

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**Monday, January 24, 2011**  
**Minutes**

**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held  
on January 24, 2011 at 4:15 p.m.  
at the Department of Administration,  
Conference Room B, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908**

**Members Present:** Tom Viall, Chair, Kristen Chin, Kenneth Findlay, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Phyllis Lynch, Mark McKenney, Alison Peirce, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Rose Ellen Reynolds, and Ruth Sullivan.

**Members Absent:** Regina Connor, Shirley Long, Mary Ann Slocomb, Carol Terry

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

**Observers:** Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library and Eileen Dyer, President-Elect of RILA

**Reporting:** Debbie Cullerton

**Materials Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes of November 24, 2010 meeting of the Board
- OLIS Monthly Report – December 2010
- OLIS Monthly Report – January 2011
- Museum and Library Services Press Release
- Title 44 Taxation Law – Chapter 44-3
- Ad hoc Delivery Committee – Report and recommendations of Inter-Library Delivery Bins

Chair Tom Viall convened the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tom Viall welcomed everyone back from holiday break.

On behalf of the Library Board of Rhode Island Tom Viall presented Mark McKenney with a plaque acknowledging the 10 years of service he provided to the Library Board of Rhode Island as Chair and as a member of the Board

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

The minutes of the November 24, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved with corrections.

**Moved:** Rose Ellen Reynolds  
**Seconded:** Mark McKenney

**unanimously adopted**

### **III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Tom Viall**

Mr. Viall reported that, congratulatory letters were sent out as requested to:

- Governor Lincoln Chafee
- newly elected Representative David Cicilline
- re-elected Representative James Langevin

Mr Viall further reported that he has not yet heard back from the Governor's office regarding his request to meet with Governor Chafee. Once he hears back he will notify the Board members.

Now that Richard Licht has been approved by the Senate as Director of Administrator, Tom Viall will be sending out a congratulations letter on behalf of the Board as was discussed at the last Board meeting.

Tom let the Board know that a few Board members were not at the meeting because of health issues, namely Mary Ann Slocomb, who is recovering from knee surgery, Regina Connor, who is recovering from an accident and Karen Mellor from OLIS who is recovering from foot surgery. Cards to send to all three were distributed around the table for signatures and get well wishes.

The Chair reported to the Board on Barbara Weaver's passing. Barbara Weaver was the first CIO for the State of Rhode Island. Several people from the Board attended her memorial service which was not a wake, but a celebration of her life. A debt of gratitude is owed to this extraordinary person for having pushed forward so many missions in so many arenas and for her support for libraries from the time she was driving a bookmobile in Connecticut to the time she spent as director of OLIS and after her retirement as well.

Mr. Viall turned the floor over to Howard, who noted that if you have anything to do with libraries in Rhode Island, you are living the legacy of Barbara Weaver, referred everyone to the OLIS website [www.olis.state.ri.gov](http://www.olis.state.ri.gov) for more about Barbara and asked the Board to honor her today with a moment of silence.

Mr. Viall then reminded the Library Board that he had sent a letter to the Providence Public Library regarding the press releases in which they had neglected to mention the support they receive from the state. He received a very nice reply from the Chair of the PPL Board of Trustees, William S. Simmons, stating that it had been an oversight and that PPL is appreciative of the state's contribution. Mr. Simmons also invited Mr. Viall to tour the library and to meet with him. A meeting has tentatively been set for Wednesday. The Chair will report back next month to let the Library Board know of its outcome.

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

#### **Governor Chafee/Director of Administration**

Governor Lincoln Chafee and the Director of Administration, Richard Licht, made rounds at the Department of Administration, stopping by people's desks introducing themselves and thanking staff for their hard work. Governor Chafee spoke with several staff members from OLIS bringing up several projects and encounters he has had with libraries. He had nothing but positive comments.

#### **Monthly Reports**

Howard brought the Board's attention to the two monthly reports that were emailed to Library Board members along with the minutes and agenda. Using the format of the monthly

reports that OLIS submits to the Director of Administration, he will now be fulfilling his promise to have regular reports to the Board. Board members were encouraged to critique the reports and request additional information they might like to see. He will be sharing these monthly reports to give the Library Board a better idea of what OLIS is working on, and what OLIS is doing on a month-to-month basis.

Howard also called attention to the AskRI Question log. Now that Lauren Gage is on board, OLIS will again be issuing these monthly reports

#### **FY2011 Grants-in-aid and Maintenance of Effort**

All RI municipalities have now qualified for their 2011 grant-in-aid. Funds have been disbursed for the first two quarters of the tax based grant-in-aid and all of the endowment based grant-in-aid.

