Memphis Area Library Council
September 27, 2022, 4:00 PM
Memphis Public Library, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library

Minutes

Attendees

Felicia Knox (Rhodes, President), Carl Hess (U of M, Secretary), Hilary Jasmin (UTHSC, Treasurer), Kay Cunningham (CBU), April Hobbs (U of M), Leslie Holland (Southern College of Optometry), Annabelle Holt (UTHSC)

Welcome and Introductions

President Felicia Knox welcomed the group and began introductions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 7 meeting were moved by Hilary Jasmin for approval. The minutes were approved without revision.

Announcements

- Rhodes hired a new CIO, Harvey Smith, who the library reports to.
- Rhodes hired another new IT support specialist.
- UTHSC hired a new assessment and data services librarian.

Old Business

- Little Free Library
    - No update.
    - Please continue to share donations with Jennifer Langford at UTHSC.
- Social Committee (Hilary Jasmin)
    - The committee met last week to begin planning.
    - They are looking at offering more informal social opportunities, which will be shared on the MALC listserv and through other channels as available.
    - They are planning a more formal social in February, with a full announcement coming in a future newsletter.
- MALC Newsletter (Hilary Jasmin)
    - Hilary received positive feedback on the first newsletter.
    - Improving the graphic design is a goal for future newsletters.

    - The next newsletter should be out by the end of October. A call for content will come soon.
- Reciprocal Borrowing/Use (RBU) Program Guidelines (Leslie Holland)
    - The current guidelines document is expired, and updating it was interrupted by the pandemic.
    - The proposed 2022 version will be similar to the old document.
    - The major proposed changes include defining a student to be degree seeking and enrolled for credit, a section to allow for suspension for major health crises and acts of god, language that states that member library's borrower policies supersede the RBU guidelines, and will allow for electronic signatures.
    - Issues with confirming patrons from other libraries was discussed. Kay Cunningham proposed using the TALC Participating Libraries list as a model. It has logins for each member library, so users can demonstrate that they have access.
    - Issues with patrons expecting space and other services were discussed and may be addressed in the guidelines.
    - Leslie will share the proposed document with people at each member library for review.

New Business

- Vice President Search (Felicia Knox)
    - We are still looking for volunteers. **[Update: the position is filled.]**
- Awards Committee (Felicia Knox)
    - We are still looking for new members.
- Goal for the Year (Carl Hess)
    - Attendees engaged in a brainstorming activity to think through ways to achieve five goals identified from the summer survey results.
    - Below is each goal and the ideas shared:
        - Improve information sharing and connection among MALC members
            - Use social media channels for more informal communication, such as a Facebook Group, Instagram page, GroupMe, or Discord server.
        - Bring in more types of speakers to MALC meetings (ex. MALC members, non-local LIS speakers)
            - Allow MALC members to do dry runs of conference presentations as MALC speakers.

- Develop new programming (ex. Panels and presentations, professional development, community service)
    - Outreach to local prison libraries.
    - Take part in professional development courses as a group, modeled on how UTHSC used to provide access to NLM courses as a group.
    - Provide MALC programming at TLA 2023 in Memphis, such as a presentation, vendor booth, dine around, or social.
    - Take part in MPL's Bookstock or other local and regional author and literary festivals.
- Include more paraprofessionals in MALC
    - Created dedicated meetings or events by and for support staff.
    - Support staff appreciation day.
- Include more LIS students in MALC
    - Reach out to iSchool listservs for programs that are fully or heavily online.
    - Provide networking or mentoring events for LIS students.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28. The next meeting will be in November on Zoom. Keep an eye on your inbox!

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Hess, MALC Secretary