

**DRAFT**  
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
Monday, November 20, 2006  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair, Mark McKenney, Joan Ress Reeves, Jay Litman, Donna Good, Mary Cummings, Ruth Sullivan, Tovah Reis, and Peter Deekle.

**Members Absent:** William Allen, Debbie Barchi, Alice Barrows, Regina Connor, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Leslie McDonough, and Joshua Teverow.

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

**Observers:** Tracy Williams, CIO, Department of Information Technology, State of Rhode Island, Howard Boksenbaum, Department of Information Technology, Shirley Long, Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library; Cindy Lunghofer, RILA, and Phyllis Humphrey

**Reporting:** Debbie Cullerton

**Materials Distributed:**

1. Draft agenda
2. White Paper on Statewide Databases and One Catalog
3. OLIS Website Screenshot

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

**I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of September 17, 2006 were accepted and approved as submitted.

**II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Mark McKenney welcomed Tracy Williams, the Chief Information Officer for the State of Rhode Island and Howard Boksenbaum, the incoming Chief of Library Services for the State of Rhode Island.

Mr. McKenney stated that he would like to get some movement on the appointments to the Library Board. If the Board doesn't get some appointments, reaching a quorum in the future could be a problem. Now that the election is over, the Governor's office and Deborah Smith said that they would be taking action on recommendations to the Library Board of Rhode Island. He asked members of the Board that if they have any more leads to pass them on to Beth Perry.

### **III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION**

Beth Perry, Acting Chief of Library Services, reported that the Office of Library and Information Services is currently working on the state budget and have provided impact statements to the Budget office. There has been no news as of yet but Louise Bright assured her that she would let Ms. Perry know what the Governor's final recommendation is.

#### **Federal Budget**

The board was sent an email by Ms. Perry on the LSTA appropriations. Senator Chafee has been contacted on the importance of it. OLIS is asking that the House version be the one that gets passed.

#### **Legislative Commission to Study the Strengths and Weaknesses of Library Services**

The commission met and discussed how the commission would proceed on issues such as: their influence on legislation, and in terms of themselves, and what could be done for libraries in the state. The meeting was led by Maureen Sullivan who acted as the facilitator. Ms. Perry said the meeting went very well. At the first official meeting of the Commission, a chair and vice-chair will be elected.

#### **CLAN**

Ms. Perry wanted to point out to the Board that CLAN is changing its name to Ocean State Libraries...Connecting Rhode Island. Members wanted to make a change for quite a while because of criticism and implications of the name CLAN.

#### **LSTA Reports**

Ms. Perry stated that Donna DiMichele couldn't be at the Library Board Meeting today, but reported that we would be getting our LSTA evaluation reports soon. Also OLIS has been working on the new delivery contracts and also the LSTA end of the year reports.

#### **New OLIS Website**

Karen Mellor gave a demonstration of the main features of the new OLIS Website which the OLIS Web Team had been working on diligently for the past year. She also gave a hand-out of the homepage screenshot with the new URL. Ms. Mellor pointed out that there are over 1000 pages of information that had to be streamlined and converted. The reason for doing this was to adopt the look and feel of other government web sites and make it easier to navigate and maintain. The new website will be launched by end of week.

Kudos were given by Mark McKenney and all the Board Members to the OLIS webteam.

Ms. Mellor mentioned that besides herself the other webteam members, which consist of Debbie Cullerton, Chaichin Chen, Sheila Carlson, and Alicia Waters have worked feverishly to make this happen.

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Planning & Budget Committee**

None.

##### **Public Relations Committee**

None.

##### **Legislation Committee**

None.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **White Paper on Statewide Databases and One Catalog**

At the request of Representative Betsy Dennigan a memorandum was sent to Thomas Mullaney of the Budget Office. She was hopeful that if we could make overtures to the governor's office to put this into the budget ahead of time, there would be much less fighting later on. We all know that there are dire economic straights, but if you don't talk about it, they don't know about it. If it doesn't get into the governor's budget, they will go to the legislature.

The first two pages of the document are a summary. A statement of value added was to give a better idea of the value of information that could be realized. Thomas Mullaney sent it over to the Governor's office. At this point the statewide database purchases would be more important than "one catalog". If only one could be realized.

Ms. Perry presented the memo for the board's information. She is not expecting the Governor's office to adopt it in the budget with the looming deficit the state is facing. Discussion followed.

##### **Letters to Elected Officials**

Joan Ress Reeves suggested that on behalf of the Board, letters of congratulations be sent out to our newly elected officials. It was the consensus of the Board that should be done.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joan Ress Reeves announced that William Allen has become a grandfather. Ms Reeves asked that a note of congratulations be sent to him on behalf of the Board. It was voted on by the Board and unanimously approved. It will be done.

Karen Mellor stated that the primary topic at the IRMB meeting that took place in September 2006, was that 18 months prior the IRMB voted to dissolve itself. Because of snafus it didn't make it through legislation. So the IRMB by law still exists.

| Joan Ress Reeves mentioned that Anne Parent, former Chief of Library Services, has been selected as COLA's Sweetheart of the Year. The ceremony will take place at the State House on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Reeves thinks the Board should send out of letter of congratulations to Ms. Parent. It will be done.

#### **IV. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2006 in Conference Room C in the DOA building.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.