

**Board of Trustees  
November 14, 2012**

PRESENT: Judy Brown, Evelyn Butrico, Daniel Curtis, Phil Erlich, Ron Ginsburg, Brian Hartson, Janet Ivory, LouAnne Lundgren, Jeremy Martelle, Mary Muller, Mary Alice Molgard, James Reilly, Tara Ricard

EXCUSED: Rosemary Armao,

UHLS Staff: Tim Burke, Heidi Fuge

4:25 PM – Meeting called to order by M. Muller.

**I. MINUTES**

**MOTION:** D. Curtis moved to approve the October 10, 2012 Minutes. E. Butrico seconded. Unanimous.

**II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

T. Burke added the following to his written report:

- NYLA CONFERENCE: NYLA was useful and a positive experience. However, due to Hurricane Sandy, many of the downstate librarians were not able to attend the Conference. Several relief efforts have been started. He recently spoke with the Director at the Nassau Library System and she was basically living in her office since her home had been flooded. In 2013, the Conference will be held in Niagara Falls. T. Burke is now the President of PULISDO.
- HEARING ON LIBRARY FUNDING: The NYS Assembly will hold a hearing on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> to allow for public comment on library funding. T. Burke will attend as the New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS) representative and will speak on behalf of all library consortia (public, special and academic). He noted that anyone from the public can sign up to give testimony.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The report was presented by M. Molgard, Treasurer. She noted that UHLS is in good financial shape relative to previous years. H. Fuge noted that both the Building and Unemployment Restricted accounts will probably be zeroed-out within the next month in order to pay for the new roof.

**MOTION:** J. Reilly moved to accept the Treasurer's report for the period ending October 31, 2012. L. Lundgren seconded. Unanimous.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance Committee

Report by M. Molgard, Chair. The Committee reviewed and approved the October Purchase Journal and Payroll totaling \$185,134.94.

The 2013 Proposed Budget was sent to the Board members for their review prior to the November meeting. There were no changes following the Public Hearing, posting on the

UHLS website or a second review by the Finance Committee. The Committee members recommended Board approval of the 2013 Budget as presented.

**MOTION:** J. Brown moved to approve the 2013 UHLS Budget as presented. D. Curtis seconded. Unanimous.

NEXT Finance Committee meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 4:00 PM

Administration Committee

Report by J. Reilly, Chair. The roof project was completed on November 13<sup>th</sup>. There were a few follow-up items and those have been taken care of by the roofing company.

The Administration Committee heard a presentation by a Sales Consultant from NY Light Energy LLC regarding a proposal to install a solar array on the roof of the UHLS building. The installation would take place under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) which would mean no funds would be expended by UHLS for the installation, but we would have to agree to either a 15 or 20 year commitment to purchase power generated by the array. Committee members were in favor of supporting a solar project and directed the UHLS staff to investigate one more solar provider. Since the timing of the project is crucial in order to participate in the current tax incentive programs, the Committee recommends that if the Board approves the concept of the PPA solar project, any proposal would only need to be reviewed, and approved, by the following: UHLS Counsel, Management, Board President and the members of the Administration Committee.

**MOTION:** J. Reilly moved to recommend Board approval of the NY Light Energy or a similar proposal subject to review by Counsel. Any new proposal should be reviewed by the UHLS Management, Board President and members of the Administration Committee and they would be empowered to make a decision and sign a contract. T. Ricard seconded. Unanimous.

Services Committee

Report by L. Lundgren, Chair. She noted that the Committee members worked on several issues:

- UHLS MISSION STATEMENT: Committee members worked on creating a new Mission Statement for UHLS. This is one of the two items that needs to be submitted to the Division of Library Development to complete the Plan of Service. The Committee recommends the following Statement:

*"We strengthen public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties, providing essential services to connect people and information."*

**MOTION:** L. Lundgren moved to adopt the new Mission Statement as recommended by the Services Committee. B. Hartson seconded. Unanimous.

