

MINUTES
MORE Executive Committee
Friday, December 6, 2024

Present/Attending: Tiffany Meyer (EL), Joleen Sterk (ME), Leann French (DR), John Thompson (IF).

Also Present: Lori Roholt, Kathy Setter, Bridget Krejci, Cecelia Cole, Katelyn Dubiel, Joanne Gardner, Monica LaVold (NR), Shelley Tougas (HU).

Absent: Karen Furo-Bonnstetter (WO).

CALL TO ORDER:

Meyer called to order at 10 am.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Meyer (EL) established a quorum was present.

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH OPEN MEETING LAW:**

Certification of compliance with open meeting law was confirmed.

AGENDA:

Thompson (IF) moved to approve the agenda. Sterk (ME) seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

French (DR) moved to approve the minutes of November 1, 2024. Thompson (IF) seconded. Motion carried.

MORE CIRCULATION POLICY UPDATES:

At the November 19 meeting, MORE Operations Committee recommended changes to the MORE Circulation Policy. The recommended updates are included in the meeting packet.

The first recommended amendment was to rename the Lucky Day Collections section to Local High Interest Collections. This proposal would wrap that as well as the rental collection policy into the MORE Circulation Policy. The MORE Operations Committee is interested in consolidating some of the MORE existing policies.

Thompson (IF) made a motion to accept the amendments and to change the Lucky Day Collections section to Local High Interest Collections. Sterk (ME) seconded.

Sterk (ME) raised some concern about penalties for local high interest items not being returned to the home library. Committee members noted it is not uncommon for a library to inadvertently

check in a high interest item that is not from the home library. Many libraries have concerns that a high interest collection is for local use and do not want to allow patrons habitually to return items to non-owning library. This can also increase the turnover time when not returned locally. Setter added that a note is added for the owning library and the fine is attached to the patron record.

Sterk (ME) noted that the extending in kindness should apply to the non-owning library as well as the end user. If libraries are working together and there are no fines, this would complicate it. This is not a MORE policy decision but rather a local library decision to charge a fine.

Another concern was raised with libraries that use automatic systems to do check-ins. French (DR) dislikes all the exceptions. The automated material handling will not be able to manage the exceptions either.

The question was raised as to how many items we are really talking about. Roholt noted that the entire second paragraph could be removed. Sterk (ME) agreed. The second paragraph is a practice, not a policy.

Sterk (ME) made an amendment to delete the second paragraph in the motion to accept the amendments and to change the Lucky Day Collections section to Local High Interest Collections. French (DR) seconds. Amended motion carried. Original motion with amendment carried.

The second proposed amendment is in the Loaning within MORE section. This was another part of the MORE Circulation Policy considered by the MORE Operations Committee. There was a lot of discussion on this section, but ultimately, they did vote to recommend this section as amended.

Cecelia Cole that that the November 19, 2024, MORE Operations Committee minutes, Section Eight provide more information of what was discussed. Due to the recent content challenges, IFLS's Intellectual Freedom Working Group has proposed changes to the current circulation policy regarding content vs. directional labeling. Phillips Public Library has recently had challenges with materials. In a compromise to keep these materials on the shelf, content warning labeling was required. The type and placement of the labeling were considered potentially prejudicial under ALA labeling guidelines.

The Label Addendum adds a third exception regarding prejudicial labeling. This is an attempt to give the library back some control. There was a lot of discussion at the MORE Operations meeting which included clarified intent behind the policy change. There was some confusion about this being viewed as a mandate rather than a choice.

(Tougas (HU) joined the meeting at 10:39 am.)

There was discussion of the "why" if a library does not have to circulate an item because of the label. The controversy is whether the label versus the content is offensive. Other concerns noted were the book being "banned" because it has the label in it; and recognizing other copies that circulate do not have a prejudicial label. The scenario was raised that if a patron does not like the label is there recourse? Christian fiction with labeling and be viewed as offensive. What mechanism do they have to challenge this statement? There was worry that we may be creating a slippery slope.

The committee discussed whether it is the choice of a library to not circulate prejudicial labeled items or mandate that libraries cannot circulate. LaVold (NR) noted that having it in the policy as a choice does not protect the library and not necessarily the patron either. Having it as a choice provides no weight or power to the libraries.

The committee discussed how to rewrite the third bullet point of when items contain a prejudicial label. Sterk (ME) inquired if this is something MORE Operations Committee feels needs to be addressed.

Cecelia Cole added that in addition to the proposed policy addendum with prejudicial labels, the Intellectual Freedom create resources on labeling and be thoughtful about how they are labeled.

The prejudicial labeling addendum is a direct result of what is happening at Phillips. Control of placement labels gives back some control. They realize the implications. They may be able to reduce negative implications of not circulating these items.

Sterk (ME) noted the importance of continuing education opportunities and best practices among the libraries. Most libraries already are aware and becoming more aware of labeling.

Meyer (EL) thanked Cecelia for her input and insight as well as Lori for posting resources.

Thompson (IF) suggested that a paragraph statement that MORE as a consortium wants to add which would instead reword that bullet point. Thompson could have the Intellectual Freedom Committee review the statement.

Thompson (IF) made a motion to send the Label Addendum of the MORE Circulation Policy to the Intellectual Freedom Committee and they can report back to the MORE Executive committee for the January meeting if possible. Sterk (ME) seconded. Motion carried.

LaVold (NR) and Meyer (EL) acknowledged and thanked Cole for her work. They understand the research and hours spent addressing the prejudicial labeling concern. They further expressed appreciation for the thoughtfulness in this.

2025 MORE MEETING SCHEDULE:

French (DR) made a motion to accept the 2025 MORE Meeting Schedule as revised. Sterk (ME) seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.

Joanne Gardner, Recorder