

**British Columbia Library Association
Board Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2009
10:45 am**

**Classroom, BCLA
900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC**

In Attendance:

Mary Afonso
Heather Compeau
Ken Cooley
Christina de Castell
Allie Douglas
Lynne Jordon
David Karppinen
Mari Martin
Barbara Jo May
Aili Meutzner
Chris Middlemass
Katherine Miller
Marjorie Mitchell
Diane Nelles
Anne Olsen
Susan Redmond
Deb Thomas
Adrienne Wass
Alane Wilson
Sandra Wong

Regrets:

Roan Janyk

1. Call to Order

Ken Cooley, BCLA President, called the meeting to order at 10:40 am.

2. Adoption of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the following items:

- a. Minutes of July 10, 2009
- b. Amendment to the Minutes of April 3, 2009
- c. President's Report
- d. Executive Director's Report
- e. Editor's Report
- f. Partnership Meeting Report
- g. Appointment of IPC & Copyright Committee Chairs, PLIG & LTAIG Convenors
- h. Correspondence
- i. Conference Planning Report (added at meeting)

It was requested that the letter from the Suzuki Foundation in item h be removed from the consent agenda and added as an item for discussion later in the meeting under #5.c - Correspondence.

Moved by Christina de Castell, Seconded by Marjorie Mitchell:

THAT the consent agenda be approved and adopted as presented and amended.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Regular Agenda

Moved by Ken Cooley, Seconded by Adrienne Wass:

THAT the regular agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising

a. Treasurer's Report

Christina de Castell, Treasurer, provided the report. BCLA Finances are less positive than originally forecast.

- The 2009 grant to BCLA from the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) was reduced to \$20,000 (\$10,000 in on-going funding and \$10,000 in one-time funding) from \$40,000 in 2008. No information on grant funding in 2010 is available, although it is not expected to improve.
- Interest income has generated \$9,000 to July 31, down from \$21,000 at the same time last year. Little improvement is expected in 2010 as interest rates are expected to remain low.
- Revenue from membership fees is down \$6,000 so far this year compared to the same period in 2008.

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- Publication costs are higher than budgeted and advertising revenue has generated less than \$100.
 - Committee, executive and liaison budgets are at 89% of this year's budget.
 - The President's Program lost \$4,000.
 - Profit from the 2009 BCLA Conference is \$40,000, which is higher than originally expected.
 - Some money will be received from the Vancouver Foundation, although exact figures are not yet available.
 - Revenues from administration of database licensing on behalf of PLSB are forecast to be over \$45,000 for the entire year. This funding will not be available next year in the event that the BC Libraries Cooperative assumes administration of database licensing on behalf of PLSB.
 - Unallocated (reserve) funds have a balance of \$130,000, down from \$205,000 at the beginning of the year.

A draft budget will be presented at the November Board meeting, and it will include 2009 projections as well as 2010 forecasts.

BCLA will investigate alternate revenue streams, including generating more revenue from the annual conference as well as reducing expenses.

Moved by Lynne Jordon, Seconded by Mari Martin:

THAT the Treasurer's Report be received as presented.

CARRIED

The following items were discussed in response to the Treasurer's Report:

- Impact of reduced library budgets on conference attendance in Penticton in 2010.
- A letter sent today from the presidents of BCLA, BCLTA and ABCPLD to PLSB on the impacts of cuts in grant funding to those organizations
- Clarification of the overall provincial grant funding to public libraries in 2009, which is 78% of the grant amount in 2008, and which has unequal effects on larger and smaller libraries. Not included in the grant are cuts to specific province-wide programs, such as AskAway, Books for BC Babies, and the Community Librarian Training Program.
- The positive impact of "long legs" projects on BCLA funding. These are projects not core to BCLA's mission but that provide revenue from administration fees in support of BCLA activities.
- The overall response strategy to cuts in provincial funding.
- Possible effects of provincial funding challenges on academic libraries
- The role of the BC Libraries Cooperative in the library landscape

Moved by Chris Middlemass, Seconded by Christina de Castell:

THAT Ken Cooley write a letter to Jacqueline van Dyk, Director, Public Library Services Branch , and copied to the BC Libraries Cooperative, requesting a discussion on the structure of the BC Libraries Cooperative and its impact on BCLA.

