

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, September 17, 2007
MINUTES

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

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Martins Amedeo, Regina Connor, Shirley Long, and Joshua Teverow

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

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. FY 2008 Budget Updates
3. 2007 – 2008 Proposed Meeting Schedule (PowerPoint Handout)

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved and accepted as submitted.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mark McKenney welcomed everyone back from summer break. The Chair especially wanted to welcome the 4 members of the Library Board that were reappointed, Regina Connor, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, and Rose Ellen Reynolds. And also the 2 new Board appointments, Phyllis Humphrey representing School Libraries and Shirley Long representing Medium/Large Public Libraries.

III. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT

IMLS

Howard Boksenbaum reported that IMLS has accepted our Five Year Plan. Mr. Boksenbaum thanked everyone for all the effort that was put into it.

NELINET

With the encouragement of the Karla Harry Commission there is a subcommittee that was talking about things that we could do by buying on a larger scale. Looking at what was going on in the rest of New England in particular and the rest of the world. In the course of that investigation one of the things that we did was take another look at our NELINET membership. NELINET (originally stood for New England Library Network),

Inc. is a collaborative non-profit organization through which we buy our OCLC Services. Until now, we have been a solitary member of this organization. We have done some Continuing Education, OCLC – First Search and we have also started doing WebJunction (which is an online Continuing Education Program) with them. We have discovered that if we were to become a Consortial Sponsorship Member, that all of the members of our LORI network could have the benefit of membership as part of our (LORI) consortium. At the time Ocean State Libraries was a Consortial sponsor, but its members didn't realize that they were consequently already members. By reducing Ocean State Libraries to an individual membership and growing OLIS into a Consortial Sponsor Member, RI gained membership for all LORI libraries (over 100 additional associate members) while saving almost \$3,000. So, both OLIS and OSL closed the deal. Associate membership provides for access to many NELINET services without any additional expenditures, some at substantial discounts if purchased through OLIS, and others at standard member-only rates made available to all 153 members of LORI. Under the new Consortial Sponsor contract, we have been able to contract with NELINET for a minimum of 6 Continuing Education Sessions, which in turn we can offer to the 153 library's staffs at no additional charge. This will allow us to expand our Continuing Education/Professional Development.

SIX STATES FUTURES CONFERENCE

NELINET brought together Mr. Boksenbaum and the 5 other counterparts from the New England states together for a meeting to discuss having a Futures Conference like the one we held in Rhode Island but for all of New England. Discussion from all members attending the meeting was that no one could afford to do much of anything. A conference is being proposed for May. Howard Boksenbaum stated that he would welcome any and all suggestions. Discussion from the Library Board followed.

Karla Harry Commission

Ms. Beth Perry reported on the meeting held on August 16th. It was stated that the commission was pleased on getting some of their legislation passed last year. For example extending the life of the commission another year. Discussion was held on what the agenda of the committee should be in the future. Rep. Lewis is looking to expand the committee even further. The Commission discussed the possibility of getting it made into a permanent commission.

Mark McKenney mentioned that the chances of getting more done being a temporary commission verses permanent would be something to consider. Discussion followed.

The next meeting for the Karla Harry Commission is scheduled for September 27th at 3:00 p.m.

Department of Administration

Mr. Boksenbaum reported that he is now reporting to an Executive Director who reports to the Director. His name is Ronald Renaud, he has taken the place of Jerry Williams. Mr. Renaud was amazed on how much we accomplish with the small amount of resources we have. And how much that little bit of expenditure means to the State of Rhode Island.

Informal AdHoc Committee

Jay Litman and Peter Deekle will do some research and gather information for the Library Board on the role of libraries and economic development.

OLIS Budget

Accounting errors gave us a little bit of a return of our money. We were able to get back \$57,000 and we were able to catch up with some of the purchases that we should have been making. Because of our fiscal caution we were able to finish the year with a little bit of a surplus which will take us through the end of the state fiscal year and the beginning of the federal fiscal year.

FY 2008 Budget Updates

A PowerPoint Presentation was given by Howard Boksenbaum. This was an overview of the recent budget updates. A hard copy of the presentation was provided. Discussion followed. It was mentioned by Alice Barrows that when she first came on the Library Board 2 terms ago the OLIS staff was much higher. Staffing has diminished downward by 40% and the department is still accomplishing quite a bit.

Mr. Boksenbaum asked that the Board write to the Governor and/or administration stating OLIS's plight in regards to budget cuts. Rose Ellen made the motion for authorization that a letter be sent when the Board deems the time is right. Mary Cummings seconded that motion. **It was unanimously approved.**

IV. BOARD DEVELOPMENT - DISCUSSION

There will be a need for new Library Board of RI Members as we have 9 vacancies coming up. There have been some people that have expressed interest. Mark McKenney stated the importance of getting new people to serve. The time to pursue this is before terms run out. He also stated how important the orientation for new Board Members will be for them to understand the language used by library members.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Joan Ress Reeves stated that we have an urgent federal issue. The SKILLS Act. It refers to the House version of Jack Reed's bill. By next Monday, please contact Rep. Patrick Kennedy or Rep. Jim Langevin and ask them to cosponsor this important legislation. This legislation is critical to the future of school library media specialists.

Howard Boksenbaum wanted to announce that the Pre-K Calendar is in production. He had one available for the Board see.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR

Handouts for the proposed meeting dates were reviewed. The dates were approved for the meeting schedule for 2007 – 2008.

The next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2007 in the DOA building.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.