

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, November 15, 2010
Draft Minutes

**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held
on November 15, 2010 at 4:15 p.m.
at the Department of Administration,
Conference Room C, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908**

Members Present: Tom Viall, Chair, Kristin Chin, Ed Garcia, Shirley Long, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Peirce, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Mary Ann Slocomb, and Carol Terry

Members Absent: Regina Connor, Kenneth Findlay, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Mark McKenney, Rose Ellen Reynolds, and Ruth Sullivan.

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

Observers: Al Arsenault

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes of October 18, 2010 meeting of the Board
- State Aid to Libraries FY 2012 (estimated)
- National Library Legislative Day reservation information

Chair Tom Viall convened the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tom Viall welcomed everyone and thanked the members of the Board for all their support, nice comments, and cards he received as he takes on the role of Chair of the Library Board of Rhode Island. He also thanked Mark McKenney for the many years of service he has provided to the Library Board.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved with minor grammatical changes.

Moved: Mary Ann Slocomb

Seconded: Shirley Long

unanimously adopted

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Tom Viall

Mr. Viall reported that he has been doing a lot of reflecting on what this Board can do. He is looking forward to working with each and every one of the Library Board members and to future meetings that can define what tasks the Board must undertake.

Mr. Viall also reported that, with the help of Joan Ress Reeves, he sent out a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Board to Governor Elect Lincoln Chafee. A copy of the letter was emailed to Library Board Members. He also requested a meeting with the Governor Elect Chafee and once he hears back he will notify the Board Members to see if anyone would be able to attend.

Board members thought it would be a good idea for the Chair to also send a letter to David N. Cicilline as newly elected state representative. There followed a

Motion to send a letter of congratulations to Representative –elect Cicilline

Moved: Joan Ress Reeves
Seconded: Mary Ann Slocomb

unanimously approved.

Also Board members wanted to send a congratulatory letter to Representative James R. Langevin on his re-election to office. There followed a

Motion to send a letter of congratulations to Representative Langevin on his re-election.

Moved: Joan Ress Reeves
Seconded: Mary Ann Slocomb

unanimously approved.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER’S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

New Director of Administration

Howard Boksenbaum announced that Richard Licht has been appointed by Governor Elect Lincoln Chafee to the position of Director of Administration pending Senate approval. Members talked about drafting a letter to Mr. Licht but decided to wait until the Senate acted.

Budget Notes

Howard conjectured that both OLIS and the library grants will be level funded for FY2012 and that construction reimbursement will be funded at the requested level.

FY 2012 Grant - in- Aid – Karen Mellor

Given level funding and the municipal expenditure data from the annual reports, FY2012 grant-in-aid to municipalities will be 22.2 % of the amount appropriated and expended in FY2010. Ms Mellor shared with the Board a table of estimated municipal grants-in-aid.

FY2011 Grants-in-aid and Maintenance of Effort

Four municipalities have yet to resolve maintenance of effort problems. Two of them, South Kingstown and Foster, have submitted requests for waivers. Another, Cumberland, is moving to reopen the Town budget and add to the library’s appropriation. The fourth, Central Falls, because of the complexity of issues it faces, will require further discussion.

Two other municipalities, West Warwick and Westerly, have yet to complete their annual submissions because they haven’t completed their D-Plans.

OLIS also distributes state Grants-in-Aid to two institutional libraries, the libraries at the ACI and at the RI School for the Deaf. The ACI has completed its annual report; the RI School of the Deaf has not yet submitted their annual report.

LORI Grants – Donna DiMichele

This year, in addition to the state grants, OLIS is able to offer a round of LSTA subgrants. Three subgrants have been awarded to programs that OLIS has been supporting with LSTA funding on an ongoing basis:

RI Family Literacy - \$40,000
RILINK - \$35,000
Coventry Public Library - \$15,191

Additional LSTA subgrants will be awarded as part of the competitive grant program announced at the previous Board meeting. To date, there have been 16 applications. The ad hoc committee established at the previous meeting will convene to judge those grants and the awards will be announced toward the end of the year.

Shirley Long questioned why the ongoing grants were not included with the other 16 applications that the committee would be reviewing. Donna DiMichele explained that they were ongoing projects that addressed the top priorities of literacy and network building and that the competitive grant program would address a second level of priorities. Joan Ress Reeves pointed out that the Library Board in the past, has been the one to award grants. Howard explained that with the change from LSCA to LSTA that ceased to be a requirement. Howard went on to say that he would like the Board to take a bigger role at the policy level of the use of LSTA funds. The ad hoc evaluation committee is a beginning of that. He expressed the hope that next year OLIS and the Board will be in a position work more closely together on LSTA. Discussion followed.