CARRIED

b. Retreat Action Items

This item relates to action items arising out of the BCLA Board Retreat held in late April at Sun Peaks Resort as well as areas of focus identified for the next 6-12 months.

i. "Long Legs" Projects

Jim Looney, Rita Avigdor and Allie Douglas are compiling a list of "long legs" projects (estimated between 20 and 30) for members' information. The history of these projects as fundraising mechanisms for BCLA and the benefits for all stakeholders were discussed.

ii. BCLA Board Representation

The role of Academic Librarians in Public Service (ALPS) and Young Adults and Children's Sections (YAACS) on the Board was discussed. One possible scenario includes creation of two new director positions with a broader mandate to represent public and academic librarians. No formal proposal is being made at this time and discussions will continue with the two sections. Both ALPS and YAACS will discuss this topic with their members at upcoming meetings and Alane Wilson will distribute notes taken at the BCLA Board retreat on this topic to help inform the discussions that will take place. The Board also offered to have a member attend each of the section meetings to provide more information and answer any questions.

iii. BCLA Advocacy Policy Committee

Lynne Jordon, Ken Cooley and Deb Thomas will draft a document in advance of the November Board meeting regarding advocacy efforts that BCLA embarks upon and the administrative constraints involved, such as timeframes, connection to the mission statement of BCLA and complexity of the issues involved, including the necessity of seeking legal counsel in complex cases.

In response to concerns expressed, the Board stressed the important role that the Information Policy Committee and Intellectual Freedom Committee holds in BCLA and confirmed that this initiative in no way is intended to limit the advocacy carried out by committees.

Barbara Jo May from the Information Policy Committee and Aili Meutzner from the Intellectual Freedom Committee agreed that clarity around the process of advocacy was important and hoped the Board

would communicate to the committees why this issue is being brought up and what possible advocacy limits are being proposed. They also asked that the committees be able to comment on any policy proposal made.

There was a suggestion that new Board members be trained in how to communicate issues between the sections, committees and interest groups and the Board.

iv. Strategic Planning/Advocacy

Marjorie Mitchell reported that she and Alane Wilson had done little work on strategic planning in light of the provincial library funding issue that occupied so much time this summer. The intention is to carry out a rolling strategic planning process in which a defined set of topics is considered over a three-year period. In light of the current financial situation, the three-year planning cycle is being postponed and any strategic planning efforts will be focused on short-term action items. There was discussion about the advantages of hiring an outside consultant to direct the planning process.

5. New Business

a. Advocacy Campaign

Board members were asked to consider whether an advocacy campaign on behalf of public and academic libraries was necessary at this time. Specific questions included what sort of a campaign should begin and whether an outside consultant should be hired to carry it out. Alane Wilson reviewed the advocacy carried out in the face of proposed cuts to public library funding this summer, an approach that had the BCLTA speaking on behalf of public libraries and that left the role and position of BCLA unclear. Ken Cooley felt that advocacy on some level would be imperative in the next year.

Examples of some library advocacy reports from Alberta and Illinois were made available. Alane also explained the need to gather quantifiable data on the value of libraries in BC communities. She and Ken will communicate with SLAIS, as well as the library technician programs at Langara College and University of the Fraser Valley asking them to participate in gathering statistics on this topic. Alane will also investigate the costs of hiring an outside organization to carry out a campaign. The website committee (Christina de Castell, Diane Nelles, Adrienne Wass and Sandra Wong) will investigate the development of an online home for BCLA advocacy efforts.

b. Media Training

In light of the library funding advocacy campaign carried out over the summer, Alane noted the paucity of media training that BCLA staff and Board members had received and pointed out the need for further training, particularly in light of a possible refocus on BCLA advocacy efforts. A media handbook from 1986 was woefully outdated; therefore Alane will determine costs of having developed a media handbook, creating a list of media contacts and providing media training for BCLA.

c. Correspondence

The David Suzuki Foundation has created a book club with a focus on topics of environmental sustainability and has requested the support of BCLA in publicizing this information to public libraries in British Columbia. The Board agreed that BCLA can post this information on its website in addition to announcing it in the BCLA Browser online and via e-mail to all BCLA listserv subscribers.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 27 at a location yet to be determined. In order to save on costs, a catered affair might be held in a public library space to which all section, chair and interest group heads would be invited.

7. Adjournment

Moved by Lynne Jordon, Seconded by Adrienne Wass:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.