

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, February 11, 2008
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Regina Connor, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Martins Amedeo, Mary Cummings, Jay Litman, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, Ruth Sullivan and Joshua Teverow

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

Observers: Edward Garcia, LBRI nominee, Mary Ann Slocomb, LBRI nominee, Bart Hollingsworth, LBRI nominee, Tom Viall, LBRI nominee, Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. IMLS Grant Announcement
2. How State Library Agencies Are Organized
3. The Varieties of Public Libraries Experience

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Howard Boksenbaum went around table for introductions. Making mention of several people who have been nominated by the Governor to become part of the Board, waiting senate approval.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 22, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected and accepted.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

Mark McKenney sent a letter to the Governor on the Library Boards behalf on January 11th 2008. In reality of the fiscal situation, the Board wanted to raise its voice on the impact of reductions not only to OLIS but to public libraries as well.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

GRANTS

We are the recipients of a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that focuses on preserving our heritage collections.

Also, the Gates Foundation is doing a last round of hardware grants to public libraries. They have a series of criteria by which they are ensuring the hardware that they authorize being purchased is only going to people where they are serving the neediest of populations. Because of the decreasing size and resources at OLIS, we are working with Ocean State Libraries to put them in the administrative seat. With the help of NELINET we have patched together an administration grant going back to Gates. It's a two-year cycle; the first level of screening for sufficient poverty in the service area took place in December. Forty-six percent of our library locations were eligible. The second screening, data collection ends on the 13th of this month. We will find out shortly thereafter who is eligible and how much each library is eligible for.

STAFF REPORT

A progress report was given on Donna DiMichele, an OLIS manager. After severely breaking her leg in December, and requiring extensive surgery, she has been out and not expected to return till mid April. Mr. Boksenbaum reported that even though morale at the Department of Administration is really low. OLIS got permission to put together a sick bank, because Ms. DiMichele was running out of sick leave. Despite moral people have been extremely generous. Enough donations were given to carry her through to her return.

BUDGET

OLIS had a minor triumph by getting the grants in aid into the budget that the Department of Administration was going to submit to the Governor at the rate that the law talks about. (Twenty-five percent of the local contributions from two years ago) When it came out the other side it went from the Governor to the legislature, it was flat funded. Mr. Boksenbaum explained, for the benefit of the nominees, what the Grants-In-Aid grants cover.

In fiscal 2008 the Office of Library and Information Services has lost 2 FTE's, there are also some other cutbacks that we will have to go through. Mostly what we are going to balance that on is savings from switching over our phone system and not filling the position, that was vacated by Dolores Caruolo who retired in December, for this fiscal year. It shouldn't have an impact on our activities for this current fiscal year. The big impact that it is going to have is that with the cutbacks we won't meet our maintenance of effort for LSTA. If LSTA was being awarded by the State of Rhode Island, we wouldn't be getting any funding. Fortunately, at the federal level, the policy is that they will reduce our grant award by the proportional amount of what we don't come up to in our maintenance of effort. We are hopeful that we will be able to get a waiver from the Federal government next year. Discussion followed.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Beth Perry referred members to the OLIS website for updates and information on legislation. There are two bills currently in the legislation that are basically fixing the language in the library legislation in regards to the Chief Information Officer/Library Officer and IMLS verbiage.

WEBJUNCTION

Karen Mellor, from the Office of Library & Information Services, explained how Rhode Island is going to become a community partner along with three other states. She explained to the Board that WebJunction is an online portal to information and resources, sharing information and learning. What OLIS will gain through our

membership is resources for continuing education, tools for libraries and library staff and mainly having community space to share resources. The webteam is working with WebJunction and the OLIS staff to develop a portal that will work with the OLIS web site. On February 26, 2008 OLIS is having an all day planning session and Ms. Mellor invited any interest Board members to come and contribute their thoughts and ideas. Discussion followed.

V. BOARD ORIENTATION CONTINUED – HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Responses were given to (2) two questions that came up previously. One is How Are State Agencies Are Organized and the other was the Varieties of Public Library Experience. Mr. Boksenbaum provided handouts with this information. Materials were explained and discussed among Board Members.

Many of the services and areas that OLIS is responsible for were mentioned and discussed at length. Mr. McKenney expressed the importance of all the areas that OLIS is in involved with for the benefit of the new Library Board Members.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

TREJO FOSTER SYMPOSIUM

Because of limited time, Mr. Boksenbaum told the Board that he would be sending email out with this information. OLIS had been asked to be a co-sponsor for an institute a year from this coming August. Although Mr. Boksenbaum would love to put our name on it OLIS will not be able to do it because of financial reasons.

COMMITTEES

The Chair noted that the List of Committees has not been updated in some time. Mr. McKenney stated that it would be wise to get the committees up and running again. It was suggested that the new members coming on the Library Board take a look at the committees and decide what committee they would be interested in serving on. Who is on what committee and an explanation of each committee should be reviewed. At the present time we have the Legislative Committee, PR Committee, Bylaws Developing Committee and Library Futures Committee.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VIII. ADJOURN & NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for March 10, 2008 in the DOA building.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.