

## Magnolia Steering Committee Meeting

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10/23/19

- Members Present: Frances Coleman, Stephen Cunetto, Otha Keys, Susan Bryant, Erin Busbea, Mara Villa-Polk, Hulen Bivins, Pat Matthes, Jeff Slagell
- Other Attendees Present: John Eye, USM
- Dean Coleman opened the meeting.
- Sign- sheet was passed around
- One new item to the agenda was Stephen volunteering to talk about the Magnolia website update.
- Susan apologized for the candid minutes from the summer meeting; they were to be edited out.
- Hulen filed the budget request and confirmed that it was received well. They, however, are going to be in a shortfall this year, which is a little more than last year. Hulen is hopeful that we (MLC) will get back to having our feet on firm ground soon. He also stated that he feels good about the reception received at the moment with the House. The Senate is where the greatest challenge will be and that is because Thomason has decided not to run again. With him gone, we will have to wait to find out who will be on the appropriations committee. This will not be announced until January. He wanted to ask for pay raises again and was encouraged by House Appropriations not to do that again this year. There was a 3% increase last year...so for now he will leave it alone and let it sit for a bit. Staff is woefully underpaid at the Commission and they are losing staff regularly for higher salaries elsewhere, which is a big problem.
- Dean Coleman asked everyone to introduce themselves
- Dean Coleman spoke of all the new Legislators. Many are young according to Hulen and Dean Coleman stressed the importance of contacting Legislators concerning MAGNOLIA funding. MLA Legislative Day session will be in January/February and MLC

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will host theirs the last week in April. Cunetto asked who the chair is for MLA session - Mara said possibly Tonya Johnson, Madison County Library. Coleman stated that it would be great if there was a vice-chair. Hulen said that they have discussed this. Mara asked if we need to form a letter campaign- it gets the attention of the Legislature...handwritten notes for funding so it is recognized that there are many of us backing the request for funding. Mara volunteered to pen the notes from the committee.

- Cunetto discussed the budget and reviewed the budget information sheet that was handed out.

- Dean Coleman commended the Magnolia Committee for being so active. Hulen stated that we send a reminder for libraries to contribute in October. Stephen would get a reminder out, send it to Hulen, and Hulen would send it out to colleges.

- Cunetto said that Jim worked on a Magnolia video that has aired on MPB a couple of times. Trying to cut it to 30 seconds and get it run on MSU stations well as others. Dean Coleman said that we need to get it run on TV stations statewide.

- Regional training is still being discussed. Open it to teachers, librarians, libraries, etc.

- Hulen asked if the process of moving money from MDE to MLC is something that will have to be repeated.

- Cunetto updated on the new Magnolia website, where they had to solve a few problems. They have also worked to make sure all of the state agencies are all in the ranges with their IP addresses. At this point, all should have seamless access. There also have been a good many compliments about the site and the update. By and large, no major issues. Ebsco passwords will be expiring in December and they are currently tackling the problem as they are getting them updated. There also is a plan to work individually with libraries to make sure there are no gaps. Schools shouldn't be an issue. The plan is to continue working with all of that over the next 6 weeks or so.

- Hulen said MLC podcast is out and working. He also asked that Cunetto do a podcast about MAGNOLIA, as well as schedule time to do an interview and get it out to the public. Everyone felt that WILL BE A GREAT RESOURCE to continue getting the word out about MAGNOLIA.

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- Dean Coleman commended the committee members on their attendance and spoke of the benefits of meeting. She also suggested that the committee meet more often-maybe quarterly.
- Next Meeting was set for Wednesday, December 18, 2019 @ 10:00 AM at MLC.
- Meeting was adjourned.