

# LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, February 2, 2009

Draft MINUTES

**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on February 2, 2009 at 4:15 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908**

**Members Present:** Chair, Mark McKenney, presiding, Ed Garcia, 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, Bart Hollingsworth, 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

**Reporting:** Debbie Cullerton

**Materials Distributed:**

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of December 15, 2008 meeting
3. OLIS Statistic Report
4. Talking Books Plus Brochure
5. PR Packet

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mark McKenney welcomed Board Members and observers.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the December 15, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Motion made by Joan Ress Reeves – Seconded by Rose Ellen Reynolds Unanimously approved.**

## **III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY**

An update on The Providence Public Library was reported by the Chair.

The Providence Public Library Board made a determination as to what the library needs to be a sustainable system going forward. PPLB voted to close 5 library branches. A community organization has established itself as the Providence Community Library and is making a pitch to unify the nine branches and make it a separate entity.

## **IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM**

### **OLIS BUDGET**

The budget for FY2010 is not known yet. The Governor has asked for an extension and the deadline has been moved by the legislature to February 10<sup>th</sup>. What OLIS has heard from the Budget Office so far is that we will be looking at a target of level funding grant-in-aid to cities and towns again.

OLIS budget will likely have incurred a 12% decrease from 2007 by the time we reach 2010. OLIS still has 4 vacancies. Mr. Boksenbaum is still optimistic; when there is another round of positions allowed to be filled, we will probably be allowed 2 of them.

OLIS has been coping by everyone on staff doing multiple jobs. Mr. Boksenbaum acknowledged two staff people in attendance, Donna DiMichele and Karen Mellor who have been doing a marvelous job. Mr. Boksenbaum thanked Ms. DiMichele for being the Youth Services Librarian in addition to her other duties. Most of what the Youth Services Transition Committee and the Advisory Council want to have happen is happening, even though OLIS hasn't been able to fill the position of Youth Services Librarian as of yet.

### **LEGISLATION**

The governor submitted his supplemental budget for FY2009 – H5019. Board members should keep up by monitoring the OLIS website, where staff is posting legislation of interest to libraries. Another bill of interest is H5148, relating to broadband.

### **ALA DENVER – JOAN RESS REEVES**

Joan Ress Reeves gave a report on her trip to the ALA Conference in Denver. There is concern over new federal restrictions on lead that could require that librarians take lead containing books out of their libraries to keep them out of the hands of children. The Consumer Product Safety Commission Improvement Act requires all products (including books) intended for children to meet new standards. Librarians worry about cost and practicality of testing all books. Ed Garcia provided a handout of a recent article that appeared on CNN, which outlined those concerns.

### **BETTER TOGETHER COMMITTEE**

The sub committee of the Karla Harry Commission determined that based on the focus groups and the general discussions pursuing merger or consolidation of libraries, wasn't going to be very fruitful at this juncture in time. Consequently, the Committee decided to disband and not to be a committee anymore. Some library directors that were part of that deliberation have continued to meet to see what kind of consolidation of services could incur.

### **WEBJUNCTION – KAREN MELLOR**

WebJunction is back on track and making strides. Ms. Mellor has been making presentations to REIMA. It has been well received. More features have been brought over to WebJunction. The Continuing Education section is quite extensive and has numerous online courses available in many areas.

### **PROTECTING THE PAST – DONNA DIMICHELE**

The members of the Steering Committee have submitted a draft of d-Plan ad emended for RI. The committee has been out promoting the d-Plan for RI and disaster planning in

general. There have been presentations at various organizations where it has been very well received. OLIS will be planning a series of Continuing Education sessions for LORI libraries and other stakeholders through the OLIS CE process.

### **Talking Books Plus Contract**

OLIS has just opened the bids on a new contract for delivery for Talking Books Plus. We had one bidder from the vendor that we are now using, Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA. There were some additional services added to the new contract. It is a 5 year contract with approximately a 2.5% increase each year.

### **PROSPECTIVE NEW LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS**

Resumes, applications and ethics forms for 6 prospective board members have been taken to the Governor's Office. They will be processed and forwarded to the Senate Committee for a vote. By June we should have a full board.

### **OLIS STATISTICS REPORT**

An OLIS Activity Report was sent to the Board. Mr. Boksenbaum encouraged the Library Board to take a look at the report and send him any questions. It is his intention to address questions and have a presentation and discussion at a future meeting.

## **V. COMMITTEES**

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chair Ed Garcia stated that he is still in the process of recruiting committee members. He is hoping to hold the first meeting later in February. Mr. Garcia referred to several articles that were handed out to the Board relating to how libraries are serving a vital role during these difficult economic times. Mr. Garcia would like to create a PR piece of stories that could go to the legislators letting them know how much the libraries are doing for job searching and resume building for job seekers.

### **LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

Anyone interested in serving on the Legislation Committee is more than welcome to join. Chairwoman Rose Ellen Reynolds stated that the Legislation Committee would like to work with ALA in combining their legislative efforts. Also Ms. Reynolds would like the committee to reach out to the new legislation.

### **AD HOC LOGISTICS COMMITTEE**

The first meeting was held. Chair, Tom Viall reported on the issues addressed. Howard Boksenbaum gave a background on the history of the delivery system. The committee discussed their overall goals

- Document the process of the structure of the system
- Discuss the overall value of the system
- Identifying issues with the system
- Variance in other states
- Best Practices
- Develop an action plan on long term recommendations

Next meeting will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

In the interest of time the Chair suggested this item again be held over to the next meeting. Howard Boksenbaum stated that this could be moved off the agenda, as the Board has the handout of the presentation, and it also could be placed on the website for viewing.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Joan Ress Reeves mentioned the economic stimulus money coming to Rhode Island and the need to ask for a piece of the economic money for libraries. Discussion followed.

**A motion was made for the Legislation Committee, working with the Public Relations Committee, and with other Rhode Island Library Organizations to explore the best means of advocating for Rhode Island Libraries to benefit from the federal stimulus package and in turn to use whatever funding to be obtained back to the people of Rhode Island.**

**The recommendation was moved, seconded and unanimously approved by the Library Board.**

**Motion made by Rose Ellen Reynolds– Seconded by Joan Ress Reeves Unanimously approved.**

Rose Ellen Reynolds asked the Board for library stories that would help the cause. Discussion followed on digital recorders traveling around to public libraries so patrons could record their library story. Digital files could be used in several media formats. The Library Board instructed the Chief Library Officer to acquire and manage the distribution of digital recorders to public libraries.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **IX. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Next meeting of the Board will be held on March 16, 2009. The February 23<sup>rd</sup> was canceled. Items to be placed on agenda at next meeting

- Memorial resolution in memory of Senator Claiborne Pell
- Resolution to send letter or set up appointment with the Governor regarding the economic stimulus money for libraries.

## **X. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.