports that the cost would be about \$300.00 for Carol to stay overnight at the hotel at Mill Falls with no mention of additional charges for mileage.
 - Eric asked for motion to approve expenditure of up to \$500.00 for presenter 5/4-5/5 Marti moved and Denise seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Follow-up re book/programming challenges at our libraries
 - Jen reported that they have been requested to buy the DVD series “The Chosen”. They have declined because they can’t get it through their required vendor. She feels that the situation may escalate. She also feels that the request to buy the DVD series is directly related to increased requests to use the meeting rooms by church groups.

5. New Business

- Appointing a new ULAC treasurer – Done! Heather Rainier is the new ULAC Treasurer. Eric will connect Heather with NHLA Treasurer Jess Delangie.
- Nashua Grant –
 - Congratulations to Nashua and Jen on receiving 3 million dollars in grants from Representative Kuster for major improvements to the Nashua Public Library Plaza.
 - Articles regarding the grant:
<https://kuster.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=5030>
<https://libraryaware.com/2PXXGJ?SID=31fafef6-3869-4a98-a063-acec7140fc0f>
- Library Fines –
 - Nashua also went fine free. Eric asked Jen if she would share the memo that she

- authored to those libraries that are still struggling to go fine free.
- Yvette also volunteered to share her documentation regarding advocating for fine free libraries.
 - Sylvie said that they went in phases, they started with auto-renewal about 18 months prior to go total fine free.
 - Denise LaFrance reports that she didn't have much of a fight with the City Council to go fine free.
 - Locking Bathrooms –
 - Deane asked how many libraries lock their bathrooms so that patrons have to ask for access to the restroom. About half the libraries lock their restrooms.
 - Laconia has had problems with drug use in bathrooms. She inquired about key procedures.
 - Marti responds that their keys are color-coded to the bathrooms in departments
 - Denise from Manchester reports that they do lock bathrooms but they are working with facilities to create three new fully accessible bathrooms. Also, reports that the public library, per the City solicitor, does not have to provide public restrooms since they don't serve food.
 - Marie in Rochester reports that they have a somewhat hybrid system locking the more problematic bathrooms only.
 - Mat reports that they lock bathrooms, and they closely monitor the keys and don't give them out freely.
 - Denise in Dover reports that they also lock their bathrooms.
 - Eric asked how many libraries have multiple changing tables. Most libraries have multiple changing tables, but libraries don't currently have adult changing tables.
 - Denise won a \$900,000.00 grant for lead paint remediation at the Manchester Library.
 - Eric reports that the Derry Children's Room is being re-carpeted and the project is nearing completion.
 - Denise reports that she is going to Sunapee to get a tour of the Library from Mindy Atwood.
 - Marti Fiske is going to on a Rotary Club service trip to Puerto Rico in February to plant trees with the local In-Tract group. She requested that Eric send sound panel pics from the meeting room outside of Lori Fisher's former office.

6. ADJOURNMENT 11:12AM

Next meeting: Friday, February 24th, 10am – NH State Library, Concord