

Network Advisory Council (NAC)

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Montana State Library (MSL) – Online Only

Attendees:

Council Members: Chair Jennie Stapp, Cody Allen, Pamela Benjamin, Honore Bray, Eva English, Kathryn Holt, Teressa Keenan, Sarah McClain, Susie McIntyre, Stacey Moore, Bruce Newell, Kate Peterson, Belinda Potter, Doralynn Rossman, Nancy Schmidt, Jodi Smiley, and Kit Stephenson.

MSL Staff: Marilyn Bennett, Jennifer Birnel, Tracy Cook, Jessica Edwards, Jo Flick, Pam Henley, Amelea Kim, Cara Orban, Suzanne Reymer, and Marlys Stark.

Guests: Anne Boothe and Anne Kish.

The recording of the meeting can be found at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/4207419> and https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB_J1FN8dGZcmeKXwGTQdRbGNnEaAAAKc.

Call to Order and Introductions:

Chair Stapp called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., and attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion made by Member Bray and seconded by Member McIntyre to accept the minutes as they stand and the motion passed.

April 23 Recommendations Update:

The recommendations were taken to the State Library Commission on April 26 and were approved as recommended. Currently MSL is under contract with Readsquared with 20 libraries signed on and up to 40 libraries allowed. Funds are being rolled out for Montana Library2Go. Mobile hot spots are being delivered to 40 libraries. Staff are also working on identifying procurements for other technology improvements.

Economic Development Consultant and Update:

Anne Boothe is the contractor for the economic development project and is looking for ideas, feedback and direction. She gave a presentation for the members while staff were helpful in selling out acronyms in chat. Currently economic development programs across the state are being accessed with the Montana Economic Development Association (MEDA) board being very involved.

She said that libraries are already doing wonderful thing but awareness of that could be better so each library should do a local press release.

Discussion of how further funding would be best invested in the future involved ideas such as webinars, Amelea doing more projects, trying out various resources and seeing what communities actually use and how, definitely starting off small, answering small business, work comp, and state fund questions, not as a competitor but offering free resources and many more.

An ad hoc committee was discussed, and Members Bray, McIntyre, Schmidt, and Stephenson expressed interest in being part of that group. It was suggested that Joy Bridwell might also be interested.

COVID-19 Debriefing and Discussion:

Five questions were presented as jumping off points for the discussion. 1.) What went well for libraries? 2.) What did not go well and what would we do differently? 3.) What did libraries need that they did not have? 4.) What resources, relationships, or practices did we have that helped us fulfill our mission, and what ones do we need going forward? 5.) How might this experience change library services in the future and what might that mean for MSL services?

Tracy Cook started a document for notes on the answers from the members and that document will be kept and updated moving forward. A summary of that discussion can be found at http://ftp.aspen.msl.mt.gov/EventResources/20200602103542_16287.pdf. The bottom line of the discussion is that moving forward, everything will be changed at least a little.

Recess for lunch at 11:58. Reconvene at 12:23

Digital Content Discussion:

Council received a quick overview of the DPLA pilot and Internet Archive and a discussion was held about the future. Questions discussed are: 1.) What are the most urgent needs that our current 2Go contract can't fulfill? 2.) Should we use one of these platforms to offer a depth of content? Can we shift people to a new platform? Would it be worthwhile? 3.) Is now the right time to transition users to a new app where there is one place where they can access new content as well as other collections? 4.) How might we proceed with patron testing? 5.) There is a glaring need for more content - what can we do about that? 6.) The Internet Archive Emergency Library could support that depth of collection that we may not be able to fulfill through OverDrive if we focus much of our donation budget on filling holds. But what should the scope of this collection be? 7.) Is there a way for local libraries to contribute? How should they do that? 8.) What is equitable? 9.) How can we maximize our investment?

Cara Orban lead the discussion while Tracy Cook summarized on a document during the discussion. The summary can be found at

http://ftp.aspen.msl.mt.gov/EventResources/20200602103542_16287.pdf

COVID-19 and MSL Work Priorities:

A memo with previously identified priorities and needs included the following questions for discussion: 1.) Where do you think MSL staff should focus their energies? Where can we do the most good? 2.) Should we host face-to-face workshops this year? Or should we re-allocate that money in different ways? What do you think of shifting the funds to support online conferences and small, online cohorts? 3.) Does it still make sense to complete a courier study? We have potential funding, but is it feasible to do a study right now? 4.) How can we address some of

the other needs that led to the original priorities you chose – building collaboration across libraries; addressing concerns with the Partners’ sharing group; and changing the attitudes and skillsets of library people to focus on community leadership? Are those still a priority? 5.) Is it time to shift to supporting and providing access to more digital content? To improving broadband access for libraries and Montanans?

Tracy Cook again summarized the discussion in an ongoing document. A summary of that discussion can be found at http://ftp.aspen.msl.mt.gov/EventResources/20200602103542_16287.pdf Council consensus is that no face to face meetings should be planned this fall. Meetings should be shifted to online formats but no re-allocation of funding is necessary. The courier study should remain a priority and nothing else needs to change at this time.

Fiscal Year 2021 Library Development Budget:

Coal Severance Tax (CST) funding revenue projections are down significantly so staff recommend backfilling with additional LSTA funds. A draft budget was presented. Specific items mentioned were \$10,000 for economic work, Overdrive services Request for Proposal (RFP), OCLC, MMP, Fall workshop, Director’s institute among others.

Motion was made by Member Schmidt and seconded by Member Moore to recommend this library development budget including the courier study and reducing the director institute to the commission and the budget passed.

August Retreat:

Let Tracy Cook know if any members are interested to help plan the retreat which will probably be online.

Public Comment

Tracy Cook gave a shout out to MSL staff with specific mention of Amelea Kim for her weekly meetings, Jo Flick and Pam Henley for their work on the MLA webinars, Cara Orban, MSC staff and actually all staff for their assistance.

Other Business and Announcements

House Bill 633 work is ongoing with a meeting on May 29.

Adjournment

Chair Stapp adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.