

MINUTES
MORE Executive Committee
Friday, May 7, 2021

Present/Attending: Shelly Rae (SA), Katherine Elchert (RL), Samma Johnson (CA), Pamela Westby (EC), John Thompson (IFLS).

Also Present: Lori Roholt, Kathy Setter, Bridget Krejci, Joanne Gardner.

CALL TO ORDER:

Rae (SA) called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

A quorum was established.

COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW:

Compliance with open meeting law was confirmed.

AGENDA:

Elchert (RL) moved to approve the agenda. Johnson (CA) seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Elchert (RL) moved to approve the minutes dated March 5, 2021, as amended. Johnson (CA) seconded. Motion carried.

(Westby (EC) joined the meeting at 10:06 am)

MAY DIRECTORS COUNCIL AGENDA:

Roholt noted that all four items listed on the agenda could be voted on at the May Directors Council meeting.

There is no revision to the amendment proposed on the MORE Bylaws and they have been distributed past the 45-day requirement.

The MORE App Workgroup will meet in May to discuss additional details and possibly update their recommendation for the May Directors Council meeting on a Library App. At the March meeting, the directors wanted a pros and cons list provided. Additionally, Innovative came in the evening before the meeting with a considerable price decrease of \$10,000. The workgroup met and reviewed the information and arrived at the same conclusion to recommend BiblioApp. In discussing the library app, it is the recommendation to decide on the App. Down the line, discussions can take place about the self-check feature. Prior to the Directors Council meeting, directors can review all the information including the two webinars and the summary document.

The Unified MORE Circulation Policy recommendation was discussed at the March Directors Council meeting. This policy is recommended by the MORE Operations Committee to provide framework as codifying what we are already doing. It will also serve as a good starting point and baseline if changes would be made down the road.

The MORE Bibliographic Records and Standards Committee will meet in May and produce a report and recommendation for the May Directors Council meeting regarding centralized cataloging in MORE. Information was provided on the input from Karen Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) on cost allocations for the CABS program. The take-away from the survey is that CABS and Shared Services is well-received; help is available; and they are providing good work. There was general agreement that the patron experience was improved. The greatest concern noted was the cost to libraries. It was determined it was too early to make a big change since the service has not been in place a full six months yet. Everyone on the Bibliographic Records and Standards Committee agreed that it is too early for a full evaluation or to recommend a change. It was the recommendation that no vote be taken to make changes until there is at least one full year of the service. Westby (EC) noted that maybe some directors are not looking down the road as to how extra time could be used to change and enrich services being offered in their communities. MORE as a group can help create that vision for the IFLS libraries. It was noted that there is some shifting to customer service and outreach skills rather than cataloging skills. Thompson suggests prefacing the report with the notation that the assessment is based on three months of data and that it is being shared now to give framework for an assessment. It can be reviewed and if there are gaps in the assessment, additional information for the assessment could take place after six months of use. The chair of the Bibliographic Records committee will be asked to speak to this.

SYSTEM-WIDE FINE-CHARGING RECOMMENDATION:

Helmeci (LA) inquired if the MORE Executive Committee could make a system-wide recommendation for libraries to be fine free. Helmeci noted it would allow for stronger arguments to be presented to boards and help move the entire system forward for better patron access. Roholt noted that MORE has generally stayed out of this and keeping as a local policy of libraries. The question for this group is if it is appropriate for MORE to put forth such a recommendation. Westby (EC) suggested rather than a recommendation that MORE issue a position statement including the benefits in order to provide people with access. Thompson noted that this is a local control issue. IFLS can pull together resources for going fine free. Thompson added that an inclusivity statement versus a recommendation may be more beneficial. Roholt will work with Leah Langby to see what is available regarding inclusivity and pull information together as a cohesive set of documents. The Executive Committee can then decide what to do. Westby (EC) added that she can work with Langby as well.

TIMELINE FOR DURAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY TO JOIN MORE:

Per the MORE Bylaws, the MORE Directors Council must approve the timetable and schedule of payments for adding each new MORE member before a Participation Agreement shall be issued. Roholt would like to see this added to the May Directors Council agenda.

Fairchild and Durand both received a LSTA grant for start-up costs. Durand would like to go live as early as January 2022.

Durand serves as a public and school library for Durand. The idea is that the public section of library is what is joining MORE. Durand has been weeding the public collection. Westby (EC) noted that big milestones like this provide a good opportunity for thorough weeding. Thompson noted that when he visits with new library directors, he discusses the importance of weeding. IFLS makes a point of having a well-maintained collection. Johnson (CA) offered to help Durand weed their collection.

MORE SERVER UPGRADE:

Roholt hopes a vote on the MORE Server Upgrade is on the May Directors Council agenda. Roholt just learned about the need for an upgrade to the server software. In order to upgrade Sierra to the current release and beyond, an upgrade to the MORE servers is needed. Innovative Interfaces will upgrade at the cost of \$9,000. Roholt would like to see this update happen this summer or early fall. It is proposed that MORE use carryover funds for this expense.

Before the May Directors Council meeting, Roholt expects to present an updated picture on MORE's carryover funds. Right now, there is approximately \$80,000 in unspent funds. On the advice of the IFLS Business Manager, when there is carryover, we tend to use that instead of pulling funds from reserves.

Elchert (RL) made a recommendation to the MORE Directors Council to upgrade the MORE servers at the cost of \$9,000. Funds will be taken from unspent funds. Westby (EC) seconds. Motion carried.

2022 MORE BUDGET PREVIEW:

Roholt will provide a very early 2022 MORE budget preview at the May Directors Council meeting. Every year the percentages libraries are responsible for are recalculated. For the 2022 budget, the 2020 circulation numbers would be used. This budget will show carryover, costs split out to libraries, and the proposed IFLS subsidy. It has been a long-standing practice that the subsidy is applied two ways. A portion is off the top of the budget as well as applying per library. Traditionally, the Directors Council applies carryover to offset the budget.

Roholt noted a change in the percentages each library is responsible for under the current cost-sharing formula. Eau Claire's percentage came down quite a bit. Some of the larger libraries saw the greatest service disruption in 2020. Some of the smallest libraries would see the greatest cost increases.

Thompson noted that IFLS just finished up the audit at the end of last week. Until there is a solid number, it is tough to work with the budget. The trouble with formulas is they can have an impact. IFLS will explore ways with a subsidy, to mitigate that.

Thompson noted that 2022 may have a negative impact to impacts with county funding. There is no pattern to the increases and decreases. For 2023, it is hard to know the impacts of county funding in 2022 and the effect it will have in 2023. We are still dealing with many unknowns.

Roholt will forge ahead and create a budget document similar to what has been used in the past. The June Executive Committee meeting doubles as a budget hearing. All MORE members are invited to join the budget hearing. The Executive Committee will meet afterwards and recommend a budget for the Directors Council to vote on in July.

The committee decided on June 11, 2021, for the budget hearing and Executive Committee meeting.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.

Joanne Gardner, Recorder