

**BRaille AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY USER ADVISORY COUNCIL
DRAFT 1.1
Minutes
April 30, 2016**

Attendees:

Members present: Alan Smith, Kathleen Berman (California Council of the Blind), Mary Willows (National Federation of the Blind of California), Roslyn McCoy (representing Dyslexic library users), Margie Donovan via phone, Karen Parsegian, Shannon Ramsay, Hy Cohen.

Members absent: Rio Popper, Willis Lyon.

Staff present: Mike Marlin (BTBL Director), Mary Jane Kayes (Librarian), Donna Scales (Readers Advisory Supervisor). Note taker: Mary Willows.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME:

The eighth meeting (second of 2016) of the Braille and Talking Book Library User Advisory Council was called to order at 10:15 AM by President Alan Smith. All members and staff introduced themselves. A warm welcome was extended to new member Hy Cohen who introduced himself and gave his background and reasons for joining BUAC.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was distributed. Margie Donovan moved to adopt. Seconded by Shannon Ramsay. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2016:

Motion to approve made by XX. Seconded by XX. Motion passed.

BTBL Library Director's Report

Mike Marlin reported on current events and issues at the BTBL. On April 2-7 the National Library Service held its biennial national conference in San Francisco and several BTBL staff members were able to attend for a day in addition to BTBL librarians who stayed for the duration. It was well organized and informative. New audio magazine titles and commercial publishers' catalogs were recently added. The prototype of the Orbit 20 Braille display, which was debuted at CSUN in March, was announced. If it is deemed reliable NLS will likely seek funding for as well as a change in the legislation to permit the distribution of them to Braille patrons so they can order and read Braille books electronically. Right now there are approximately 35,000 NLS Braille subscribers in the U.S.

Mike covered in depth the summary of planned NLS innovations over the next 3-7 years, including:

Short Term (1 to 3 years)

- BARD Express—software that will enable BARD patrons who have problems downloading and unzipping books to bypass that process. Expected to be released this summer.

- Duplication for Demand (D4D)—hardware that, when coupled with a library’s circulation system, will enable libraries to readily duplicate titles for their patrons. Libraries will then be able to choose their level of participation as they move toward a shelfless paradigm. Levels on the continuum will enable libraries to:
 - a) duplicate copies of digital talking books for which NLS has not provided a physical copy;
 - b) duplicate, when needed, copies of titles that are not available on their shelves (libraries maintain collections limited to the newest titles);
 - c) opt out of copy allotment for some new titles; or
 - d) No longer maintain a collection but provide service by duplicating all titles on demand.

Libraries will be invited to participate at any of the four levels identified above, but are not required to participate. More information regarding this project will be available in the fall of this year.

Medium Term (3 to 5 years)

- If NLS’s authorizing legislation is amended to enable it to do so, NLS will pursue acquiring refreshable Braille displays that it will lend to Braille readers the way digital playback machines are now lent to audio readers. Braille books can then be produced on cartridge (the way audio books are now being produced) and provided to libraries to serve Braille readers. These Braille readers will also have the opportunity to download braille books from BARD. Braille magazines would become part of the Magazine on Cartridge (MOC) program.
- NLS is in a position to acquire from publishers electronic text (eText) of many titles now offered in print. Combining this text with Text-to-Speech (TTS) software, patrons could download a title not selected for recording by human voice. Conversely, this eText could also be coupled with a braille translation program to provide an electronic braille file of the book. (See refreshable braille displays above).

Long Term (5+ years)

- NLS is beginning to develop its next generation of digital players. These players will have wireless capability, so a patron will be able to download a title directly from BARD to the player and a library will have the capability to “push” books to a patron’s player.
- Parallel to the player development, NLS is investigating development of an infrastructure to support wireless delivery of books. What this will mean for network libraries is that physical collections will no longer be required once everyone in its service area has wireless capability. However, the other functions and roles of network libraries will become more important than ever.

The estimated timeline for these developments is three years to develop the new player and infrastructure, two years to disseminate, and another two years to fully implement.

These were the goals laid out at the conference. NLS plans to maintain a dialog with all stakeholders as these projects move forward to identify and resolve issues and concerns.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports-

Legislative Tour- Chair Alan Smith

The Open House this year was more successful than last year. The Council will consider dates for next year and will investigate holding the library legislative awareness day in the capitol. BTBL staff and council members will schedule a tour of potential rooms in the Capitol.

Margie will write thank you letters to the legislators and/or their staff members who attended the Open House at the library.

Selection Committee-Chair Kathleen Berman

Kathleen Berman posed the question as to how we will rotate new members onto the council and bring them up to speed with issues. There are up to fifteen members authorized to comprise the council. New members come on at the beginning of the year.

There was lengthy discussion as to whether member terms should be two or three years. Mike thought a three year commitment was too long. Margie Donovan moved to reduce all member terms to two years; and members can request another consecutive two year. Under special circumstances a member could remain for one more term. Kathy seconded. Motion passed with one no vote from Hy Cohen.

Mike and Mary Jane will look at the current terms of members and recalibrate. Mike will also revise the bylaws.

Outreach Committee-Chair Karen Parsegian

Karen Parsegian asked for volunteers for the committee. Rosalyn, Mary Shannon and Alan volunteered. Karen said that she will send out an email message in the next three weeks and start having conference calls for the sub-committee. There will be PSA's made available soon. Committee members will help distribute to radio and TV stations. Also NLS plans to produce a paid television commercial to be aired around the country, though no timeline has been given for when it might happen.

Margie Donovan will research the libraries that said they would put the URL on their website.

On-line Catalog-

The color contrast on the pages makes it very difficult for visually impaired users to read which page they are on. Alan has suggested a better contrast. Mary Jane said the box is at the top and the bottom of the webpage but the contrast is beige on blue.

Mike will put a tip in the next newsletter that users can search for a book by using the book number.

California Library Association Program Proposal

Alan submitted a proposal to the California Library Association annual conference coordinators. Alan, Mike, Margie and Roslyn will present a talk on the services and equipment of the BTBL. Note: Subsequent to the meeting, CLA informed Alan the proposal was accepted. The program will be Saturday November 4 from 1:30 to 2:30.

Proposed BTBL Name Change

Mike will be having discussions with state librarian Greg Lucas.

Strategic Plan-

Mike will send out a draft of a three year strategic plan for the BTBL. He would like to have input from Council members.

Meeting dates-

July 30 and December 3.

Margie brought up the question of how many meetings a member should attend each year. She is concerned that there should be a youth representative on the council. Two unexcused absences mean removal from the council. After two in a row the person receives a warning. Margie moved and Roslyn seconded a motion to have Mike communicate a warning to one of the Council members who has missed two consecutive meetings and ask her if she wishes to resign from the council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Willows