The meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm by Chair Corrado di Tillio. He welcomed those in attendance and noted regrets from Siobahn Reardon, Jeff Barber, Paul Tumphour, Carme Galve Montore, Etienne Mackiewicz, Knut Skansen, and Ivancica Dukec Kero.

Members of the Standing Committee unanimously gave permission to observers to attend the meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting was adopted as presented.

Minutes of meetings from Doha, Columbus, and Montreal were approved.

Chair Corrado DiTillio announced that there are ten new members of the Standing Committee for a total of 17 members. He noted that there are now representatives from India and China.

In the matter of election of officers, the Committee approved Corrado Di Tillio as Chair and Siobhan Reardon as Secretary. There were no volunteers for Information Coordinator.

Corrado gave a report on the MetLib Conference in Montreal. He noted that there were multiple presentations on partnerships from various libraries throughout the world. It was a good conference with good library visits.

Coming up in Wroclaw is the Section’s main programme, to be presented August 24 at 13:45 – 15:45, Session 243, Public Libraries As Place Makers in Today’s Cities: Urban Development, Resilience, and Social Equity. Presenters from the UK, Finland, Poland, US and Denmark will speak on delivering social, cultural and economic objectives, serving people with autism, encouraging citizenship, serving young children and reaching people throughout the city.

There will be an awards ceremony August 22 at which the film award winner from Rome will be recognized.

August 23, there will be a jointly sponsored program on unique circulating collections (with the Section on Acquisition and Collection Development and the Section on Public Libraries).
The Chair announced that the Metropolitan Libraries Section will have a conference in Belgrade, Serbia, approximately May 11 – 17, 2018. The theme has not yet been determined. There will be tours included in the conference.

Future Section conferences will be in Helsinki, Finland, in 2019 and in Utrecht, Netherlands, in 2020.

The Metropolitan Libraries Short Film Award received about 30 submissions of which 17 met qualifications. The films were screened and judged by attendees at the MetLib Section Conference in Montreal. The winning film, featuring a new mother served by a branch library in Rome, will be shown along with other submissions at Branch 29 of the Wroclaw Library System August 21 at 7 pm. The Italian Consul in Wroclaw will attend. A prize of 500 Euros has been provided by the Free Library of Philadelphia.

The Metropolitan Libraries Section needs a logo. Suggestions are posted on BaseCamp. One is a group of skyscrapers. Some offered that the logo suggests cities, but not libraries. Josephine Siegrist suggested two shaking hands. A discussion followed, with requests to get people in the logo and express the digital connection. A big “M”, like those of metro lines, was proposed by Barbara Lison. The logo needs to be finalized by September 30.

In brief updates on various projects, Global Vision was mentioned, although next steps are not known at this time.

In the IFLA MetLib Statistics Initiative, Regina Library is working with Counting Opinions.

IFLA has some pending guidelines and proposes a working group on guidelines for the measurement of impact. There was mention of Guidelines, Standards and Outcome Measures for Australian Public Libraries as best practice. This discussion elicited considerable interest among attendees.

Basecamp is being used as group work space for Section documents and also for the Division.

Basecamp projects are used for recruiting Section members and conference participants as well as for conference program proposals. A possible topic for a programme in Kuala Lumpur 2018 is the library as a safe space (equity, terrorism, civil disturbance, natural disaster, etc.) Abstracts will be invited and posted on Basecamp.

Respectfully submitted:  Siobhan A Reardon, Secretary/Treasurer

2 May 2018