- **FREE DIRECT ACCESS PLAN:** Committee members also worked on a new Free Direct Access Plan, this is the second item required to complete the Plan of Service. T. Burke noted that the Free Direct Access Plan does not compel libraries to put any restrictions on use of their materials, but creates the opportunity and framework for them to do so if they want to. He noted that the Draft Free Direct Access Plan was approved by the Directors Association by a vote of 16 approved and 1 abstention.

E. Butrico noted that she was the one abstaining vote and she explained the East Greenbush issues:

1. EGRN objected to the change in the percentages in the Plan to a 30% / 10% rule.
2. The definition of underserved in the Plan uses the State Minimum Standards as a yardstick, these Standards are outdated and insufficient and could lead to the establishment of small, poor, "shoebox" libraries that would draw funding away from the better neighboring libraries but would not adequately serve their populations.

T. Burke reported that he had spoken with DLD regarding these concerns and they assured him that they would not approve the establishment of any inadequate libraries. DLD responded that the Minimum Standards and the responsibility for determining adequate size and funding for a newly created library rests with DLD and the Board of Regents, not with the Public Library Systems. They also said that they would not approve any Free Direct Access Plan that seemed to imply that the System was taking on this responsibility.

M. Muller asked E. Butrico: what does the EGRN Board want? E. Butrico explained that they want an equitable definition of underserved rather than relying on the Minimum Standards for a definition. The right to withhold services is a leverage point when advocating for any library funding.

T. Burke noted that establishing an arbitrary number to define an underserved library unfairly labels certain libraries as "have-nots."

D. Curtis asked if the Free Direct Access Plan could be approved as presented with the understanding that the Services Committee would take this on and work on possible language to address these concerns?

Extensive discussion.

**MOTION:**

D. Curtis moved to accept the Free Direct Access Plan as presented with the understanding that it will be added to the Services agenda in January for further consideration. L. Lundgren seconded. Yes - 13 No - 1 (E. Butrico) Passed.

- **CENTRAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AID BUDGET:** Committee members reviewed the Budget that had been drafted by the Central Library Advisory Committee (CLAC). The funding amount is determined by the State. CLAC is responsible for developing the budget using that amount. Over the last several years, CLAC has been steadily decreasing the amount allocation for database subscriptions and steadily increasing the amount allocated for all e-content including the subscription fee to OverDrive. The budget was approved by the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION:** J. Reilly moved to accept the Central Library Development Aid Budget as presented. P. Erlich seconded. Unanimous.

#### Automated Services Committee

Report by T. Burke, Chair. The main issue for the ASC at this time is beginning the investigation for a new Integrated Library System (ILS). As the investigation progresses, there will be fair and full evaluations. He also noted that the November DA & ASC meetings were held at the Rensselaer Library due to the work being done on the UHLS roof and that the Committee attendees enjoyed seeing the library.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

T. Burke asked if the Board members would like to occasionally hold their meetings in one of the member libraries in order to familiarize themselves with libraries other than their own? Consensus that this was a good idea.

There will not be any Committee or Board meetings in December. The next UHLS Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. Location will be announced prior to the meeting.

#### **VI. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

- J. Reilly: Voorheesville's \$7.5 million bond vote was soundly, and unfortunately, defeated. He explained the steps that the library Board had taken to educate the community about the necessity of the bond. He also noted the problem with the misconceptions by many people about what this would mean for their taxes. The rest of the UHLS Board members commiserated with him.
- T. Burke: a new hardcover book about the creation of the new Altamont Library is available on shutterfly.com. He displayed a copy of the book that R. Ginsburg presented to him.
- J. Brown: Brunswick, with the assistance of UHLS' Joe Thornton, sent out 1,500-1,600 fundraising letters and an email blast regarding their Holiday Fantasy fundraising event.

**MOTION:** M. Molgard moved to adjourn. L. Lundgren seconded. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.