

DRAFT
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, September 18, 2006
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Cummings, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, Alice Barrows, Joan Ress Reeves and Ruth Sullivan

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Donna Good, Peter Deekle, Jay Litman, and Joshua Teverow

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

Observers: Shirley Long

Reporting: Beth Perry

Materials Distributed:

1. Draft agenda
2. Proposed meeting schedule for 2006-2007
3. *Providence Journal* article on hazardous toys
4. 2006 LORI grant information
5. Information on OLIS continuing education survey
6. Proposed posting for Chief of Library Services position

The meeting was convened at 4:25 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of May 22, 2006 were unanimously approved with a minor change. In the section on National Legislative Day, the last sentence was changed to say, "Joan Reeves said that the trip was well worth it."

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mark McKenney welcomed all members back after the long summer hiatus. Ruth Sullivan, Dean of the CCRI Library was welcomed as the representative of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Jack Warner, to the Library Board.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

Beth Perry, Acting Chief of Library Services, reported on events following the passing of our dear friend and librarians' librarian, Frank Iacono. Karen Mellor has been temporarily upgraded to Beth's former position to help assess the changes that need to be made in providing reference services at Office of Library and Information Services as well as OLIS' state budget submission and new LSTA 5-year plan. A justification to fill Frank's position will be submitted to the Administration shortly.

Summer Reading Programs

The statewide Summer Reading Program (Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales) was quite successful this year. 13,559 children participated in the reading program with a 60% completion rate. There were 304 performances sponsored by OLIS which were attended by 24,139 people.

In addition, this year, for the first time, the Talking Books Program collaborated with Meeting Street School, the Lions Sight Foundation and Camp Mauchatea to promote reading to visually impaired and blind children. Hope Houston reported that last year there was only one Talking Books patron participating in the summer program. This year there were 163 who participated and completed the program and 266 attended the show sponsored by OLIS. Wendy Kirchner, Librarian, Meeting Street School says: "Summer Reading was outstanding! All the students participated. Being a school, the students were a very captive audience. I heard great things from all the teachers and the parents truly loved getting their child's chart at the end of the summer, proving that the children were exposed to age-appropriate literature!"

Other Office of Library and Information Services reports

The Annual Reports from public libraries were due on September 15, 2006. Ann Piascik is busy verifying the information to compile for reports, one of which determines the annual grant in aid and endowment grant in aid for each library.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped sent a consultant to review the Talking Books Program this year. He was pleased with the hiring of Hope Houston as a readers' advisor, thus increasing service to patrons. He was also pleased to know that applications for service are increasing significantly.

LIBFUTURES

Beth reported that at the request of Rep. Elizabeth Dennigan, the One Catalog and the Database committees revised the estimates for those services. The One Catalog cost (if funded by the budget/legislature) is \$1,118,000. The cost of statewide databases would be \$1,225,000. The total would be \$2,343,500. A meeting is being arranged for Rep. Dennigan to meet with Tom Mullaney regarding the funding. If the funding is approved it would be a separate line item within the DOA budget similar to that for Construction and Grant-in-Aid funding. It would not go in the OLIS budget.

A meeting of the potential legislative Commission members was held in August. Rep. Dennigan reviewed the progress of senator and representative appointments to the Commission, which is slow due to the coming elections. If appointments are not made this fall, Rep. Dennigan will submit a bill to extend the life of the Commission and its report to a later date.

LSTA

Emily Sheketoff, director of the American Library Association Washington Office, contacted Beth Perry regarding the possibility of contacting Senator Chafee during his time in RI regarding support of the President's and House's appropriation figures for LSTA funding in the 2007 budget. Sheketoff mentioned that there would probably be a lame duck session after the elections, during which the LSTA appropriation would be decided. As a smaller state, RI needs the new formula of \$680,000 for small states to be implemented this year. (Next year, the big states want increases for population

instead). If the House version is approved by both the House and Senate, Rhode Island would receive \$1,165,361 as opposed to the Senate's proposal which would fund \$only \$1,048,188. That is a \$117, 173 difference and \$88,824 more than OLIS received for FY2006. If the Senate Committee's lower amount prevails, this discrepancy will continue year after year.

The Library Board requested that Beth send them the details in an email so that they may contact Senator Chafee with correct information. This will be done. Beth left a voice mail message for Chafee's aide on library issues, but has received no response as yet.

Donna DiMichele's Report

Donna reported on the handling of the lead-based prizes for the Summer Reading Program that were recalled this summer. Melody Allen took charge of the issue and as a result there was little impact on Rhode Island libraries. A Providence Journal article on the issue was handed out. The Board asked that a letter be written commending Melody for her excellent response to the situation. This will be done.

