

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**

**Meeting**

Monday, June 15, 2009

Wm. F. Powers Building - Conference Room B  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02903

**Draft MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Chair, Mark McKenney, presiding, Kristin Chin, Ken Findlay, Ed Garcia, Shirley Long, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ruth Sullivan, Carol Terry and Thomas Viall.

**Members Absent:** Regina Connor, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Peirce and Joan Retsinas.

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):**

Howard Boksenbaum, Neshmayda Calderone and Alicia Waters.

**Observers:** Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Cheryl Space, soon-to-be-OLIS

**Reporting:** Alicia Waters/Howard Boksenbaum

**Materials Distributed:**

Agenda

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM by Chair, Mark McKenney.

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mark McKenney welcomed Board Members and observers and asked each one to introduce themselves.

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

The minutes of the May 18, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Motion made by Tom Viall**

**Seconded by Edward Garcia**

**Unanimously approved.**

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

The chair welcomed new members of the Board, Kristin Chin, Ken Findlay, Alison Peirce, Joan Retsinas and Carol Terry.

The chair reminded the Board that the annual report would be due in September and, with the consent of the Board, instructed Howard Boksenbaum to prepare a draft for the next Board meeting.

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

##### **Personnel**

Howard introduced two new members of the OLIS staff. Neshmayda Calderon joined the staff of Talking Books Plus as an Information Services Technician and is taking calls from clients and has translated TBP brochures and website materials into Spanish.

Cheryl Space comes to OLIS from Providence Public Library where she was in charge of services to children. Beginning July 7, she will be OLIS Library Program Specialist III with responsibility for Youth Services.

He also introduced Alicia Waters, long-term OLIS Information Services Technician, who recently earned an MLS at URI and has been promoted to Library Program Specialist with primary responsibilities in the OLIS library.

Debbie Cullerton is still recovering from her surgery. Her new date for returning to work is July 20.

##### **OLIS Website**

Howard reported that work is being done on the OLIS website to incorporate new social technologies. [www.olis.ri.gov](http://www.olis.ri.gov)

##### **OLIS Budget and Grant-in-Aid**

Howard Boksenbaum reported that there wasn't much to discuss about the state budget yet, as the legislature is still deliberating. Howard expects OLIS' budget to be reduced again, but the Grants-in-Aid to Municipalities (G-i-A) to be level funded and the construction grants to be funded at the requisite level.

At the municipal level, he is expecting a number of requests for waivers from the maintenance of effort requirement for G-I-A. He expects the legislature to pass the governor's recommendation that a municipality's 2010 appropriation has to be no less than 80% of the 2008 expenditures in order to be eligible for a 2010 G-I-A award. Howard reported that libraries that are cut may meet the eligibility criteria but still find it hard to meet standards.

##### **Stimulus**

Howard has convened a meeting of Ocean State Libraries (OSL - Joan Gillespie), CCRI (Ruth Sullivan and CIO Steve Viera) and Ocean State Higher Education and Administrative Network (OSHEAN – George Loftus) to begin work on a proposal for funding library connectivity and community computing centers as a part of a larger OSHEAN proposal for fiber statewide under the stimulus funds program ARRA.

## **V. OLIS ACTIVITIES**

Mary Ann Slocomb discussed an initiative wherein OLIS is taking on the leadership of a new project designed to interconnect the National Library of Medicine's authoritative Medline Plus database with local information of the sort maintained by RI 2-1-1. This is the second RI attempt to create this "GoLocal" for RI. Many other states already have implemented this service. Some funding is available through the Eastern Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) to get started and to do outreach. OLIS convened a meeting of representatives of the RI Department of Health RI Public Health Institute, RI 2-1-1, United Way, Association of RI Health Sciences Libraries (ARIHSL), East Providence Public Library, East Providence Senior Center and NN/LM early in June to begin the project.

**D-Plan** - Howard reported on behalf of Donna DiMichele. D-Plan has received a very positive reception. There has been an enthusiastic response to the program sponsored by the NEDCC and OLIS. Sessions info will be compiled.

**Summer Reading Program** - Howard reported that the Summer Reading program is well underway and that it takes a collaborative effort to make the program successful and praised the collaborative efforts of RI Libraries and Donna's coordination.

## **VI. COMMITTEES**

### **Public Relations Committee – Ed Garcia**

Ed Garcia reported that his committee conducted a survey of Library Directors relating to how libraries are serving jobseekers during these difficult economic times. Ed distributed to the Board the press release the committee sent out under Mark McKenney's name. He hopes to see some press coverage soon. 70% of the libraries have done job searches and had given employment assistance to patrons.

### **Legislation Committee – Rose Ellen Reynolds**

Rose Ellen reported on the progress of H5356, the Housekeeping bill to change the language on libraries to make it more consistent and H5272, the bill to continue the Karla Harry Commission. Howard Boksenbaum had testified for H5356 before the House Finance Committee. Both Bills passed in the House and have gone to committees in the senate.

Rose Ellen also reported on her visit to Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts with Howard Boksenbaum and David Macksam to talk about how important it is to include libraries in the coming campaign.

### **Ad Hoc Logistics Committee – Tom Viall**

The Ad-Hoc Committee is planning to have a report to the LBRI Committee by October 09. The "time spent survey" will be incorporated into the OLIS delivery survey to help with projections of growth over time for the delivery system. It will also help in finding out where gaps in service are. Tom reviewed the reasons for the committee and its

charge. He spoke of the current economic situation and how budgets will adjust to handle services that grow over time. The Ad-Hoc Committee is looking at the TCO (Total Cost of Operation) and examining best practices in other states.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Will be posted on the OLIS website. Next meeting of the Board will be held on September 21, 2009, subject to confirmation.

#### **X. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.