Protecting the Past – Donna DiMichele

OLIS has negotiated a contract with Preserve RI (PRI) to manage certain parts of the project. Project manager Eileen Warburton and her assistant (yet to be named) will work for PRI. Ms DiMichele discussed the role that the new project manager will have. Her assistant will be charged primarily with creating a database of cultural and heritage collection institutions. The Disaster and Preparedness Workshop was well attended and successful. A simulation of a disaster was created and participants explored how to handle the situation.

21st Century Skills – Karen Mellor & Donna DiMichele

Donna DiMichele and Karen Mellor put together a workshop for the Chief Officers of State Libraries in the NorthEast (COSLINE) in Newport at the end of November, which had a side benefit of economic development for the State of RI.

The three day conference workshop at the Hyatt in Newport, RI, brought together 30 people from 13 state library agencies plus representatives of IMLS and speakers to discuss 21st Century Skills and libraries. It also included a trip to the Redwood Library.

Rhodarian

Karen Mellor announced to the Library Board that Rhodarian is back up on the OLIS website and better than ever. We have a new system to run it on. Ms. Mellor was recently at the Internet Librarian Conference. If you go to Rhodarian you will be able to read some of the things that she participated in.

National Library Legislation Day – Debbie Cullerton

ALA_Washington Office has already provided information about National Library Legislation Day will be held on May 9th and 10th, 2011. Rooms have already been blocked out.

Ms. Cullerton distributed to the Library Board reservation information with the contact information for those wanting to attend.

IMLS - Howard Boksebaum

Howard informed the Board that President Obama has nominated Susan Hildreth as new director of IMLS and is awaiting Senate approval.

Providence Public Library - Howard Boksebaum

Providence's libraries have been in the news, especially the battle between PPL and PCL over the branch library buildings. Among the items that appeared in the press was a statement from PPL Board Chair William Simmons and a press release on the PPL website implying that the Providence Public Library receives no government. Actually, PPL receives upwards of \$400,000 annually as Endowment-based state Grant-in-aid and approximately \$1 million for the Statewide Reference Resource Center at the Providence Public Library. Howard reported that OLIS has so far stayed out of the fray, but would like to have the record set straight. Tom Viall suggested that a reminder in the form of a letter, in the nicest possible way, saying that those statements are not accurate, be sent to Providence Public Library. Discussion followed. There followed a

Motion that the chair send a letter to Providence Public Library's Board of Trustees reminding them that they do indeed receive state aid.

Moved: Ed Garcia
Seconded: Kristen Chin

unanimously approved.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations

No report; however Ed Garcia had a request. Mr. Garcia is looking for direction from the Board on any new tasks that the Committee could be working on. Tom Viall suggested that there will be some significant documents coming out of the CCC and that maybe members could channel some of those energies into those documents.

He also pointed out that OLIS and the Board will soon have to take up the tasks of reviewing regulations including Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries, LORI Standards and construction program regulations. Next month we will put planning these on the agenda.

Legislation

No report.

Ad hoc CCCC

Joan Ress Reeves reported that the CCCC is still working on the long document. Howard needs to get information to Ed Garcia for completion. The short version is still isn't "jazzy" enough. Ms. Reeves stated that at the last committee meeting Howard made the wonderful suggestion that Don Bousquet be approached to help us out. He has done some free work for libraries before. But first the Board must be certain what it wants to convey.

Joan also suggested that the brochures not use the name OLIS, but something more dynamic instead, perhaps "RI Library Lifeline" instead. The CCCC also suggests that to the Board hire professional help. Kristen Chin suggested adding stories to the document.

Ad hoc Delivery Committee – Tom Viall

The Committee did a test of 5 libraries of various sizes, in one week where they were not required to put their items for shipment into plastic bags. Fortunately, the weather was ideal.

The libraries reported that it was much faster not having to use the bags -- enough so that the Committee will make a proposal to the Board for OLIS to purchasing covered bins. At the next meeting the Committee will be working on a to-do list and that information will be forthcoming to the Board.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

OSL Celebration

On October 25th, Ocean State Libraries held a gala at the Cranston Public Library, celebrating three Internet grants from OSL, OSHEAN, and RIEDC. Ed Garcia reported that it was a successful event. Organizers were a little dismayed that they couldn't get the congressional delegation to attend as was proposed, but President Obama was in Rhode Island and Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Congressman James Langevin all put their schedules on hold. 77 people attended. Tom Viall was MC.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Joan Ress Reeves wanted to know what members of the Library Board thought about the tour last month at East Providence Public Library. Members responded that they were impressed with what East Providence has implemented. Discussion followed regarding the trends of the future and other libraries would be exploring doing the same.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

There will be no December meeting. The next meeting of the Board will be held on January 24, 2010 at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.