The LSTA LORI grant was announced. RILINK EASL: Expanding Access for Small Libraries was awarded the grant of \$75,000. The submissions were good this year which made the decision difficult, especially since the full amount was requested by others. (see webpage at <http://www.lori.ri.gov/grants/lsta/awards.php>)

The OLIS online Continuing Education Survey 2006 was a success with 154 responses which will help the Committee in deciding CE programs for the coming years.

Himmel and Wilson were awarded the contract for evaluation of the results of the 2003-2007 Five-Year LSTA plans for 6 states in the Northeast. Dr. Ethel Himmel visited OLIS staff in August. Staff were not told what to expect, but provided a vast amount of information regarding their activities in the plan. Focus Groups will be held this month with: Academic Librarians (with hospital librarians); School Librarians; Public Librarians; Childrens' and Youth Services' Librarians; and Literacy Program teachers and students. Some individuals will be contacted for comments by telephone.

Donna just returned from a national conference on Library Delivery Services held in Colorado. While there she delivered a paper on the service provided in Rhode Island which was well-accepted. She also had the opportunity to discuss improvements with vendors and other state representatives to enhance the RI system. Using the ILL Committee to advise on delivery issues as well as meeting monthly with RI's vendor were mentioned as quick results. When the RFP is written for the next contract, the information from this conference will be very helpful.

Karen Mellor's Report

Karen will be attending the next IRMB meeting at the Board's request. She will report any important items to the Board. She noted that the RI.gov (state portal) contract has not been awarded, but that NEI will continue until it is awarded.

The Statewide Reference Resource Center contract with the Providence Public Library has been approved. One major addition is the HeritageQuest database for statewide use through AskRI.org (<http://www.askri.org/>).

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Budget Committee

None.

Public Relations Committee

None.

Legislation Committee

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Board Appointments

Last year's requests for appointments were not submitted to the Senate prior to the end of the 2006 session. Beth has tried to contact the Governor's office regarding these appointments, but has met with silence. Mark McKenney offered to contact the office about the appointments. Since several slots haven't been filled for several years and some members are due to cycle off the Board, members were asked to consider suggesting names of individuals who could serve on the board in their place or in other positions. Contact with the individuals in advance by those nominating them would be appreciated. Beth will provide a current list of vacancies and expected vacancies in Board slots to Mark McKenney for review and action.

Budget

The Office of Library and Information Services is currently working on its budget justification and impact statements for the required 15% cut. Another scenario may be a 3% increase, but it is unlikely that it will prevail. The dependence on federal LSTA funds to support OLIS and its impact on grants was discussed.

Possible Memorial Scholarship

Gale Eaton, Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Services, is proposing to all RI library groups that a scholarship in memory of Frank Iacono be established in the General Fund of the Library school to support future librarians. She is discussing this with his family as well. When all groups are aligned, a request for donations will be sent out to all. The Library Board requested that a letter of condolence be drafted to send to the family of Frank Iacono. This will be done.

Posting of the position of Chief of Library Services

Director Beverly Najarian approved the posting of the position of Chief of Library Services recently. Beth met with the Deputy for Human Resources, Steve Johnson, who referred her to Lisa Middleton as the HR contact. Beth provided Lisa with the position description and the previous posting for the position. That was updated with some clearer language and a copy of the draft was given to the Board. When approved by Melanie Marcoccio, the dates of the posting will be revised and Beth will be instructed to send it out to all appropriate library listservs and joblines, many of which have already been suggested. The two-week posting period should generate a number

of good applicants. A search committee will be formed with the advice of the Board to evaluate the applications and begin the interviews. Lisa Middleton will receive the applications, screen them for unqualified applicants and pass them on to the committee. The MLS and experience are required for the position.

Tentative Schedule of Board meetings for 2006-2007

After reviewing the proposed schedule and conflicting dates, the Board approved the schedule as proposed. The schedule will now be posted on the website as well as with the Secretary of State.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Ress Reeves announced the opening of the new RISD Library (15 Westminster St.) scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2006, at 4:30 pm. James Billington, Librarian of Congress will be the main speaker. The Board should be receiving invitations soon.

Alice Barrows requested information on the impact of the new fire code on libraries, specifically the William Hall Library, and the requirement to install sprinkler systems at great cost to libraries. Karen Mellor responded that this was a decision of the local fire marshals and that most libraries would not be impacted. Fire officials are mostly concerned about meeting rooms with a capacity for over 300 people and the requirement for multiple modes of egress. It was suggested that libraries can contact the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) for current recommendations on fire safety systems for libraries and museums. NEDCC can be contacted at NEDCC ~ 100 Brickstone Square ~ Andover, MA 01810-1494 ~ Telephone: 978-470-1010 ~ Fax: 978-475-6021 ~ Email: nedcc@nedcc.org ~ website: <http://www.nedcc.org>

IV. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 16, 2006 in Conference Room B in the DOA building

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.