

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, April 25, 2011
Minutes

**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held
on April 25, 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, Bart Hollingsworth, Mark McKenney, Joan Retsinas, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Carol Terry, Phyllis Lynch, Phyllis Humphry

Members Absent: Ed Garcia, Shirley Long, Ken Findlay, and Joan Ress Reeves

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

Observers: Eileen Dyer

Reporting: Karen Mellor and Howard Boksenbaum (in the absence of Debbie Cullerton)

Materials Distributed: None

Chair Tom Viall convened the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tom Viall welcomed all Board Members.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the March 21, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

Moved: Carol Terry
Seconded: Mary Ann Slocomb

unanimously adopted

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Tom Viall

Debbie Cullerton is still in hospital recovering from an infection. There is a possibility that she will be discharged today to home care with PICC Line & Infusion Resources. Howard added that her spirits are good. She told him, "I have my Kindle" Tom asked to extend to her the best wishes of the board.

Johnston opening their new library building on April 9 to great fanfare and a massive community turnout. All of Rhode Island's federal congressional delegation except Rep. Langevin, who had transportation issues, attended and spoke in praise of library and community, the importance of supporting libraries and the importance of investing in libraries. Susan Hildreth, newly appointed director of IMLS, gave the keynote address. It is a beautiful building, and impressively welcomed by the community. It will be important to remind our legislators at NLLD, of how much they supported libraries on April 9.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Financially troubled communities

Howard had attended Town Council budget workshops at Foster and West Warwick in the capacity of resource to the librarian. He called on Kristen Chin for the latest news from Foster. She reported all departments have to have a reduction. Moreover, the question has arisen as to whether library is something that town should support. He further reported on a very negative response from West Warwick's Town Council over the prospect of losing state funding because of the maintenance of effort requirement. Some at the town council workshop; seemed to think libraries can be run with volunteers. There was a large supportive turnout, however, including Steve Collela, convenor of the job club who spoke eloquently about the need to support the library.

Howard also met with librarians from Pawtucket and Central Falls about the prospect of a two-city contract for library services. He will be meeting again with both cities also about their respective budgets.

CFO meetings have been going quite well. Howard and Cathy McMahon have been well received. There is great value to having Cathy along to talk "accountant-ese" Meetings with Cranston helped the library make it past budgetary trials and tribulations. Howard and Cathy will visit South Kingstown tomorrow.

Bart asked whether any city or town had lost its grant because it didn't meet eligibility requirements. Howard responded that no one has lost GIA they have either met eligibility requirements or been granted waivers.

Joan Retsinas asked about Central Falls, Howard responded that it is unclear at present whether PAW will manage CFA library.

Budget

1. State; still no news, still no budget
2. Federal also no budget. LSTA is currently \$5 million from FY2011 – we look to begin spending that July 1 additional \$475,000; may lose share of grant program
3. Likely to have \$11 million for FY2012 below FY2010
4. June 2 & 3 – Terri Brown, RI's liaison at IMLS will attend the RILA conference June 2 and will be part of the presentation, "Alphabet Soup" session

Howard reviewed the monthly report including:

Project Compass

OLIS will sponsor a Project Compass, Monday, May 2. Project compass is a project of the North Carolina State Library funded in part by an IMLS Grant that focuses on helping public libraries serve people seeking employment. May 2 will bring brought trainers from North Carolina together with a local reactor panel. RI DLT participated.

Protecting the Past:

Protecting the Past –RI held its first "Whole Community session at Ruff Point on May 3. People from RI EMA, FEMA, and cultural heritage and library institutions in Newport County met to discuss disaster preparation. It was an excellent beginning, bringing together this first of communities, to become model for rest of state.

Karla Harry Commission

The Karla Harry Commission will meet May 3: Phyllis and Mary Ann will attend.

KRARI

Will be held May 14 at the State House with a performance by the Brown University Lion Dance Troupe, sessions by Grace Lin “Where the Mountain Meets the Moon” and a variety of other festivities starting at noon.

