

**Draft**  
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
Monday, May 22, 2006  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair, Mark McKenney, Rose Ellen Reynolds, William Allen, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Donna Good, Leslie McDonough, and Joan Ress Reeves

**Members Absent:** Alice Barrows, Regina Connor, Jay Litman, Tovah Reis, and Joshua Teverow

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

**Observers:** Shirley Long and Dale Thompson

**Reporting:** Debbie Cullerton

**Materials Distributed:**

1. Draft agenda
2. LSTA 5-Year Plan Evaluation
3. General Information on the LORI Grants 2006

The meeting was convened at 4:23 p.m.

**I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of April 24, 2006 were unanimously approved with two minor grammar changes.

**II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Mark McKenney reported on testimony given at the House Committee on Finance Hearing for the support of bill H7219. Mr. McKenney felt we had a very good representation and received positive feed back from Rep. Elizabeth Dennigan and Rep. Eileen Naughton.

**III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Chief of Library Services Position**

Anne Parent reported on her meeting with Jerry Williams, Associate Director from the Department of Administration. Mr. Williams assured Ms. Parent that the department would seek to fill her position and that it would not be absorbed. She also urged that Beth Perry be appointed in the interim.

Ms. Parent also spoke on her meeting with Beverly Najarian, Director of Administration. Ms. Najarian asked Ms. Parent what exactly does the Office of Library & Information Services do. Ms. Najarian wanted to speak with the Governor on what he has in store

for Library Services before making any decisions. She will meet with Mark McKenney to hear concerns and recommendations from the Library Board.

Ms. Parent stated that the Library Board will need to argue the necessity for the position to be filled with a candidate holding an MLS degree, and also the need for a national search.

### **National Library Legislative Day**

Rhode Island attendees reported that their visit went very well and that they were well received.

Joan Ress Reeves reported that Representative Kennedy's aide was new and was very interested in what they had to say. They were able to meet with both Senator Jack Reed and Senator Lincoln Chafee. Representative James Langevin had to speak on stem cell research with Dana Reeve so the RI attendees met with his chief legislative director. Ms Reeves said it was well worth it.

Ms. Reeves also stated that Donna Hayes was an excellent representative from Frenchtown School in East Greenwich.

### **LIBFUTURES**

A packet of testimony outlining talking points was passed around for board members to review. Ms. Parent said legislators were receptive. LibFutures Initiative is looking brighter than it has been.

### **LSTA**

Donna DiMichele reported that the 2 major focuses for LSTA are the 5 year evaluation and the LORI grants. Ms. DiMichele distributed a projected timeline on the 5-year evaluation plan. The new 5-year strategic plan is due at IMLS by June 30, 2007. An outside consultant will be helping with the evaluation process. LSTA grant information is available on the website. The purpose of the LORI grant program is to fund projects that contribute to resource sharing among LORI libraries. Projects that benefit the multi-type library community will be given the highest priority.

## **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Planning & Budget Committee**

None.

### **Public Relations Committee**

None.

### **Legislation Committee**

Rose Ellen Reynolds mentioned that Rep. Eileen Naughton would be good to go to for a funding source for this bill. Mark McKenney noted that the House Committee perked up when they learned that local libraries are spending a great deal of money on individual databases, and that money could be saved if we joined together. Most other states are

ahead of us. RI is lagging behind. Testifying for the bill were Toby Rossner, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates, Elizabeth H. Sinwell, Dean of Students of the Chariho Regional School District, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Vice-Chair of the Library Board of RI, Legislative Committee Chair, Peter Deekle, Rhode Island University Administrator, Tom Evans, State House Librarian, Alice Barrows, Library Board Member, Beth Bailey, South Kingstown Library Board of Trustees, Alice Juda, South Kingstown, President of the Board of Trustees, Cynthia Weisbord, Trustee of the South Kingstown Library, Anne Parent, Chief of Library Services, Office of Library & Information Services, Suzanne Costa, Library Media Specialist, Barrington High School, Mark McKenney, Esq., Library Board Chair, Joan Ress Reeves, Library Board Member, and Colin Brody, student of Barrington High School. Ms. Reynolds reported that H 7219 was held for further consideration.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Anne Parent, Chief of Library Services announced to the Board her resignation. This marks the end of thirty-eight years of service to libraries and library users. Effective with Ms. Parent's resignation will be her retirement from RI state service.

Ms. Parent assured the Library Board that she was not leaving for negative reasons. She is leaving on a positive note to explore new possibilities for service and personal fulfillment.

Discussion followed on the importance of this position. Joan Ress Reeves stated that the Board should let the Department of Administration know the particular criteria the Board would like to be taken under consideration in filling her position.

Ms. Reeves read a Resolution of Appreciation for Anne Parent from the Library Board. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Library Board involvement in the replacement of Ms. Parent's position to be a topic of discussion at the June meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.