

PINES Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

June 07, 2021 at 1:00PM

via Google Meet

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Martha Powers-Jones called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Executive Committee Members present were: Valerie Bell, Stacy L. Brown, Jan Burroughs, Lecia Eubanks, Stephen Houser, Lisa MacKinney, Natalie Marshall, Geri Mullis (Chair), Martha Powers-Jones. Also present, Darla Chambliss, Jennifer Golden, Sandy Hester, and George Tuttle (for Beth McIntyre). GPLS present: Julie Walker, Elizabeth McKinney.

II. Old Business

None.

III. New Business

Expanding fines free pilot program to include two additional library systems.

Director Darla Chambliss (Northwest Georgia Regional Library System) and Director Beth McIntyre (Piedmont Regional Library System) requested to be added to the fines free pilot program. Both Directors have Regional Library Board approval for a system-wide fines free program and are ready to move forward.

Discussion

M. Powers-Jones concerned that adding two systems may be a hardship and skew data. L. Eubanks expressed the need for a control group to ensure a good data set. S. Hester sent out a survey to gauge how many other systems wanted to be a part of the fines free pilot. M. Powers-Jones not in favor of library systems joining after pilot is already in progress at Coastal Plain. L. Eubanks suggested that PRLS and NGRL stay in amnesty mode instead of joining pilot and that it would be difficult for neighboring systems who are not fines free to handle shared patrons. Mentioned that they haven't gone back to discuss with subcommittees about adding systems to pilot program. S. Brown expressed favor of allowing inclusion since they are ready to move forward, their Boards have approved, more data is needed, and waiting may have a negative impact in their communities. D. Chambliss stated that if the systems are not allowed to join the pilot, a precedent will be set for future pilots. Also, fines should not be part of a library budget and the pilot should be about accessibility and not money. However, NGRL will remain in amnesty mode if necessary as not to disrupt the pilot which is already in progress. G. Mullis suggested examining what S. Hester has already done in Coastal Plain and replicating it at NGRL and PRLS as not to deviate from the established pilot procedures and cause disruption. Further, after two years, S. Hester will provide a report with pitfalls and lessons learned during the pilot period. E. McKinney mentioned that adding two systems will be a lot of extra work for the PINES Team.

Collection metrics were discussed: inactive users, return rate, circulation statistics. J. Golden mentioned tracking holds ratio. J. Burroughs expressed concern about how this will effect smaller neighboring systems and suggested a decrease in fines from .20 to .10 as a possible compromise. G. Mullis reminded committee that this is still a pilot program. E. McKinney stated that the PINES Team could handle two more systems but no other systems could join, at this time. She suggested that NGRL and PRLS staff meet with S. Hester and J. Golden when they are ready so everyone is on the same page. J. Walker stated that the additional data will strengthen GPLS' case for more money from the legislature to support all Georgia libraries going fines free. L. Eubanks stated that the pilot program systems will have a huge responsibility to collect data. D. Chambliss and G. Tuttle stated that they understood the workload would increase for staff but that they are ready.

M. Powers-Jones made a motion to approve adding Northwest Georgia Regional Library System and Piedmont Regional Library System to the fines free pilot program. She also made a motion that the pilot be extended for another year and the two added systems will model their plan after S. Hester's pilot program, which includes a working group; motion seconded by N. Marshall and passed with a majority vote. V. Bell, S. Brown, L. Eubanks, S. Houser, L. MacKinney, N. Marshall, G. Mullis, and M. Powers-Jones voted in favor; J. Burroughs abstained with a vote of "maybe yes."

IV. Next Meeting

September 2021 Director's Meeting or as called by Chair.

V. Adjournment

J. Burroughs made a motion to adjourn at 1:55PM; seconded by N. Marshall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stacy L. Brown