DPLA DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA

DPLA Board of Directors Call

June 14, 2013

Participating Board members: Robert Darnton, Laura DeBonis, Luis Herrera, Jamie Hollier, John Palfrey (President), Amy Ryan, [*absent:* Cathy Casserly, Paul Courant, Siva Vaidhyanathan]

Additional Participants: Dan Cohen (DPLA), Kenny Whitebloom (DPLA), members of the public

INTRODUCTION

John Palfrey, President of the DPLA Board of Directors, commenced the call at 1:03 PM EDT.

FORMING BOARD COMMITTEES

Since the DPLA Board has filled out to nine members, the Board discussed potentially populating its Standing Board committees—Governance and Finance—as outlined in the Committees Purpose and Structure document. Palfrey invited the new members to comment on the document. Robert Darnton said that the structure should remain flexible, but that the document strikes him as an excellent start. Amy Ryan approved the fact that the Board committees make recommendations to the Board of Directors itself, as well as the feature that allows them the opportunity to add individuals to committees.

Palfrey thanked the Directors for their input and said that the next order of business would be to populate the rosters offline.

BOARD TERM STAIRSTEP (CONTINUED)

In May 2013, the Board discussed member terms during an executive session, as the group wished to conduct personal conversations with individual members about their preferences. Palfrey said that the stairstep model was meant to preserve the Board's institutional knowledge. Palfrey reviewed the design of the chart. He highlighted the fact that the individual terms do not reflect the worth or merit of the group, but rather serve as an impartial way to cycle in new members in a coherent fashion.

Ryan brought up "removal from office" as described in the DPLA Bylaws, which she noted is a bit opened ended as currently written. She suggested that once the Board's Governance Committee has been established that the Board ought to draft some language and procedures on this subject, in the event it's needed. She described the approach taken by the Boston Public Library (BPL). Palfrey liked the idea and noted that the BPL language might be useful. Palfrey noted that the

task of reviewing and editing the bylaws has been set aside for future discussion, and he said that the Board will take it up in the coming months.

UPDATE FROM THE DPLA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dan Cohen, DPLA Executive Director, offered an update on the DPLA's progress since the Board's last call in May 2013. He said that big new partners are in the pipeline and that they're hoping to double the amount of content in the database. DPLA staff have been listening to the community and performed some important tweaks to the front-end. For instance, they've improved accessibility, adding textual equivalents, improving other navigation items, and so forth, and made list sharing public, among other enhancements. On the backend, they implemented analytics services for individual institutions.

DPLA staff have traveled to various events around the country to speak on behalf of the organization. The DPLA participated in the National Day of Civic Hacking as well as a hackathon at a recent THATcamp conference. Boone Gorges, a lead developer for WordPress, made a new app for the App Library, Cohen said. Upcoming meetings for DPLA staff include CLIR, ARL, FedLink, where Cohen will be giving a talk, GPO, and others. DPLA staff will also be in force at the ALA Annual 2013 conference in Chicago for an informal meet and greet on June 30, in addition to Cohen's keynote later that evening alongside ALA President, Maureen Sullivan.

Thanks to a gracious offer from Amy Ryan and her team at the BPL, DPLA staff will be hosted at the BPL's central library in Boston, MA. Cohen continues to work with the Berkman Center on the transition, and he has set up payroll and other operational services. He said that DPLA staff is hard at work on securing additional funding.

In response to Cohen's update, Ryan said that she's pleased to offer office space to the DPLA, and that they, as an organization, are pleased to receive services from DPLA staff in return for the space. Laura DeBonis piled on praise for the decision to host the DPLA. The BPL is going to undergo a major transformation of the Johnson Building, Ryan said, and as they think of reopening it in the future, she mentioned that this might be an opportunity for the DPLA to have a physical presence beyond its strong virtual one, as the new building design will accommodate high-tech exhibitions and other interactive features.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Palfrey opened up the line for comments and questions from the public at 1:33 PM EDT. No questions were brought up. Palfrey thanked all for calling in and concluded the June 2013 Board call shortly thereafter.