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Utah State Library Board Electronic Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 12, 2020
10:00 a.m. –11:30 p.m.

Official Place of Board Meeting
Utah State Library
250 N. 1950 W. Ste A
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

State Library Board Attendees:

Marguerite Mower, Chair; Jon Ostler; Diane Carter; Lisa Ord; Jason E. Cornelius; and Sara Weibke

Utah State Library (USL) Staff:

Colleen Eggett, State Librarian/Division Director; Lisa Nelson, Blind and Disabled Program Manager; Marie Erickson, Library Resources Program Manager; Chaundra Johnson, Library Development Program Manager; Heidi Fendrick, State Data Coordinator; Merrily Cannon, Training Coordinator; Sharon Deeds, Youth Services Coordinator; and Amanda Rock, Administrative Secretary

Department of Heritage & Arts (DHA) Staff:

Jill Love, Executive Director; Katherine Potter, Deputy Director

Guests:

Bryan Alder, Assistant Attorney General

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Ms. Mower.

Introductions:

Those present verbally identified themselves.

Board Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2020:

Ms. Ord motioned to approve the minutes with no changes. Ms. Carter seconded the motion, and all voted in the affirmative.

Open Meetings Act training:

Mr. Nalder conducted the annual Open Meetings Act training for the board.

Director's Report:

Ms. Eggett expressed her thanks to outgoing board member, Linda Fields for serving two terms.

Covid-19 has changed how libraries are operating, Ms. Eggett updated the board on how Utah's libraries are navigating the pandemic. She stated that 76% of libraries are open, most with

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limited service. USL has been fully functional; half of the staff is working from home, the other half are working in the building, practicing social distancing and wearing masks.

Ms. Eggett shared information on how equality and inclusion are being addressed by Utah's libraries and USL. She stated many libraries are taking a stand, supporting protected classes, and using the current social movement as an opportunity to look at their systems to insure all are being included.

USL, like other State agencies, is dealing with budget decreases. Ms. Eggett shared that USL has lost two positions (one person is retiring, and the other position was not filled). She said staff will figure out how to absorb responsibilities and do without those positions.

DHA update:

Ms. Love addressed the study on the bookmobile program, stating she hopes the report will outline the best way to serve rural Utah. Ms. Potter shared that they've received over 400 responses to a survey sent to bookmobile constituents. She said they will have more information at the next board meeting.

Ms. Love detailed the work that DHA's divisions have done to assist the public during the pandemic. USERVE secured donations, and was tasked with setting up a hospital in three days' time. Arts and Museums has been assisting organizations who rely on ticket revenue. Multicultural Affairs is identifying needs in the community, and working on a subcommittee to address the high rates of Covid-19. Indian Affairs has been coordinating resources for Navajo Nation and other tribes affected. She said she was proud of USL staff, who pivoted quickly, remained open, and provided leadership and support to Utah's libraries.

Dashboard report:

Ms. Fendrick explained the statistics available on USL's website. She pointed out that downloads are up, showing it's a needed and valued resource. The numbers for inter-library loan and Book Buzz are down due to Covid-19. Training and contact numbers are up. Library staff are looking for training, and Ms. Cannon has been working hard to fulfill their needs.

Staff Reports

Blind and Disabled Program:

Ms. Nelson shared news that Vince Silas retired after 16 years of dedicated service to USL.

Marie Parker will manage the new Braille E-Reader project pilot, which is scheduled to start in July. Utah is one of four states chosen to participate. Patrons are excited about this new technology.

All states have renewed their braille contract.

Ms. Nelson expressed gratitude for the support she received while her staff worked in the building during the beginning of the pandemic. She said it was a tough time, but she was grateful for her staff and the support she received from DHA and USL admin.

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Library Development Program:

Ms. Johnson shared information about a project with San Juan library that will improve their tech infrastructure allowing them to serve their more isolated communities. CARES funding will be used in this project.

Development is also working with the Division of Indian Affairs, UETN, and tribal leadership from the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, and the Confederated Tribe of the Goshute to address their technology infrastructure and broadband connectivity.

Utah public libraries received grant money from the CARES funds. Using SNAP, unemployment, and broadband access data, Development was able to allot each library an amount that they could use for PPE as they re-open, as well as money to address digital inclusion.

There will be several webinars in August and September on digital inclusion and what librarians can do in their communities to address and help with this issue.

Development has worked with libraries and the bookmobiles on Summer Reading ideas during Covid and have been able to provide resources to libraries on what they can do for the summer.

Bookmobile Program:

Ms. Johnson announced the bookmobiles will be starting their summer routes on June 1. This will be a soft opening with no patrons on trucks, or inside headquarters. Patrons are expected to wear masks and practice social distancing. Returns will be quarantined for three days. Only one patron per family is allowed.

Millard bookmobile will unfortunately be closing June 30th. The Utah County Bookmobile will pick up routes in Vernon and Eureka so they can continue service.

Library Resources Program:

Ms. Erickson stated that inter-library loans and Book Buzz, the book group program, is starting to pick up again now that libraries are re-opening.

The digital services staff are in the middle of a migration to a new platform.

In the library, they are shifting books, making room for the books from the closing Millard Bookmobile.

Ms. Erickson explained that the online learning platform, Learning Express, which was previously funded by UEN, will now be funded by USL. She has approval for a two-year contract and is currently working with Purchasing to secure the platform.

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Adjourn:

Ms. Ord moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Ostler. All voted in the affirmative. Ms. Mower adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Upcoming State Library Board Meeting dates:
September 25, 2020
December 4, 2020