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UTAH STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 25, 2021

10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Electronic Meeting

State Library Board Attendees:

Marguerite Mower, Chair; Grace Acosta, Vice-Chair; Lisa Ord; Jon Oster; Diane Cater; Sara Wiebke; Dianne Aldrich

Utah State Library (USL) Staff:

Chaundra Johnson, State Librarian/Division Director; Lisa Nelson, Blind and Disabled Program Manager; Marie Erickson, Library Resources Program Manager; Heidi Fendrick, State Data Coordinator; Rachel Cook, Grants Coordinator; Brian Tober, State Agency Librarian/Metadata Cataloger; Merrily Cannon, Training Coordinator; Amanda Rock, Administrative Assistant

Department of Community and Cultural Engagement (CCE) Staff:

Jill Love, Executive Director; Katherine Potter, Deputy Director

This meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Ms. Mower.

Introductions:

Those present were identified by Ms. Mower.

Board meeting minutes for March 26, 2021:

Ms. Ord moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Carter. All board members voted in the affirmative.

OPMA Electronic Meeting Determination:

Ms. Mower read the statement, which allows an electronic meeting to take place without an anchor location.

Board Chair elect vote:

Ms. Mower thanked both Mr. Oster and Ms. Acosta for their service. Their terms end 6/30/2021, and this was their final meeting. Ms. Mower asked for nominations for the board chair elect, who serves as the vice-chair. Ms. Ord was nominated by Ms. Cater. The motion was seconded by Ms. Acosta and approved by all.

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Dept. of Cultural and Community Engagement update:

Ms. Love shared an update from the department and from the last legislative session. Ms. Potter stated work on the Museum of Utah is moving forward. She also mentioned that the department will be temporarily housed at 3700 S. Highland Drive.

Library Director and Library Development/Bookmobile Update:

Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Acosta and Mr. Oster for their service and dedication to the board and Utah's libraries. She asked for referrals for two new board members, one representing higher education, and another representing the public at large.

She shared information about the legislative session, including the Board of Education offering CARES funds to create a Digital Equity Position at USL. Liz Gabbitas was appointed as the Digital Access and Education Coordinator. She will work closely with several other agencies, organizations, and libraries to address digital equity needs and issues.

Ms. Johnson gave updates on Library Development, including a partnership with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to launch a website and awareness campaign for the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB). This project is a chance to offer affordable accessible connectivity to the public.

Library Development is partnering with the Natural History Museum of Utah and the Explorer Corps on a project where custom markers, produced by Utah's own O.C. Tanner, were placed in every county to celebrate an iconic natural or cultural history location in that area, showcasing Utah's diversity and richness. USL will aid in distributing passports to all Utah Libraries and Bookmobiles.

The second online UPLIFT training was held. The topic was Collection Development. Ms. Johnson said the class was well attended and had great feedback.

Ms. Johnson gave a brief update for the Bookmobile program, stating that most bookmobiles and headquarters are fully open. Bookmobile staff is preparing for back to school; they'll need to be flexible since some schools will be back to normal, but some might have safety protocols in place.

LSTA & ARPA funding update:

Ms. Cook stated all but two grant rounds will close by June 30, 2021. They've sent out 120 contracts in two months, which is the amount of contracts normally sent out in one year.

She asked the board for project ideas for using grant funds. She then shared two current projects: a hydroponic garden in Parowan to combat food insecurity. USL is partnering with The Utah STEM Action Center (another CCE division) on this project. The One Book project is a theatre scavenger hunt. Participants can win a student pass to the Shakespeare Festival, who is partnering with USL on this project.

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New Library Directory:

Mr. Tober showcased the new library directory, available on USL's website.

Utah Library Association (ULA)/USL, United in Diversity:

Ms. Cannon explained that diversity will be the focus of a yearlong training event. USL and ULA will work together to establish a monthly webinar, monthly meet-ups, and a monthly challenge to take action.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) statement:

Ms. Johnson discussed the EDI framework, consisting of "commit, act, and lead". The following statement was sent to the board members for approval to post on USL's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion website:

"The Utah State Library and staff affirm their commitment to treating all people with respect and dignity. All libraries should have the ongoing mission to provide equal access to resources and services for all communities. We recognize and value Utah's diverse population and voices. This work takes courage and compassion and we stand with all persons seeking justice and an end to any discriminatory practice that undermines the value of human life."

Ms. Wiebke requested the word "equal" be changed to "equitable". Ms. Ord moved to accept the statement with that change, Ms. Aldrich seconded the motion, and all voted in the affirmative.

Dashboard report:

Ms. Fendrick shared the data available on USL's website and asked for feedback and suggestions.

Staff Reports:

Library Resources

Ms. Erickson shared information about the Professional Development Academy. Library staff from across the state are being encouraged to take advantage of these tutorials.

She said the authentication platform has been published, which provides better usage statistics as well allowing better service for state employees with specific research needs. DTS has jumped on board, looking for a platform for their "Citizen Portal", which may become a joint project.

Ms. Erickson updated the board about the Borrower Support Pilot and the plans to continue the program indefinitely. Library Resources held a competition with a cash award for the top three libraries that increased their percentage of inter-library loans. The winners were: Payson, \$500; Minersville, \$350; and Tremonton \$200.

She shared plans to work with the Utah Press Association to market eResources and services. There will be an ad for a different resource printed in up to 90 Utah newspapers each quarter.

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Blind and Disabled Program

Ms. Nelson shared information about Deaf Blind Awareness Week. Her staff is working on a reading list for patrons.

She was happy to report books will be recorded in other languages this summer, starting with Spanish. The recording rooms are slowly being opened up to volunteers.

The e-reader project is moving along smoothly. Thirteen states are now participating.

Future meeting dates:

Ms. Mower asked the board for feedback on whether to hold September's meeting in-person. It was determined to hold a hybrid meeting, with in-person attendees at the State Library, and the option to join the meeting virtually.

Adjourn:

Ms. Mower adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Upcoming State Library Board Meeting dates:

September 24, 2021 and December 10, 2021