

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, May 18, 2009
MINUTES

Members Present: Edward Garcia, Mary Ann Slocomb, Phyllis Humphrey, Ruth Sullivan, Bart Hollingsworth, and Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds.

Members Absent: Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Mark McKenney, Joshua Teverow, Thomas Viall

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services: Howard Boksenbaum, Karen Mellor, and Donna DiMichele.

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library and Al Arsenault, New England Technical Institute.

Reporting: Donna Longo DiMichele

Materials Distributed:

Agenda

Minutes of the March 16, 2009 meeting.

Meeting convened at 4:23 P.M. by Vice-Chair Rose Ellen Reynolds.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Incoming Board Member Allison Pierce, was introduced and welcomed by Howard Boksenbaum.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the March 16, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Motion made by Bart Hollingsworth.

Seconded by Mary Ann Slocomb.

Unanimously approved.

III. VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - ROSE ELLEN REYNOLDS.

The National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) meetings went extremely well. The Rhode Island contingent had representatives from the Association of Rhode Island Health Science Libraries in the person of Mary Ann Slocomb; from the Rhode Island Library Association in the person of Chris LaRoux; Coalition of Library Advocates in the person of Rose Ellen Reynolds. LBRI was represented by Joan Ress Reeves and Mark McKenney and OLIS by Chief Information Officer Howard Boksenbaum. Phyllis Humphrey sent a letter on behalf of RIEMA that Rose Ellen was able to present to legislators.

NLLD is an especially wonderful experience for Rhode Islanders because our congressmen and Senators are very welcoming and fully support libraries. Being from Jack Reed's state is a source of pride since Senator Reed and his chief aide Elyse Wasch have such standing in their support of LSTA. Library supporters from other state's admire the affinity RI delegates have with their Congressmen and Senators.

The RI delegation presented Funding for LSTA, SKILLS, Improving Literacy through School Libraries, Medical / consumer health information and the National Library of Medicine to our representatives as items of particular interest to Rhode Islanders and their libraries. The Library Services and Technology Act is up for renewal, so RI representatives were asked to support both acts.

In 2010, there will be no May NLLD. Since the American Library Association (ALA) meets in Washington, D.C. in June of 2010, a day of the conference will be designated as NLLD. The ALA will help customize legislative materials for each state that can then be used during legislative visits folded into the ALA conference time frame.

NLLD dealt with federal legislative matters. The OLIS website is a source for state legislative updates. The major piece of library legislation this year is H5356, which update the language of the Library Chapter of the General Laws, Title 29, to bring it up to date. For example, it would change to make the Chief Library Officer the head of OLIS rather than the CIO, and reference the IMLS rather than USDOE as OLIS' source of federal funding.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

OLIS's LSTA and State Library Agency reports have been formally approved and accepted by IMLS.

LSTA in 2009 has for the first time been fully funded at the level at the level initially intended in 2003. At that level, the base rate will be able to rise to its maximum resulting in a larger increase for small states like RI than had there been only enough increase to raise the population-based funding. The president's recommendation for 2010 includes a small raise. Senator Reed is leading an effort to double that proposed increase.

OLIS has received permission to fill two of its many vacant positions, and is consequently in the process of interviewing for a Library Program Specialist III to be the new Youth Services Librarian. Sharon Brettschnieder, Head of Library Development in the Connecticut State Library is helping with the interviews.

Previously, OLIS hired Alicia Waters was as Library Program Specialist I with primary responsibilities in LORI and the OLIS library. Alicia, a long-term paraprofessional employee at OLIS earned an MLS degree from URI GSLIS one year ago.

The second position OLIS may now fill is the one Alicia vacated, Information Services Technician. OLIS has received 117 applications.

Budget: Nothing will be certain in the state budget arena until the General Assembly votes a budget and the governor signs it. There has been no further discussion of change in the prospects for the FY2009 or FY2010 state library budgets; things are tight. OLIS' FY2010 budget is slated to decrease approx. 12% from FY2008. Grant-in-aid are slated to be level funded and the construction reimbursement program is slated to be funded at the requested level.

V. OLIS ACTIVITIES

WebJunction: Karen Mellor reported that RI has 400 WebJunction members. For the first six months of WebJunction membership, the product performed below expectations. Karen negotiated a six month extension on OLIS's current contract for no additional cost to OLIS. OLIS is successfully using the WebJunction electronic class room, WIMBA, for training and producing effective webinars with it.

AskRI: OSL voted to continue its subscription to EBSCO. Consequently, Karen reported, the AskRI EBSCO contract will be able to continue. In the upcoming year there will be a somewhat different suite of databases to use, the new selection is based on past usage of the current databases. An ad hoc advisory group of librarians has been formed to help select the resources.

Protecting the Past: Donna DiMichele reported that the dPlan training is going very well, and attendees leave the class highly pleased with the product. The first day of training was set for May 1, since MAYDAY is designated as national preservation day. OLIS also entered a contest for its MAYDAY activity. A press release about dPlan RI and the training was sent out to promote OLIS's work in this area.

VI. COMMITTEES

Public Relations: Ed Garcia described a survey the committee produced on library usage for job help. Survey asks for specific examples. Results of the survey are not summarized at this time. **Motion:** The chair of the Public Relations Committee shall issue a press release to publicize the results of the survey in as many places as possible after approval by the chair of LBRI. Bart Hollingsworth. Motion seconded by Mary Ann Slocomb. The motion was passed by acclamation.

Legislative Committee: David Macksam and Rose Ellen Reynolds have an appointment with Lieutenant Governor Roberts on Monday, May 25. They plan to ask her to write a blog post about libraries.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mary Ann Slocomb noted that the regulations regarding hospital libraries have been returned to their original state with the addition of “and computerized resources.” ARIHSL is satisfied with this form of the regulations.

LSTA as put forward for reauthorization includes chapters supporting the “21st Century Librarian” program and a proposal to make libraries “first responders” in emergencies.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Consider legislation for greater flexibility for the OLIS contract on the SRRC. Item was postponed since it is the Chair’s agenda item.

Ruth Sullivan addressed the fact that she has been Jack Warner’s designee to the Board. However, since Mr. Warner is no longer the Commissioner of Higher Education, her role needs to be reviewed.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

X. FUTURE MEETING

June 15, 2009.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm