



**NJLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2017
South River Public Library**

Call to Order: Michael Maziekien, President

Michael called the meeting to order at 6:24pm, seconded by Jen; all in favor.

Introductions/Roll Call – Kate Russo, Secretary

Present: Michael Maziekien, Chris Carbone, Leah Wagner, Kate Russo, Philip Berg, Cynthia Lambert, Darby Malvey, Adele Puccio, Lynn Schott, Jen Schureman

Attended online: Emily Moore

Guests: n/a

Staff: Patricia Tumulty, NJLA

Motion to Adopt Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by Adele, seconded by Cynthia; all in favor, and Emily abstained

Mary Chute from NJSL

Mary emailed her report to the executive board before the meeting.

Reports from NJLA

Michael attended conference planning program and shared that we now have people applying who do not need section or committee approval. This will allow expansion and a broader spectrum of speakers. Jen raised the point that some people assume they will get approved. Cynthia questioned if people are using this as a platform for themselves. While we do expect some vendors to submit, Chris mentioned that National Medical Libraries will finally be able to apply on their own. Jen discussed the possibility of co-sponsorship opportunities. All NJ librarians will still be required to register with payment in order to attend.

Update from the Core Values Task Force: Advocacy workshop from this past week was very successful

Report from Pat Tumulty

Update on the Construction Bond Act: The public apathy is frightening. This is a once in a lifetime library funding opportunity. We need to get every library involved. So embrace it, get the word out, and make it happen.

We as a board need to watch action of Vineland Library as they consider retirement changes for their staff and also pay attention to changes happening with staffing in California, ie some are doing away with unions and civil service positions.

Eileen Palmer's meeting with NJ Congressman Pallone on net neutrality went well, and he was very concerned, but also acknowledged he is the minority member.

Cynthia's Treasurer's Report

There will not be an Adult Services Forum. Michael did reach out the Reference Section and they may instead offer have smaller programs in different parts of the state.

Concerns regarding these types of events include being able to plan and execute while bringing on new leadership all within a tight time frame.

Emily asked if we have an NJLA Conference Bake Sale. One year Pat raffled off a cake for over \$400. Michael tabled this discussion until he could speak with the Conference Committee

Motion to approve bills by Cynthia, seconded by Phil; all in favor.

New Business

Update from Construction Bond Task Force: Chris added its forward movement was not as visible as was hoped, but the logo is finished thanks Leah, and the website is more fleshed out.

Exciting news! Pat reached out to Alliance for Action. Then they came and presented. Alliance for Action publically stated that they will support us as they are a lobbying group, whose reason for being is to push for infrastructure spending in NJ.

Michael's strongest believe is that while we are limited with what we can do on the clock, outside of our position as a librarian or public employee, **this group has no limitations.**

On the clock we can inform people with flyers, but can't say how to vote.

Off the clock we can ask people to vote yes. This includes social media and utilizing the NJLA Facebook page was encouraged.

Update from Task Force on Library Achievement: Michael wants to wait for a response from Brett Bonfield before we move forward.

Update from Strategic Plan: Leah is working with Jayne and Nancy on co-chairing the strategic plan.

Motion to make current co-chairs of the strategic plan task force Jayne and Nancy by Michael, seconded by Cynthia; all in favor.

Update from the Core Values Task Force: Core Values 1st meeting was on 9/18/17 and Michael was co-chairing with Julie. It will run for 1 year to ensure a presentation can be brought to NJLA Executive Board next year.

Update from a conversation held at our last meeting:

Michael responded to a comment on Facebook and did endorse a statement from NJLA with positive and negative reactions. He can relay the issue to the board that most felt the statement was not strong enough.

Additionally, Michael wants to set up a way to anonymously reach out to the executive board because some people have shared that voicing their personal beliefs puts their employment at risk. Pat asked for clarification. Michael wanted to create a mechanism where people could send an anonymous message. It was suggested to reach out to TJ. Cynthia expressed concern about personal attacks. A discussion then ensued about how there is a public perception by some that NJLA is not welcoming which can include perceived biases against race and gender, etc. Then a “speak freely” survey was proposed that would include defined time limits with the results going to the NJLA Executive Board and the Core Values Task Force. Chris told Michael that he has opened a good can of worms.

Florida and Texas was added to the agenda. Phil asked how can assist them. Pat added that NJ needs to get credit because contact was made to the Texas State Library and the Texas Library Association with what we did this during Superstorm Sandy so Texas could begin their response immediately. Florida libraries have a rebuild network link. Florida libraries can list their wishes.

Maker Days: Pat reminds us that will it be held March 9th-10th.

A motion was made for NJLA to sponsor Maker Day by Pat, seconded by Cynthia; all in favor

Report from Rutgers

Emailed report from Rutgers will be sent executive board.

The Rutgers report was discussed, along with their high percentage of MLIS enrollment.

Darby reported on unlocking the student potential task force of NJSAL.

Action Plan for the Next Meeting

October 17th in Mullica hill at 2pm.

Good of the Order

Adele asked if we could help Mary Witherell, the director of the Englewood Public Library while she awaits a stem cell transplant. It was discussed if we could support her during this difficult time.

Jen asked if we could provide gender neutral bathrooms at the conference.

ALA does it, PLA does it. Michael and Pat said we can make that happen for our members.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Michael at 8:11, seconded by Lynn; all in favor.