

Digital   
Commonwealth  
Membership & Programming

**Digital Commonwealth Board Meeting  
Minutes  
September 15, 2020**

10:03 am meeting called to order by President Justin Snow.

Present (via Zoom): Danielle Sangalang, Hans Bergmann, Jodi Goodman, Tegan Kehoe, Anton Smith, Justin Snow, Eben English, Sonia Pacheco, Evan Knight, Kate Boylan, Rachel Jirka.

Guests (Committee Chairs): Jenn Belcher, Helen Charbonneau, Matt Amory

Meeting called to order by Justin Snow at 10:05am

August Minutes: The August minutes were **approved** as presented.

Justin noted that the Board was again being joined by committee chairs for the first part of its meeting. Our goal is to improve communication between the Board and the Committees.

Conference Committee: Sonia Pacheco reported that the 2021 Conference (“The Politics of Collection,”) set for April 13<sup>th</sup>, continues in active planning. She asked that the Board approve charging \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members for conference attendance. The fee is intentionally low to attract attendees but the committee did not want the conference to be free the way it was in 2020. The committee also thought that 500 people should be the limit and that there should still be some scholarships. No refunds. These recommendations were **approved** by the Board.

Membership Committee: Jenn Belcher reported that the Membership and Outreach and Education committees were presenting the September 23 “Who Is Little Joe – Photo Detecting 101” workshop and a “Using Digital Resources for Genealogical Research” workshop in October. There will also be an “Introduction to Omeka” workshop on October 8<sup>th</sup> to be held in partnership with the Massachusetts Library System and a workshop on provenance planned for December.

Education and Outreach Committee: Matt Amory reported for the committee that it and the Membership Committee were working together. He mentioned the “Expanding Your Digital Horizons” program and presentations on the Sacco-Vanzetti case by retired MA SJC Justice Peter Agnes.

Repository Committee: Eben English had no report from the committee since it had not met.

Special Financials Report: Tegan Kehoe gave a special report, “Introduction to Digital Commonwealth Finances for Committees,” for the use of committee chairs and their committees. She will send an e-mail version of this introduction after the meeting. She ended with: “We don’t have a shortage of money, we have a shortage of people time.”

The committee members not on the Board then left the meeting with the Board's thanks.

Financial and Membership report: Tegan Kehoe then continued with the regular financial report, noting that the DPLA had reduced its fee because of the pandemic, from \$10,000 to \$8,000. Even so, DPLA membership is expensive. Our total assets are \$122,000. Membership: Glynda reports that there is one more active member than there was last year at this time, and the number of pending members is also almost the same as last year (21 vs. 22).

DPLA Report: Justin Snow had no update.

Boston Public Library Update: The library continues its slow progress toward resuming its activities. There has been no travel, and hence no site visits. Deliveries may soon be allowed. Development of the infrastructure continues. Discussion continues on how to deal with potentially offensive or harmful content. Eben reiterated the need for an overall statement with links at the item level back to that overall statement. He pointed out the difficulties in simply finding offensive content in our large digital library, and BPL hopes that the originating institutions will help with this.

Black Lives Matter Statement: The Board continued discussing the implications of our Black Lives Matter statement approved by the Board in June. Discussion ensued about the survey prepared by Kate Boylan, Evan Knight, and Justin Snow. The Board noted that sometimes the diversity goals of a department can differ from those of the next organizational layer up. The survey will be adjusted to allow respondents to comment on this.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

Next Meeting: **October 20, 2020.** 10-12 am. (Zoom)

Hans Bergmann  
Secretary