

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, June 14, 2010
Draft Minutes

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on June 14, 2010 at 4:20 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Kristin Chin, Regina Connor, Kenneth Findlay, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Alison Peirce, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Vice-Chair, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Carol Terry, Ruth Sullivan, and Tom Viall

Members Absent: Deborah Gist

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

Observers: Dale Thompson, Director of the Providence Public Library, and Eileen Warburton, Project Manager, Protecting the Past—RI

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes of April 26, 2010
- What is OLIS? And What's It To You?
- OLIS Waiver Procedure for Municipal Maintenance of Effort
- Talking Times Newsletter – Spring/Summer Edition

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 April 26, 2010 meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved with two minor changes.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

The Chair will be attending the Library National Advocacy Day on June 29th in Washington, D.C. along with Howard Boksenbaum, Joan Ress Reeves, Ed Garcia and a number of other people representing library organizations. We will be once again rallying for support for Rhode Island libraries. RI is fortunate that we have a very strong delegation representing us in Washington. We have appointments with Senator John F. Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and Representative James Langevin. Packets of information are being prepared to be distributed. If anyone has any particular suggestions or information that they would like to include, please let Debbie Cullerton know before the 29th.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Budget

The state now has a budget for this year and next year. For the Rhode Island's libraries it is positive. Regarding the two library grant areas: "Resource Sharing and State Library Aid" was level funded and "Library Construction Aid" was funded to the extent of our liability. The OLIS budget is a separate line item in the budget and experienced a 6.4 % increase in FY2011. As for federal funding, the increase in the LSTA base meant a significant rise in funding available to OLIS.

Because of this and because of the numerous restrictions on state expenditures, including staff no-pay (furlough) days), a travel embargo and others, which leave federal funds unspent, OLIS will be able to catch up on a couple of neglected areas this year. One of them is that we will be able to fill the position of Library Program Specialist 1. Interviewing candidates is taking place this afternoon. This is an entry level position and we hope to have someone on board by July 1st. Another is that we will be able to continue building the professional library collection.

It will also allow OLIS to set aside some LSTA money for discretionary LORI grants. We hope put out a call in the fall for grant proposals with the intention of funding some creativity at the local level. Something we have not been able to do in five years.

Already we have been able to award 3 additional LSTA grants this year.

- Peters Library Lifespan, Inc. - Senior Health Outreach project
- Program at the ACI for – Beyond Books Project
- Ocean State Libraries for E-Zone downloadable books & download stations

Summer Reading Program

The kickoff for the Summer Reading Program was last Saturday, June 12. We had approximately 168 people (parents and kids) at the State House. They heard from Kate Klise, the author of "Regarding the Fountain" speak about what being an author is like for her. Howard offered greetings from the governor and Cheryl Space our wonderful Youth Services Librarian talked about what's going on for kids in libraries this summer. Booths were staffed by a number of organizations and libraries, providing activities for the children.

Talking Books Plus

Andy Egan, the Regional Librarian for Talking Books Plus, gave a presentation to the Board regarding the new digital talking book machines and the BARD (Braille and Audio Download) website. One of nice features is the ability to download books from the BARD site onto a computer and transfer that data to a digital Talking Books machine. Since September 700 digital players have been sent out to RI residents. OLIS has 1800 patrons who have qualified for the program. Between now and July 9th Talking Books will be able to send out 300 more machines. Discussion followed with many questions asked and answers given.

Collecting to Collections Grant

Howard Boksenbaum introduced Eileen Warburton, who brought the Library Board up to date on the Protecting the Past RI Implementation grant. We had a pilot project that was funded by IMLS on Collecting to Collections Grant and we exceeded all our expectations. We introduced a template called D-Plan and revised it so it was Rhode Island specific and we trained 89 institutions in its use. The new project is bigger and the 3 goals are:

- Continue to equip individual cultural and heritage collections institutions throughout the state with the tools to create a disaster plan and with training in its use
- Building strong strategic relationships between cultural institutions and emergency managers at the state and local level
- Include cultural and heritage collections institutions in Rhode Island's official state of emergency planning

Directors' Meeting

OLIS convened a meeting of all the RI library directors on May 20th. AS220 did a presentation on What can we do together? Discussion was held on what sorts of things that AS220 are interested in partnering with libraries. There was a lot of interest shown those in attendance.

Project Compass

OLIS hosted a workshop by Project Compass, a joint program of Web Junction and the State Library of North Carolina funded by IMLS. This was a national meeting of state library agency staff to showcase what states are doing in libraries to help people who are looking for jobs. Howard Boksenbaum, Chief Library Officer and Sandra Powell, Director Of RI Department of labor anf Training, welcomed the attendees and spoke briefly about the collaboration in RI. Karen Mellor and Alicia Waters of OLIS presented OLIS' efforts, including some new databases up. See them at www.olis.ri.gov and then click on AskRI.org. and then go look for a job.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislation

Rose Ellen Reynolds reported that the bill to clarify language and correct and change outmoded titles concerning OLIS has finally passed.

Public Relations

Ed Garcia reported that the Public Relations Committee has been working with the CCCC Ad hoc Committee. They are trying to get a short version of "What does OLIS do?" ready to take to Washington, DC. The Committee has started a project in updating and editing the Rhode Island Library Glossary of Acronyms and Terms.

Ad hoc CCCC

Joan Ress Reeves reported that the CCCC is nearly through with their work because of the splendid committee. The committee consists of Ed Garcia, Howard Boksenbaum, Ken Findlay, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Alison Peirce along with Ms. Reeves and the Board Chair Mark McKenney. There are 2 documents. One was passed around titled "What is OLIS? And What's It To You? This is going to be the jazzy public version. This document is the shorter version intended for the public and legislators. The longer version is for those library advocates who need to know more facts. It provides much more information about what OLIS does. Board members will receive the longer version as soon as minor editing is done. Discussion followed.

Ad hoc Logistics

Tom Viall reported that the committee has been meeting with the vendors to help assist with the meeting on July 12th to ask questions about packing materials. Tom Viall, and Alicia Waters another member of the Ad hoc committee attended the RILA Conference where Tom presented the findings to date of the Committee and was very well received. The Committee continues to meet and is planning some experiments in delivery.

Ad hoc MOE

As directed by the Board, Howard consulted other states, prepared a draft policy and procedure for response to requests for waiver from the municipal maintenance of effort requirement in RIGL 29-6-3 and convened the AdHoc Maintenance of Effort Committee via email in early April. The committee consists of: Library board members Kristin Chin, Ken Findlay, Bart Hollingsworth, Shirley Long, and Joan Retsinas, OLIS' staff accountant in the RI Department of Administration's Central Business Office, Catherine McMahon and CLO Howard Boksenbaum. Committee members reviewed the law, the other-states-research, existing policy on appropriated but unawarded G-I-A funds and the draft and commented via email, culminating in a face-to-face meeting May 19. After discussion, Howard crafted a revised draft For approval of the Board. The revised Draft Version was passed out to the Board. Discussion and questions followed. The Chair, Mark McKenney asked the Board to review the document and be prepared to decide and/or vote on this at the September meeting.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair mentioned that previously the Board had talked about moving the meetings to other locations. However, in the past when doing so, attendance was not very good. East Providence was brought up as a central location to possibly hold our October meeting. OLIS will see if it would be available.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting of the Board will be held on September 20, 2010.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35p.m.