NLLD

May 9 – COSLA May 11

Updates to Calendar (from members)

April 29, CRIARL meeting not ACRL (C. Terry)

April 30, RARI Breakfast (M. Slocomb)

May 13, ACRL @ Holy Cross. Bert Crenca from AS220 is one of keynotes. (C. Terry)

Collaboration with other agencies

Collaboration with other state agencies is an OLIS priority. Current efforts include:

I. DLT - Howard and Karen met with Charlie Fogarty, DLT participated in Project Compass.

II. RIEMA – Through Protecting the Past –RI, OLIS was part of the drafting of Emergency Service Function (ESF) 11 and is working to - creating database of cultural resources so as not to forget anyone in disaster planning/preparation or in response/recovery.

III. RIEDC has created “Broadband RI” (BBRI) with a BDDP grant from the NTIA: 10% is allocated to designing and implementing digital literacy projects out of libraries. Originally that 10% was to go to OSL, but OSL and RIEDC failed to come to contract terms and RIEDC is now out with an RFP. Howard will continue to sit on committee developing BBRI, OLIS staff will work on the project as well. So far, school libraries are missing from the picture, although RIDE is involved. OLIS will be looking at ways to integrate all libraries.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislation

Rose Ellen Reynolds reported on;

H6034: exempts WWA from provisions of RIGL 29-6-2, no Senate companion bill yet. Howard interjected that it seems to have been effectively “squashed” according to RILA’S lobbyist, Steve Alves. Alves had originally introduced the legislation that reduced MOE to 80% when he was Senate Finance Chair.

H5712: Public corporation to create regional services commission. Impact to libraries? HB: already provision in 29-6-3 for multi-community collaboration. Hearing, tabled for further study.

H5590; S0292: Pilot programs for summer learning for municipalities with high school lunch reimbursements. To House Finance, Senate held for further study.

Public Relations

Ed Garcia not present. There was some discussion of a Channel 10 piece featuring Ed. it was a relatively long piece, highlighting Cranston library's role in helping unemployed with job search and workforce recovery in collaboration with DLT.

Ad hoc CCCC

Joan Ress Reeves not present. Report moving forward.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NLLD – Howard Boksenbaum & Debbie Cullerton

Not too late to register. May 9, 10. Schedule forthcoming. Will remind delegation of statements made in JOH.

Delivery Bins – Tom Viall

OLIS is writing RFP for delivery bins. Waiting for word on both state and federal budgets. The new bins are considered an imperative by OLIS but can't move until it is known there is money to pay for it. As to how to phase in the new bins: the plan is to swap out the old bins as they arrive. Packaging will be optional in covered bins, must be packaged in uncovered. Rollout will likely be in summer which will make transition easy.

Health Outreach to Seniors – Mary Ann Slocomb

Wrapping up the grant project; last class will be this Friday (April 29). Classes were better attended this session. Excellent management by Kieran Ayton. At the Medical Library Association meeting in mid-May, Mary Ann will be doing a poster session about the project. "Health Information Outreach to RI Seniors." Mary Ann and Howard held up the poster for all to examine.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

LSTA reauthorization. The new LSTA will require that OLIS do more with less; hence, it is more important to get priorities right. The question of how can the Board contribute arose and will lead to continued discussion.

Request for a 21st century skills committee

Howard asked the Board to appoint a Request for a 21st Century Skills Committee to help OLIS devise a plan to increase awareness and skills throughout RI libraries. What falls in this category? For example: BDDP grant for digital literacy. The way we operate libraries. The way OLIS does business internally and with libraries and other users.

Motion: the chair will work with Howard to appoint a committee chair and develop a 21st Century Skills Committee.

Motion carried.

HB will start developing a framework. The URL for IMLS's 21st Century Report: is <http://www.imls.gov/about/21stCSkills.shtm> and can be reached via the OLIS website homepage.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark McKenney announced a PCL fundraiser raffle of a weekend in New York. \$50 per ticket limited number (200), wraps up April 29.

Joan Retsinas asked about PCL's: problems with facilities, no maintenance over several years, etc. Mark responded that Smith Hill and Olneyville are in dire straits. There is no air at Knight Memorial, which had consequently had to close at times because of the heat. Ownership issues are still trying to be resolved. Endowment issue down the line - are parts of endowment for branches?

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board will be held on May 16, 2011 at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m