Of the communities that hadn't met the MOE, Cumberland re-opened their budget and added to the appropriation for the library. Central Falls reviewed their application and corrected errors that made all the numbers work out. South Kingstown and Foster applied for and received waivers under the Board's new procedure.

West Warwick and Westerly, which were having difficulty, finally completed their D-Plans.

The one Institution that was having eligibility problems, the School for the Deaf, completed their move into a new facility and finished up their annual report and application.

#### **LSTA Subgrants – Donna DiMichele**

The subcommittee did a stellar job with the process of reviewing LORI grant proposals and in making funding recommendations to OLIS.

The sub-committee consisted of Board members Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Shirley Long, Ruth Sullivan, Tom Viall and a non-Board member Jennifer, Bond of Bryant University. A total of 16 grants were awarded.

- Exeter Public Library – Amount Awarded: \$21,402
- Mayor Salvatore Mancini Union Free Public Library - Amount Awarded: \$12,763
- Providence Community Library - Amount Awarded: \$50,000
- Ocean State Libraries - Amount Awarded: \$40,000
- Warwick Public Library - Amount Awarded: \$20,000
- Providence Public Library - Amount Awarded: \$15,000
- North Kingstown Free Library - Amount Awarded: \$9,125
- RI State Law Library and RI State Library - Amount Awarded: \$12,000
- Pawtucket Public Library - Amount Awarded: \$6,000
- East Providence Public Library - Amount Awarded: \$1,500
- Redwood Library and Athenaeum - Amount Awarded: \$10,000
- Providence Public Library - Amount Awarded: \$5,390

In total OLIS awarded a total of \$203,180

More information is available at the OLIS website [www.olis.state.ri.gov](http://www.olis.state.ri.gov) .

## **IMLS**

Howard referred to the Press Release that announces President Obama's signing of the LSTA reauthorization act.

Howard noted three particular changes in the reauthorized instance of LSTA. First, a new emphasis on research and data. OLIS just hired a research and data person (Lauren Gage); that is a positive change.

Second, the legislation now allows collaboration with other agencies, such as the Department of Labor and the Department of Education, especially in workforce development. Again, OLIS has begun this work with Project Compass and with the collaboration with DLT around the floods last March.

Third, education in and utilization of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are specifically encouraged in the new LSTA. OLIS has begun exploring in-house what that could mean to OLIS programs.

Howard reported that thanks in particular to the efforts of Senator Reed, FEMA now recognizes public libraries as essential community organizations entitled to reimbursement as temporary relocation facilities. Susan Hildreth has been approved by the Senate as the new director of IMLS.

## **Broadband RI**

Three major grants that relate to development of Broadband have been awarded in RI. All have very positive ramifications for the state's libraries. More information can be found at the OLIS website at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/news/2010/oshean.pdf>

## **Center for the Book**

Howard reported that the Center for the Book will be leaving Providence Public Library on June 30, 2011. He called on Donna DiMichele who is a member of the Center for the Book Board and told the Board that CFB will be seeking a new home. She asked Board members who have any ideas to let her know, as the CFB executive board will be preparing an RFP soon. Reading Across Rhode Island will go with Center for the Book to its new location.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Legislation**

Rose Ellen Reynolds reported on senate bill S0056 relating to Library Reference Resource Centers. The bill was introduced by: Senators Perry, Miller, McCaffrey, DeVall, and Nesselbush. Reference Resource Center was formerly at the Providence Public Library. If the bill passes the center may be located in a public library to be chosen yearly by the Office of Library & Information Services. This bill provides that the location of the reference resource center be chosen from requests for proposals submitted to library systems annually. Discussion followed. For more information see the OLIS legislation tracker at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/news/legislation/index.php>

### **Public Relations**

No report.

### **Ad hoc CCCC**

No report.

### **Ad hoc Delivery Committee – Tom Viall**

Tom Viall distributed a detailed request to the Board for OLIS to replace the current bins that they use in their system with covered bins. Tom displayed a covered bin to the Board.

**Motion that the Board recommend to OLIS that they find a way to implement the replacement of the current bins with the new covered bins.**

**Moved: Ed Garcia**  
**Seconded: Rose Ellen Reynolds**

**unanimously approved.**

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Chair stated that he would like to revitalize some of the committees of the Library Board and perhaps create some new ones as needed. There is, he said, a large scope of projects ahead. Discussion followed.

Tom Viall asked for volunteers to join Rose Ellen Reynolds in a newly reinvigorated Legislation Committee. Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Phyllis Humphrey, and Ed Garcia volunteered to either continue on the Committee or to join it.

Other Committees will be formed in the near future, once the Board's needs become clear.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **IX. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Board will be held on February 28, 2011 at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

## **XI. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.