

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, February 28, 2011

Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held
on February 28, 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, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Phyllis Lynch, Mark McKenney, Alison Peirce, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Carol Terry, and Ruth Sullivan.

Members Absent: Regina Connor, Ed Garcia, Rose Ellen Reynolds, and Mary Ann Slocomb,

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

Observers: Al Arsenault, Eileen Dyer, President-Elect of RILA

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

- Broad Band Brochure and stickers
- "Facts about RI Libraries" brochure
- National Library Legislation Day Information and Registration
- CCCC Adhoc Committee draft of short PR document
- Memo sent to Public Library Directors, "Planning for your FY2012 Grant-in-aid"

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

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tom Viall welcomed all Board Members.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Moved: Joan Ress Reeves

Seconded: Mark McKenney

unanimously adopted

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Tom Viall

Tom has scheduled a meeting with Susan Bernstein, a member of the Governor's Policy Team for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9th. Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds and Howard Boksenbaum will be accompanying Tom.

Tom has also rescheduled his meeting with Providence Public Library for Wednesday, March 16th. Ed Garcia will be joining Tom for that meeting and a tour of the library.

Tom noted that he had been in Kansas City when the COLA event took place at the State House on February 16th. He asked members of the Board who had attended to give an overview of the COLA event.

Joan Ress Reeves and Howard Boksenbaum reported that the event was well attended. The governor came and spoke very positively about libraries. Awards were given out. The

sweetheart of the year was Library Board Member, Mark McKenney, who gave a wonderful acceptance speech. Living Literature did a performance and did a wonderful job. COLA also gave out scholarships and 4 awards.

Prior to the COLA Meeting, the Karla Harry Commission and RILA had held a love your library event. Both the Senate and the House proclaimed February 16th of 2011 be "I Love Libraries Day" in the State of Rhode Island. A number of library related folks gathered with displays and that attracted a large crowd. Howard cited the RIEMA table as particularly impressive. Phyllis Humphrey described a video presentation about Vietnam that had been prepared by a student at Narragansett High School that provided a telling argument for having librarians in schools.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Federal Budget

Howard thanked everyone who had written to their representatives regarding Amendment 35 to the federal continuing budget resolution; it was withdrawn before the continuing resolution passed the house and IMLS funding survived for another two weeks.

State Budget

The Governor is due to present his budget proposal on 3/8/2011. Howard is extremely optimistic about Grant-In-Aid, Library Construction and OLIS' funding but could not say anything specific.

FY2012 local funding, Grants-in-aid and Maintenance of Effort

Howard is already hearing of difficulties some municipalities may have next year. As a result he has once more once again sent a memo to public library directors explaining the grant-in-aid and the maintenance of effort requirement. The memo, which was distributed, was intended to be shared with municipal CFOs and other officials.

Kristen Chin reported that she took that memo to her (Foster) Town Council in hopes that it helped spare the Foster Libraries from substantial cuts. The budget workshop will take place this week and Kristin is asking for 5% to be put back into the library budget. She doesn't anticipate that the Council will approve that but In May she plans to take it before the people at Town Meeting, when, hopefully, people will see it our way.

CFO Visits Progress Report

Cathy McMahan and Howard have been traveling around from town hall to town hall to talk with the CFO's and Library Directors together to clarify OLIS reporting requirements and the role of the state in funding public libraries. So far, there has been an awful lot of good feeling on both sides. They have divided the visits into three parts:

- Section 1: municipalities where the libraries reported more than their municipal budget reported
- Section 2: municipalities that reported spending more on libraries than the libraries reported getting
- Section 3 municipalities where the library and municipal reports are equal)

Cathy and Howard are almost finished with section 1. they has been to East Providence, Barrington, Warren, Coventry, and Narragansett.

LORI grants Progress Report – Donna DiMichele

Donna had reported the award of 16 sub grants at the January meeting. OLIS has since awarded one more grant. The committee had asked that Howard and Donna return to Ocean state Libraries (OSL) for clarification of their request for \$33,644 for a content server that will let OSL: libraries be part of a Providence emergency Management statewide "telepresence" network. They have discovered a rather sophisticated CISCO based network

that has been funded by a federal with a UASI (Urban Areas Security Initiative – Homeland Security) grant to serve emergency management needs statewide. This content serve is the one piece of equipment that was missing. It will enable video archiving and recording. By contributing this last piece and equipping selected public library with local participation equipment (from the OSL/OSHEAN BTOP grant), OSL can fully utilize the network so long as they promise to vacate it if there is an emergency.

