

## **Metronet Governing Board Meeting · Tuesday, March 17, 2009 · 3:00 p.m. · Suite 320**

Present: Jeff Eide, Tim Johnson, Elizabeth Kauth, Gina Light, Chris Madsen, Brigid Shields, Melinda Stefanski, Ann Walker Smalley-Metronet, Deanna Sylte-Metronet

### **I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **II. Approval of agenda**

Ann Walker Smalley asked to add a discussion of the Braille and Talking Book Library to New Business. *Jeff Eide moved to approve the agenda as amended; Gina Light seconded; approved unanimously.*

### **III. Minutes of 11/18/08 meeting**

*Brigid Shields moved to approve the 11/18/08 minutes as written; Chris Madsen seconded; approved unanimously.*

### **IV. Approval of Nov-Dec 08 and Jan-Feb 09 Bills**

Chris Madsen asked about the high office supply expense in November. Staff responded that it was due to History Day expenses.

*Gina Light moved to approve the Nov-Dec 08 bills; Jeff Eide seconded; approved unanimously.*

AWS noted the large expense to TIES for repair of the infected laptop. Board asked for information about "Marine" on the insurance policy. Mention that the rent has increased (does every year slightly). *Chris Madsen moved to approve the Jan-Feb 09 bills; Gina Light seconded; approved unanimously.*

### **V. Nov-Dec 08 & Jan-Feb 09 Financial Statements**

Informational only. Some discussion of equipment maintenance and repair expenses, member services, and whether or not we could provide a year-end breakdown of expenses by project (MILI, History Day, etc).

### **VI. Old Business/Updates**

#### **A. Metronet Information Literacy Initiative (MILI)**

The MILI project is still going strong. AWS stated that we are considering starting an advisory group of people who have participated or are interested in the project in order to gather suggestions for the future of the project. How could we do the project on a broader scale with more people but the same limited resources? Would like to explore possibilities of hiring Karen Eidem full time, holding trainings at a central location and let people come to us, offering one-time staff development presentations, providing "cool tools at your library" type events for parents and students, and more. Gina Light noted that involvement with MILI contributed to keeping the Chaska media specialists from having their positions cut due to budget issues.

#### **B. Steltzner Scholarship**

The first Lars Steltzner Scholarship was awarded to Julie Dorn in February 2009 to help offset the cost of pursuing her MLIS. AWS received a call asking about the scholarship for next year. Non-winners were encouraged to re-apply or to apply for the general scholarship.

### C. More Things On a Stick

We have 350 registered statewide, approximately 150 from the metro area. Many returning bloggers so AWS expects to see a higher level of skill. Technical closing date is May 20. Everyone who registered gets some kind of prize, such as a tote bag or something more visible than the flash drive from round 1, and finishers will receive a special button.

### D. North Star Library Consortium

This project was started as a way for school library media programs and some other small libraries to have access to an affordable library management system (Destiny). It began in the Northern Lights region, then expanded to CMLE, and now is available statewide. Having a large group allows for better bargaining power and a larger network of users/support. Documents were included in the board packet with more information.

## VII. New Business

### A. 3rd Annual Information Literacy Conference

We're offering a 2-for-1 deal for principals to bring their media specialist; will also give a break to additional staff from same building. Tom Shaughnessy is working with Kent Pekel to encourage more administrators to attend. This year's theme is "Transformation from Within: Creating a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Commons." Featured speakers will be David Loertscher and Allison Zmuda, and AWS is trying to figure out how to work in some MILI participants, such as a panel describing how they've integrated these tools and then possibly have a student show how it was used in class. Board members are encouraged to attend!

### B. Board recruitment

We need one each of academic, special and citizen representatives. The board expressed concern about the need for continuity and discussed the possibility of amending the by-laws to allow members with expiring terms to stay on if they were willing. Past members may also be invited back. Staff will examine bylaws and discuss the issue with State Library staff to determine options and the board will continue the discussion via email. Tim Johnson noted that as chair and one of the members whose term is expiring he would not participate in that discussion to avoid any appearance of impropriety. Metronet could also post a notice to the website about the intentions to allow for members to express concern if needed.

### C. Library Legislative Day

Library Legislative Day will be held on Wednesday, March 25. Board members are welcome to attend.

### D. 2009 Camp Read-A-Lot

This event was such a big success last year that we're holding two this year: August 11 for grades 2-5; August 12 for grades 6-12. The same speakers will be featured on both days - Anita Silvey and Allison McGhee (author). The focus in the secondary camp will be the new classics. The event will be held at the Como Park Pavilion. SELCO is also possibly planning a Camp on August 13 which would allow us to share travel expenses. Those attending "Live" Camp will be eligible for up to 25 CEUs, and a "Virtual Camp" will also be offered for up to 19 CEUs for people who cannot attend the face-to-face event. The registration fee this year will be raised from \$15 to approximately \$30.

#### **E. Braille and Talking Book Library**

The Braille and Talking Book Library is in dire need of support – they are severely understaffed and underfunded. Another issue is that LSTA funds are used to support staffing at this library, when that money could possibly be used elsewhere. AWS handed out a letter that she wrote to her senator for board members to use as a template if they choose. The board as a whole could also write a letter. Elizabeth Kauth asked which would be more effective - a letter from the board or individual members; AWS suggested that both would be ideal, as the legislature cannot hear about this enough. After some discussion the board asked that AWS write a letter on their behalf and they will call or write individually.

#### **VIII. Director's Report**

AWS gave overview of activities for past few months (written report provided to board).

#### **IX. Other**

#### **X. Board Sharing**

Tim Johnson recently traveled to England on a staff development grant from his Friends of the Library Group. There is a new Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle collection that he wanted to explore and to meet the people working with the collection to facilitate future collaboration.

#### **XI. Next Meeting – May 19, 2009**

#### **XII. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.*