

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, March 16, 2009

Draft MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on March 16, 2009 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, Peter Deekle, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Mary Ann Slocomb, and Ruth Sullivan

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Joshua Teverow, and Thomas Viall

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, Member of Friends Group from Johnston

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of February 2, 2009 meeting
3. Karla Harry Commission Final Report
4. Protecting the Past Brochure
5. Copy of Letter to Senator Bates from concerned Library Directors

In the absence of the Chair, Mark McKenney, Howard Boksenbaum convened the informational meeting at 4:20 p.m. Upon the arrival of the Chair, Mark McKenney the official meeting convened at 5:00 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Howard Boksenbaum welcomed Board Members and observers.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Motion made by Leslie McDonough

Seconded by Ed Garcia, Mary Ann Slocomb, and Bart Hollingsworth.

Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

The Chair attended the COLA meeting and brought greetings from the Board, Mr. McKenney sang the praises of Melody Allen for all she has done for the Rhode Island library.

Just after the Library Board Meeting in February, letters went out to Senators Reed and Whitehouse asking them to please remember us in their deliberations on the stimulus package.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Personnel

OLIS was able to post the vacancy for the position of Library Program Specialist I who will be the one to run our professional library. Interviews are in process and by the end of this week a selection will be made.

Olis also has completed the posting for a Library Program Specialist III, who will be the youth services consultant. Details and information can be found on the OLIS website under Job Line. Posting will be from 3.9.2009 through 3.30.2009 with a national search.

OLIS Budget and Grant-in-Aid

Grant-in-Aid has been level funded. That means our public libraries, institutional libraries and the statewide reference resource center will have again this year \$8,733,398 dollars to divide among the libraries and other institutions. Some of the individual municipalities will have more than they did last year, some will have less because it's based on the formula that involved the contribution of the municipality two years ago.

The construction reimbursement program is funded at the level of obligation, which is \$2,989,289 dollars. All budget information is available on the OLIS website.

Our state funding, as recommended by the Governor in the fy2010 budget, however, does not look quite as rosy. The state appropriation for OLIS is down to \$884,607 for next year. That has some ramifications. We are down 20% in our funding of the agency. Given our current level of funding, continuing of a number of projects that we have done in the past will not be possible.

Stimulus

Mr. Boksenbaum went through the report and only found two references to libraries.

1. broadband
2. services to elderly people who are blind

There are some areas that might show some promise in the Labor and Broadband Technology Opportunities Section. Looking for any way it relates to libraries, however libraries shouldn't expect very much from the stimulus funds.

Legislation

Mr. Boksenbaum reminded Board members to keep informed by monitoring the OLIS website for posting of legislation of interest to libraries. Current articles of interest are H5272 – refers to the Karla Harry Commission continuing to the year 2011 and adding 2 members

H5356 – updates the language in Title 29

S0699 – regarding Article 12 of the Constitution – changes the operations of the Board of Regents -

H5983 – governor’s budget for FY2010 – OLIS is severely underfunded in that budget proposal

Better Together - Karla Harry Commission

The final report of the subcommittee was presented at the March 11th Karla Harry Commission meeting by Howard Boksenbaum. The commission did not accept the final report yet because they wanted some time to look it over first. It was put forward to the following meeting. The main recommendations of the committee was that all the work that the committee did which included taking a look at the way consolidation occurs in other states, included taking input from 4 focus groups of library directors and some other deliberations including what was spoken at the last Library Board of RI meeting. Take all concerns and move forward with other recommendations to the Karla Harry Commission. Recommendation is that either a new committee be established by the commission or that the commission asks the Library Board of RI to appoint a committee.

Leslie McDonough spoke about the report of the Karla Harry Commission and stated that public library directors to not want this report to be accepted. What library directors would like is a new committee. Discussion followed. Ms. McDonough provided a copy of a letter to Senator Bates from concerned Library Directors.

The Chair, Mark McKenney wanted it reflected in the minutes that the Library Board of Rhode Island received the letter issued by the concerned Library Directors. At the next meeting, once the final report and outcome has been made, as a board can take a stand on it.

V. OLIS ACTIVITIES

Webjunction – Karen Mellor

The Children’s Sigs and the Young Adult Round Table have been launched and has been getting much use. WebJunction has asked RI to tell its success story in how we got all these people involved. The Children’s discussion group has always been very active. Webjunction sees it as a model for other states to follow.

Continuing Education is another section where OLIS is really making great use of. Wimba, which is an online classroom and virtual meeting space, is one that OLIS is very excited about. People seem to be very excited about the online classes.

AskRI is moving along very well. Several of our vendors are rolling out new products and giving access to us for no additional cost. Ebsco is adding an image search. Tutor.com is rolling out this summer the adult learning center. Focus will be on resumes, networking tips and job searching.

Protecting the Past – Donna DiMichele

Ms. DiMichele passed out a brochure on Protecting the Past. Unlike Webjunction, getting people to climb on board has been difficult. OLIS has planned a series of Continuing Education sessions for LORI libraries and other stakeholders through the OLIS CE process. There have been several sessions scheduled, and responses have not been what was hoped for. On May 1st OLIS will be launching the D-Plan. Karen Mellor and Chaichin Chen from the Office of Library & Information Services will work with us to do an online presentation explaining why there is a need for disaster plans.

OLIS Statistics Report

The Statistics Report has been sent electronically to Library Board Members.

VI. COMMITTEES

Public Relations Committee – Ed Garcia

The February meeting had to be canceled due to illness. Ed Garcia stated that he has been working on a survey to send to Library Directors relating to how libraries are serving a vital role during these difficult economic times.. He will have more to report at the next LBRI meeting.

Legislation Committee – Rose Ellen Reynolds

No Report - Chairwoman Rose Ellen Reynolds was unable to attend LBRI meeting.

Ad Hoc Logistics Committee – Tom Viall

No Report – Tom Viall was unable to attend LBRI meeting.

VII. DISCUSSION OF UNOFFICIAL FINAL REPORT OF THE KARLA HARRY COMMISSION

Discussion was already taken up during the Chief Library Officer's Report.

VIII. ORIENTATION – HOW RI LIBRARIES CONNECT TO THE INTERNET AND EACH OTHER

In the interest of time the Chair suggested this item be held over to the next meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna DiMichele called everyone's attention to Rhode Island Center for the Book for the upcoming May breakfast for the Reading Across Rhode Island Book. Meet Ron Carlson, the author of Five Skies. This book is the 2009 selection of Reading Across RI.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting of the Board will be held on April 20, 2009.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.