Tom Viall asked Howard and Donna (about grants in general) if there was any process in place for reporting on the criteria being met. Donna explained that once OLIS awards the grant they are sent out guidelines on how they should report. OLIS also holds the last 10% until they write and submit the report and OLIS accepts the report. All the information is available online at www.olis.ri.gov .

IMLS

Howard announced that Donna and he will be traveling March 14th to March 16th to IMLS for the annual Grants to the States Conference. This year's conference will focus on the upcoming evaluation due March 31, 2012 and the new 5 year plan due June 30, 2012. The new plan will reference the new LSTA.

Broadband RI

RI has received 3 federal broadband stimulus grants. OLIS brought the recipients of those grants (OSHEAN, OSL and RI Economic Development Corporation) together at the October Library Directors' meeting. There, they conceived of the "Trifecta" framework for describing them and planned a public event to announce all three together. Tom Viall MC'ed that event at the Cranston Public Library. That event led to the creation of an excellent brochure describing the three efforts and their synergies. Howard distributed those brochures and BBRI (Broadband RI) stickers from the RIEDC to the Board.

Howard has been asked to be part of RIEDC's Core Broadband Planning Group. More information can be found at www.broadband.ri.gov

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislation

In Rose Ellen Reynolds' absence, Joan Ress Reeves reported on senate bill S-0056 and its companion bill H-5118, relating to the Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC). The Legislation Committee discussed Howard's position and agreed to support it. S-0056 was sponsored by: Senators Perry, Miller, McCaffrey, DeVall, and Nesselbush; H-5118 by McCauley, Fox, Carnevale, Williams, Ajello. S0056 alters the language of RIGL section 29-6-9, which funds a 'Reference Resource Center at the Providence Public Library'. Instead, it directs OLIS to choose a public library annually to host the SRRC from RFPs submitted by libraries. Howard's position suggests amendment to direct OLIS to prepare an RFP for the SRRC every two years and to select a public library from among the respondents to host it. For more information see the OLIS legislation tracker at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/news/legislation/index.php>

Ken Findlay suggested the term of the SRRC be three years with two one year renewals.. Discussion followed about the benefits and disadvantages this might have on OLIS and statewide library services.

Motion to go on record in support of this legislation with Ken's suggested amendments

Moved: Mark McKenney
Seconded: Ken Findlay

unanimously approved.

Public Relations

No report.

Ad hoc CCCC

Joan Ress Reeves distributed the latest version of the short PR document. The target audience for the short document is both the general public and legislators. The longer document is for people who really want details. Different ideas on how to proceed were discussed. Ms. Reeves stated that she will move ahead and try to incorporate everyone's suggestions. Joan also asked Howard if he would contact Don Bousquet to see if he could help with his. If not, another avenue will have to be taken.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

National Library Legislation Day

National Library Legislation Day will take place in Washington, DC on May 9th and May 10th. Debbie Cullerton is once again acting as RI coordinator on behalf of ALA. Information forms and registration forms were handed out. Board members were encouraged to attend.

Review of Library Board Membership

Names of LBRI members that expired in December 2009 are now in the Governors office for his nomination for renewal. Names of those who expired in 2010 have been submitted to the process. Howard will be talking to members whose second term has expired.

LBRI Messages to take to Susan Bernstein

Tom Viall asked the Library Board if there was any message and/or question that they would want him to bring up at the meeting. Discussion followed. The consensus was to stay positive, and to thank the Governor for showing up at recent events. Because OLIS is in a very good position it is best to stay positive. It would be great if maybe Ms. Bernstein could go back to the Governor and tell him the positive things that OLIS was doing.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

This week is Read Across America. Wednesday is Dr. Suess's Birthday. RIEMA is celebrating at Warwick Mall on Saturday. OLIS is collaborating with them.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board will be held on March 21, 2011 at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.