

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, October 18, 2010
Minutes

**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held
on October 18, 2010 at 4:15 p.m. at the
East Providence Public Library
41 Grove Street
East Providence, RI 02908**

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Kristin Chin, Regina Connor, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Phyllis Lynch, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Mary Ann Slocomb, and Ruth Sullivan.

Members Absent: Kenneth Findlay, Ed Garcia, Alison Peirce, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Carol Terry, and Tom Viall

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):
Howard Boksenbaum, Debbie Cullerton, Cathy McMahon, and Karen Mellor

Observers: Al Arsenault

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes of September 20, 2010
- Connecting to Collections – A report to the Nation – RI excerpt

Chair Mark McKenney convened the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark McKenney welcomed everyone and thanked Eileen Socha and her staff at the East Providence Public Library for hosting the Board.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September 20, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved with minor formatting changes.

Motion Moved By: Mary Ann Slocomb
Seconded By: Ruth Sullivan

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

Mr. McKenney was filling in for Tom Viall in his absence. As reported to the Library Board last month, Tom Viall was appointed by the Governor as the new Chair of the Library Board. Mark McKenney was stepping down from the position after serving more than 10 years. He will remain on the Board representing General Library Users.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Mark McKenney

Howard Boksenbaum publicly thanked Mark McKenney for his contribution to the Board and his many years of service.

Phyllis Lynch

Mr. Boksenbaum welcomed as the newest member of the Board, Phyllis Lynch. Dr. Lynch will be representing Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Connecting to Collections Grant

We had had a planning grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to figure out what to do with Disaster Planning and Preservation not only in libraries but in cultural heritage institutions of all kinds throughout the State of Rhode Island. The IMLS has published a Report to the Nation on all of the grants that were given all around the country. A printout of the section of the report pertaining to Rhode Island was distributed to the Library Board along with a URL of the full report online. That planning grant was the basis of OLIS' current \$250,000 IMLS implementation grant, "Protecting the Past – RI"

Jumpstart Project

The Jumpstart Project has people reading the same book at the same time all around the world. This year the book was Ezra Jack Keats' "The Snowy Day". Cheryl Space and Neshmayda Calderon from the OLIS staff read the book in English and Spanish in the atrium at the Department of Administration to the day care children. There were approximately 18 two through five year olds in the audience. We hope to discover when it's all done and counted that once again this year, we contributed to achievement of the million readers/listeners mark this year. For more information, or to view pictures, the Board was encouraged to go to the OLIS website.

National Book Festival

OLIS staff members, Cheryl Space and Alicia Waters traveled to Washington, D.C. to staff a Rhode Island booth at the National Book Festival on the mall sponsored by the Library of Congress September 25 and 26. They stamped attendees' maps with RI anchors and gave away, among other things, Rhode Island Tourism materials. Over 100,000 people attended the event. Additional information, pictures and a link to the Library of Congress are on the OLIS website.

Directors' Meeting

OLIS convened a RI library directors' meeting on October 7th, at the Woonsocket Harris Public Library. The lead recipients of the three NTIA grants that will be benefiting RI libraries each made a presentation of their grant project. Directors heard about

- OSL - Ocean State Libraries, whose \$1.6 million BTOP (Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program) grant will install routers capable of taking advantage of increased bandwidth and 600+ computers in every public library location. The grant will also strategically locate 10 mobile computing labs in public libraries and provide training for library staff and users.
- OSHEAN – Ocean State Higher Education and Administration Network–, which has received a BTOP grant of \$32 million to complete a "middle mile" fiber network to provide high speed bandwidth to the corners of RI and Southeastern Massachusetts that don't have adequate connectivity.

- RIEDC - Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation which has received a second BDDP (Broadband Data and Development Program) grant of \$3.5 million \$300,000 for Digital Literacy Projects in libraries.

OSL Celebration

On October 25th, Ocean State Libraries will hold a giant gala at the Cranston Public Library, celebrating all three of these grants. All Library Board members should have received an invitation. Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Congressman James Langervin will be there. Each of the Lead Agencies from OSL, OSHEAN, and RIEDC will also be attending. Tom Viall will be the MC.

Maintenance of Effort

Procedures that were put in place and adopted by the Library Board are being followed. Six communities failed to meet their MOE requirement.

- Central Falls
- Cumberland
- East Providence
- Foster
- Narragansett
- South Kingstown

Letters have gone out notifying municipal officials that their community, having failed to meet MOE requirement is ineligible for their state library grant but may apply for a waiver. Three are in discussion, and OLIS is waiting on others.

Standards Waivers

We have received waiver requests from 13 libraries for 31 waivers. Most were either for grandfathered staff extensions or building accessibility problems.

Annual Reports

There are 17 libraries with problems with their annual report submissions. All have been contacted and most have been solved.

NELA

Mr. Boksenbaum attended the NELA Conference. There was a sharing session and from what he heard despite everything Rhode Island really is doing quite well compared to the other 6 New England states. It seems many of our counterpart agencies are going through the downsizing RI experienced in the 90's. Hardest hit is Massachusetts, which has had to consolidate its library regions into a single service center.

LSTA Evaluation Report

The LSTA evaluation report is due on March 31, 2012. Howard Boksenbaum has begun work on that by joining with other states to prepare a group RFP as had been done for the last evaluation report five years ago. So far Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, New Jersey and Massachusetts have signed on.

LORI Grants – Donna DiMichele

The deadline to apply for a LORI Grant is October 29th. Thus far we have one application plus a few inquiries.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations

None.

Legislation

In Rose Ellen Reynolds absence, Howard Boksenbaum reported that the Karla Harry Commission met on October 14, 2010. The theme of the meeting, in light of the upcoming elections was the “current” nature of the co-chairs, who, if re-elected, plan to continue as co-chairs and pursue making the Commission permanent.

Ad hoc CCCC

Joan Ress Reeves reported that the CCCC has met and that the Ad hoc committee may be looking for some professional help in reworking the short document which still isn't “jazzy” enough. This document is intended for the public and legislators. The longer document, which is much more detail orientated, is meant for the librarians. This document is nearly complete.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mary Ann Slocomb quickly recapped the “Health Information Outreach for Seniors” program OLIS is performing in partnership with Lifespan, Inc. with funding from the National LNetwork of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) for the benefit of members not familiar with the project.

The training sessions for Outreach to Seniors have been held so far at the Pawtucket, South Kingstown and Barrington public libraries, and the Cranston Senior Center. Additional session will be held at Newport Public Library and the East Providence Senior Center. The classes have been getting great reviews. Ms. Slocomb has been a little disappointed with the numbers, however. This is round one, and the project steering committee will be submitting a second grant proposal to NN/LM and LORI.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair reminded the Board that a tour of the East Providence Public Library by Director, Eileen Sosha will follow the meeting. The presentation will show the new approach to library services that East Providence is implementing in the Weaver Library.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting of the Board will be held on November 15, 2010, at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.