

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, December 15, 2008
Draft MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on December 15, 2008 at 4:15 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, presiding, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ruth Sullivan, and Thomas Viall

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, and Joshua Teverow

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

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech, Janet Kosinski, Essex Public Library –Tiverton, Dorothea Baerenthaler, Essex Public Library – Tiverton, Cheryl Abdullah Abouelaziz, Essex Public Library – Tiverton, Carol Brouwer, North Smithfield Library, Kris Chin, Libraries of Foster, Paula DiBiase, Hope Library, Lynn Blanchette, Coventry Library, Karen Taylor, East Greenwich Free Library, Patricia Redfearn, George W. Hail Library – Warren, Mary Ellen Hardiman, Salvatore Mancini Library – North Providence

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of October 27, 2008 meeting
3. OLIS Activity Report
4. Draft report of the Karla Harry Commission – Better Together
5. Providence Journal article – Libraries Provide For Those In Need
6. AskRI Flyer

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark McKenney welcomed Board Members and observers. Introductions of all Library Board Members, as well as observers were made.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 27, 2008 meeting were amended and approved. Motion made by Rose Ellen Reynolds – Seconded by Mary Ann Slocomb Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

The Chair noted the newly formed Committees of the Library Board and their Chairs:

- Rose Ellen Reynolds – Legislation Committee
- Joan Ress Reeves – Planning and Budget Committee
- Ed Garcia – Public Relations
- Tom Viall – Adhoc Committee on Interlibrary Loan and Interlibrary Delivery

Chair Mark McKenney reported on the AskRI launch at the Providence Public Library that he had attended along with Howard Boksenbaum, Dale Thompson, and Karen Mellor. Governor Carcieri was in attendance, as well as a number of other people including the CEO of Tutor.com and representatives of the other vendors World Book, EBSCO and ProQuest. It was a very successful event. It was positive publicity for AskRI.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

NEWS FROM OLIS

Karen Mellor has now been appointed to the position of Library Program Manager I.

CHAMPLIN FOUNDATION

The grants awarded by the Champlin Foundation were announced this morning. Ocean State Libraries was the recipient of \$712,850. Most of that will go toward technology needs of the Consortium and the individual libraries.

LSTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Howard Boksenbaum and Donna DiMichele went to Washington, D.C. to attend the Annual IMLS Workshop on the Library Services and Technology Act. This is required in order for OLIS to receive their federal grant. This year IMLS employed Management Concepts to provide two nonstop days of training in allowable expenses and the Codes of Federal Regulations.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STATE DATA COORDINATORS

Knowing that he was going to be in Washington D.C. as RI's State Data Coordinator for IMLS, Mr. Boksenbaum agreed to represent the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) to the newly formed IMLS steering committee on library statistics. Public libraries will see the results of that when they go to do the annual report next year. More important they will see the results of that when they need to know something about libraries. All of this years' annual reports are in and a spreadsheet of the 2008 Annual Report Data will be made available at the OLIS website by the end of the week.

OLIS BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

There have been no changes. The governor still has as his target for the grants-in-aid for 2010 level funding from 2009. Mr. Boksenbaum is expecting that to hold through the presentation of the budget to the legislation.

OLIS will suffer from more decreases. When all is said and done, OLIS will be likely to have incurred a 12% decrease from 2007 by the time we reach 2010.

OLIS will only have 10 people on staff and four vacancies, probably till the end of the fiscal year.

That means that the committees of the Library Board will be more important to OLIS than ever. OLIS typically gets extremely busy during the legislative session trying to keep up with all legislation that might potentially have an impact on libraries of any kind. The Legislative Committee will be absolutely essential. The important thing for us to do this year, while the legislature is in session, is to keep libraries in front of the legislators and make sure they are thinking about libraries.

ASKRI

The launch at Providence Public Library was magnificent. It was an excellent way to get going with a new service. Karen Mellor showed video of the debut put together by PPL staffer, Stephanie Chausse.

V. UPDATES AND REPORTS

OLIS Statistical Reports

An OLIS Activity Report was distributed to the Board as a beginning to showing the Board more clearly what OLIS does for a living. OLIS has only recently begun collecting activity data in a conscientious way. Mr. Boksenbaum asked the Library Board to take a look at the report and to come back to the next meeting with questions that will help make the report's numbers more valuable.

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee

Chair Ed Garcia asked anyone interested in serving on the PR Committee to let him know. Mr. Garcia is in the process of trying to recruit people for his committee. A high priority for the PR Committee will be to focus on the legislature. Letting them know everything the libraries in the state do. Not just statistics, but important services and programs as well as stories from patrons on how libraries have impacted their lives.

Legislation Committee

Chair Rose Ellen Reynolds invited anyone interested in serving on the Legislation Committee to please come forward and volunteer. A vital part of the committee will be working with the Public Relations Committee in reaching out to the new legislation. Ms. Reynolds also made reference to an article appearing in the Providence Journal on the value of libraries which was distributed to the Board.

VI. BETTER TOGETHER: KARLA HARRY FOCUS GROUPS ON PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSOLIDATION: REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION

The draft report of the Karla Harry Commission – Better Together was distributed. Howard Boksenbaum gave an overview to the Board of what has transpired up to this point. This information can also be found on the OLIS Web site. Discussion and comments from the Library Board followed.

VII. ORIENTATION CONTINUED – “RI LIBRARY NETWORKS, A CONSORTIUM OF CONSORTIA” and “LBRI REPORTING REQUIREMENTS”

In the interest of time and wanting to give everyone ample opportunity to speak during Public Comment, the Chair suggested this item be held over to the next meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

An overwhelming majority of the observers present addressed the board with their comments and concerns in regards to consolidation and the issues outlined in the Draft report of the Karla Harry Commission – Better Together. For the most part, comments lobbied against administrative consolidation of public libraries and spoke favorably of libraries’ history of cooperation and collaboration.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting of the Board had been scheduled for January 26, 2009; however, because of a conflict the next meeting will be held on February 2, 2009

X. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.