**Administrators of Rural Urban Public Libraries of Ontario**

Minutes

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

**Zoom meeting**

**Present:**

Catherine Coles, Lennox & Addington (Chair)

Tania Sharpe, Chatham-Kent (Treasurer)

Heidi Wyma, Chatham-Kent (Secretary)

Anna Babluck, Haliburton County

Beth Rumble, Huron County

Brian Masschaele, Elgin County

Darlene Coke, Lambton County

Jamie Anderson, Kawartha Lakes

Karen Franklin, SDG

Kelly Bernstein, Brant County

Kimberly Sutherland Mills, Kingston-Frontenac

Laura Carter, Kingston-Frontenac

Lindsay Brock, Middlesex County

Lisa Miettinen, Oxford County

Rebecca Hine, Wellington County

Sabrina Saunders, Blue Mountain

Shelagh Patterson, OLA

Dina Stevens, FOPL

**Regrets:**

Gayle Hall, Simcoe

Heather King, Norfolk County

Nicole Charles, Kingston-Frontenac

Robin Greenall, Essex County

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Catherine Coles called the meeting to order at 10:50 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Rebecca Hine / Seconded by Tania Sharpe that the agenda be approved. – CARRIED.**

1. Approval of the Minutes of June 11, 2021

**Moved by Laura Carter / Seconded by Rebecca Hine that the minutes be approved as presented. – CARRIED.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

4.1 Striking an Audit Committee to take on the task of “independent examiner” to verify the Treasurer’s annual statement. Advice was provided by Peggy Malcolm, Consultant, Ontario Library Service.

5. New business

5.1 Presentation from OLA/FOPL re: government relations strategy (Dina Stevens, Executive Director, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director, Ontario Library Association)

FOPL Updates

Dina Stevens, new executive director for federation on secondment from position in Vaughan

Revising by-laws, procedures, administrative operations, website etc. – especially revival of working groups

Ontario Library Association

Shelagh Paterson

VIP approach to advocacy; help members demonstrate the value of libraries. Influence decision making and positively position libraries, and the people who work for them.

2021 Ontario Budget Asks (OLA & FOPL) – next provincial election set for June 2022

1. Create an Ontario Digital Public Library, capitalize on broadband investment
2. Provincial funding support for fines-free policies
3. School library e-resource strategy

Hold on ask for increasing the Public Library Operating Grant – reframe, ask for more money through projects like connectivity funding etc.

FOPL/OLA may ask members to reach out to MPPs with specific info. Members can ask for guidance on how to connect with MPPs. An election toolkit is to come out closer to the election.

5.2 Vaccine mandates

Discussion held with members, FOPL and OLA representatives. ARUPLO members discussed plans for vaccine mandates for staff, volunteers and board members.

FOPL and OLA discussed their stance on asking for clarity on regulations and how they apply to public libraries (e.g. meeting room rentals and programs, not traditional library access). With regulations that are more vague, public library service choices can be made locally as often as possible. Libraries are not included in higher risk indoor settings. Traditional library services do not require vaccination passports.

6. Reports:

6.1 ARUPLO Training Committee

The Committee (Karen Franklin, Robin Greenall, Nicole Charles, Liz Coates, and Tania Sharpe (as Treasurer)) had nothing to report. No meetings have been held. The committee is hopeful OLS will continue to be a partner in training going forward (considering the change in their organization).

The committee may wish to look at costs at Nottawasaga (rooms, meals etc.), and whether they are refundable/non-refundable before moving forward. Laura (Treasurer) will reach out. Laura will also investigate alternatives that are equally accessible by members geographically (centrally located) with a “retreat feel”.

6.2 Guidelines Committee

The Committee (Brian Masschaele, Lisa Miettinen and Tania Sharpe) had nothing to report. No meetings have been held. In 2022, five years since adoption of last revision. Should consider process to update the guidelines. Could be discussion for 2022 in person meeting in September.

6.3 Treasurer’s Report

Tania Sharpe reported on financials at the AGM. ARUPLO’s account sits at approximately $55,610. With increased fees for 2022, Tania will rework the draft budget.

6.4 Ontario Public Library Guidelines Report

Brian Masschaele reported the committee continues to work on revisions, and translation has recently been completed. Audits are getting back on stream. The logo and website have been updated. See [ontariopubliclibraryguidelines.ca](https://ontariopubliclibraryguidelines.ca/).

**Moved by Anna Babluck / Seconded by Kelly Bernstein that all reports be received for information. – CARRIED.**

7. Members News / Roundtable

Roundtable discussions included:

* Recruitment – lots of retirements, resignations due to COVID-19, return to regular services
* Reopening – some libraries continue to have closed branches, others have returned to full services, some have reduced hours.
* Sound proof pods.
* Library vending machines.
* Patron mask non-compliance.
* In person programming – mostly outdoors, limited numbers over the summer.
* Maker labs and mobile maker labs.
* Fines free / fines free for kids.
* New funding agreement with municipality, based on tax levy.
* Training staff who started during COVID for “regular” service.

8. Next meeting date and location

December 3 at 2:00 pm via Zoom. (AMPLO is in the morning)

March and December meetings are virtual, and historically June and September meetings have been in person. Will consider one of the virtual meetings could be the joint meeting with AMPLO as this may be easier to coordinate.

9. Adjournment

**Adjournment - Moved by Brian Masschaele that the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 pm – CARRIED.**