

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, February 27, 2006

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Donna Good, Jay Litman, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Amedeo, Deborah Barchi, Regina Connor, Joan Ress Reeves, Joshua Teverow, Jack Warner

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

Observers: Kathy Ellen Bullard, Shirley Long, Cindy Lunghofer, and David Macksam

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Draft agenda
2. LBRI Committee Members List
3. 2006 – H 7219 An Act Relating To Library Funding
4. 2006 – S 2382 Reinstating and Extending the Commission Life and Amending the Membership of the Special Legislative Commission to Study the Current Strengths and Weaknesses of Library Services in the State of Rhode Island
5. Spanish Language Outreach Workshop Information Sheets
6. Facts About Rhode Island Libraries Brochure
7. Draft Proposal for the Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program
8. Informational handout of MSLIS requirements for other states

The meeting was convened at 4:19 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of January 17, 2006 meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mark McKenney passed on giving a report; however, he did announce that William Allen has agreed to serve another term on the Library Board.

II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

LibFutures

Ms. Parent reported that three pieces of legislation have been filed on behalf of LibFutures thus far this year. Two are mirror bills in the House and Senate that would establish the Legislative Commission to study the future of RI libraries. They are H7166 and S2382. Additionally, a budget bill for \$2.3 million that would be used to "increase interface capabilities between all library systems," has been filed as H7219. In discussions with sponsor Dennigan, one million of this funding would go for statewide databases and the remainder for a HELIN/CLAN interface. H7166 (Commission bill) will be heard Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 211 of the State House. Expected to testify are LBRI chair McKenney, LBRI Board member/COLA chair Bill Allen, and RILA President Cindy Lunghofer. The next meeting of LibFutures is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, at 3 p.m. at the Cranston Public Library.

TBP Newsletter

In the most recent edition of the *Talking Times* TBP newsletter, Hope Houston devised a survey instrument. The survey asks users about satisfaction with TBP services and staff, and also about their computer use and skills, and including an offer of telephone assistance in responding to the survey.

Continuing Education

Ms. Parent reported that 21 new programs have been announced on the LORI website for this spring, including nine workshops designed to equip members of the library community with knowledge and resources to reach out to Spanish speakers and increase access to library services and technology. Additional programs of note include Blogging – back by popular demand, Improving your Flyers by Importing Pictures and Graphics into Word, Handling Intellectual Property, and Boys and Books. A specially featured program is Dealing with Difficult People. Donna DiMichele secured the services of a speaker with over 20 years experience in this topic. K. Carey Baker, M.Ed., is a consultant specializing in training and organizational development issues. She will lead participants through exercises that will allow them to “practice interacting with such challenging behaviors as anger, whining, sarcasm, and negativity.”

Construction Funding

Ms. Parent spoke on Karen Mellor’s behalf. Karen will answer any in-depth questions the Board may have about the Planning & Budget meeting and the Draft Construction Reimbursement statement as necessary.

Woman’s Day Initiative

Ms. Parent reported that *Woman’s Day* magazine wants to hear about libraries changing lives. In this initiative, part of ALA & Woman’s Day’s Put it in Writing@your library® program, stories are being collected on how libraries have changed readers’ lives. They ask readers to submit their stories in 700 words or less. Stories can be sent to womansday@ala.org from now until May 10, 2006, when the promotion closes.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MLS Requirements for Chief of Library Agencies – Ms. Parent distributed her findings on MLS requirements of other states that she obtained from her research. Although the majority have stated that they do require an MLS, there are a lot of gray areas. Wording and stipulations vary from state to state. In some cases the requirement is not in statute but is in the position description. Some states have the clause “or equivalent training and experience,” which means that the MLS may not necessarily be required. In RI, this clause is in the job description for the Chief of Library Services as it was posted in 2005. The RI statute remains murky because it still refers to Library Services reporting to a CIO. There has been some consideration of legislation that would alter the RI statute to clean up outdated language.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Budget Committee

Karen Mellor provided an extensive report to the Planning & Budget Committee on Library Construction Costs. She proposed an increase of the maximum reimbursable amount per square foot for library construction projects and renovations by \$50 in each category as follows:

1. Increase new construction to \$200 per square foot from \$150 per square foot
2. Increase renovation reimbursement to \$175 per square foot from \$125 per square foot

The committee voted to approve the changes to reflect those amounts and make the recommendation that the Library Board approve this action.

Chair McKenney asked that this be placed on the next LBRI agenda for a vote.

Public Relations Committee

Tovah Reis stated that the Public Relations Committee is recommending to the Board that Facts About Rhode Island Libraries, currently on the LORI website, be printed and sent to 168 network libraries with the Board’s recommendation that distribution be to library users during National Library Week (April 16-22, 2006). Hope Houston will work with the OLIS staff to make necessary changes to the content (e.g., adding URLs, and selecting pictures). It is recommended that 5000 copies be made and a number of copies be sent out to each library based on its size.

As one of the tasks of the Committee is to promote OLIS in the state, it is recommended that a brochure about OLIS be prepared for distribution to the library community, the general public and the media. OLIS staff would provide the content. Donna DiMichele will gather such publications from other states for the committee to review. Funding options will need to be discussed.

It was recommended that the Board look into having the Facts About Rhode Island Libraries and other publications distributed also at places such as the Convention Center along with other state information.

The Board liked the idea and it was the consensus of the Board that OLIS and the Public Relations Committee move forward with this distribution.

Legislation Committee

No report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Closing of Department of Health Library

Ms. Reis gave some background on the Department of Health's budget cut and their decision to close their library. There are numerous concerns with this decision. Discussion followed. Chair McKenney stated that he would prefer knowing more details about the money that will be saved and about any alternative recommendations before the Board considers writing a letter about the closing. Peter Deekle, Tovah Reis, and Anne Parent were charged with further investigating the facts about the situation, and report back to the board on possible action if necessary.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Beth Perry encouraged the Board to attend and promote the Spanish Language Outreach Project Workshops made possible by WebJunction through a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

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.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 20th.
It was recommended and approved by consensus that the scheduled meeting for April be changed from April 17 to April 24 because of school vacation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.