

Draft
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, April 24, 2006
MINUTES

Members Present: Acting Chair Rose Ellen Reynolds, William Allen, Alice Barrows, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Donna Good, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, and Joan Ress Reeves

Members Absent: Chair, Mark McKenney, Peter Deekle, Jay Litman, and Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Donna DiMichele, Beth Perry, Debbie Cullerton, and Karen Mellor

Observers: Dorothy Frechette and Shirley Long

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Draft agenda
2. Final report on MLS requirements in other states
3. Information Packet on Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program

The meeting was convened at 4:30 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of February 27, 2006 were unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In Chair McKenney's absence, Rose Ellen Reynolds presided over the meeting. Ms. Reynolds stated that she (representing COLA) along with Joan Ress Reeves (representing the Library Board) would be attending the ALA National Library Legislative event in Washington next Monday.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

Staff move

Staff has been heavily involved for the last several weeks with preparation for and implementation of a move of 10 staff from the 4th floor to the 2nd floor of the DOA between March 23 and April 21, and a reconfiguration of existing space for Talking Books Plus staff. The last of the moves, of Debbie Cullerton and Anne Parent, were completed last Friday.

Hispanic/Latino workshops

The schedule extends through July 17. Libraries are encouraged to send multiple representatives, even in communities that have not yet seen a significant Spanish-speaking population, as statistics indicate that this group now represents 11 percent of the state's population and it continues to grow. No knowledge of Spanish is necessary for this program. Beth Perry spoke of the success of the programs and encouraged Library Board members to attend or pass the word to others to attend.

LBRI Appointments

Although there are several openings on the Library Board as a result of term expirations, the process of filling the available slots is currently in a hiatus. Several names have been proposed to the Governor's Office, but there have been indications that the Governor's Office intends to make specific recommendations on the filling of the available positions. Available positions include a librarian from a medium or large public library, a school library media specialist, representatives of the economically disadvantaged and public library trustees, and a "general user."

PLA attendees thank OLIS for sponsorship

The five people who received OLIS "scholarships" to cover their registration costs at PLA in Boston this March have reported that they enjoyed the conference immensely. Several have provided OLIS with "quotable quotes" that we can use when reporting to the IMLS.

OLIS also recommended three attendees for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation rural libraries' preconference to PLA. Leslie McDonough was one of those attending and reported that it was a remarkable experience. She made comments on the fact that advocacy in Rhode Island is "two steps ahead" of the other states in the country.

Talking Books Plus Survey

It was reported at the last meeting that Hope Houston had developed a survey instrument that was included in the most recent issue of the *Talking Times*. Beth Perry reported that they had a 13% return rate, and that the majority were very satisfied with the services provided. Also 57% of users either own or have access to a computer and 93% have internet access.

National Library Legislative Day

In addition to the attendees noted above in the Chairperson's report, Rhode Island attendees will also include Donna DiMichele representing OLIS, Donna Hayes representing RIEMA, and Cindy Lunghofer representing RILA. Debbie Cullerton has taken on the NLD State Coordinator task formerly performed by Laurie Scialabba.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FINAL REPORT ON MLS REQUIREMENTS IN OTHER STATES – ANNE PARENT

Ms. Parent presented her final report on MLS Requirements in other states. The Board will hold this information on hand for future reference.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LIBRARY

The library is still operational. Tovah Reis said she has heard that options for location and operations are being explored, but that the DOH Library is now in a holding pattern.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Budget Committee

None.

Public Relations Committee

The committee had hoped to get the printed brochure on RI library facts that was presented at the last meeting distributed during National Library Week. Logistics prevented this from happening, so they are now hoping it can be distributed at the RILA Conference (June 1 & 2, 2006).

Legislation Committee

The bills on the Legislative Commission, (H-7166 Sub A and S-2382), and on \$2.3 million funding (H-7219) are pending. No legislation has been submitted as of yet on OLIS administration. Rose Ellen Reynolds will contact Fran Farrell-Bergeron who had discussed the latter legislation with Speaker Murphy's staff.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of the recommendation of the Planning & Budget Committee in re: changes to Appendix F (Library Construction) that would increase the maximum reimbursable amount per square foot for library construction projects and renovations by \$50 in each category.

Karen spoke briefly to summarize the distributed materials, including information obtained from the Library Journal construction survey, especially as pertaining to the New England area. Discussion on the recommendation had been initiated at the last Library Board meeting.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island support the recommendation of the Planning & Budget Committee in re: changes to Appendix F (Library Construction) that would increase the maximum reimbursable amount per square foot for library construction projects and renovations by \$50 in each category. The recommendation is retroactive to January 1, 2006

RILINK - Dorothy Frechette spoke to the Board about what RILINK is trying to accomplish, where they need to go, and her hope for how OLIS and the Library Board can help RILINK help school libraries.

RILINK is very grateful for the LSTA Grant Funds that they have received from OLIS in the past, and have used those funds to update their equipment. RILINK is now at a crossroads. With the increase of schools coming on board they are near capacity, and do not have any capacity for further expansion. A major system upgrade is needed for school libraries that want to join RICAT in the future. RILINK is requesting that the board send a letter of support for potential funding to the East Bay Educational Collaborative. Discussion followed.

Ms. Frechette distributed a draft support letter for review.

Ms. Reeves moved to send a letter of support for RILINK, Ms. Barrows seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved sending a letter to the East Bay Educational Collaborative in support of RILINK.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 15th.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.