

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, September 19, 2011
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held
September 19, 2011
at the Department of Administration,
Conference Room B, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Present: Tom Viall, Chair, Kristen Chin, Regina Connor, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Phyllis Lynch, Mark McKenney, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Carol Terry, and Ruth Sullivan

Members Absent: Kenneth Findlay, Alison Peirce, and Joan Retsinas,

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

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Schedule for 2011 - 2012
General Assembly – Chapter 39- 2-20.1 (1)

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

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tom Viall welcomed everyone back asked for introductions from the LBRI members to start off the 2011 – 2012.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 20, 2011 meeting were approved with some minor changes from Joan Ress Reeves.

Moved: Bart Hollingsworth
Seconded: Joan Ress Reeves

unanimously approved

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Tom Viall

Mr. Viall reported on the stakeholders meeting OLIS had convened regarding library services to Central Falls. He expressed his pride to be part of the effort OLIS has made in that regard and was especially impressed by Howard's ability to focus on what is important to ensure that all the citizens of Rhode Island have access to library services.

Tom also recognized the individuals on the Board of the Adams Library Trust, who managed to reopen the library. They were able to get the library open in relatively short time, albeit with a staff of volunteers.

Tom mentioned the rededication of the OLIS Library, as the Frank Iacono Library on Wednesday. He will attend on the Board's behalf and make some remarks.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Debbie is Back

Howard Boksenbaum gleefully welcomed Debbie Cullerton back from her medical leave. He thanked the staff members who sat in while she was away.

Budget

Howard reported that the economy has finally caught up with OLIS. Although there is still uncertainty about the coming year's budget, it is certain to be tight. There will have no LSTA subgrants this year (FY2012). We have applied for a waiver from the federal maintenance of effort requirement for federal FY2012 but haven't heard back from that yet so are being conservative in budgeting. As we prepare FY2013 budget, we are mindful of the need to consider the upcoming demands of the Employee Retirement system. It is likely that OLIS will have to plan for additional payments.

Delivery

The current delivery contract runs out March 31, 2012. and staff is preparing to go out to bid with a new RFP. We will be asking for alternates that might create efficiencies we have not yet thought of in order to keep costs down. Given the increases in the cost of fuel, it is likely that we will end up with the same service at a higher cost.

Public Library Annual Reports

Our deadline for the public library annual reports was September 15th. As we had had some difficulty getting started, then had the earthquake and IRENE, we didn't extend the deadline gave a blanket grace period through September 23rd. At the time of the meeting 20 of the annual reports were complete. That is just over half of the municipalities and 40% of the libraries. So far it looks like three cities and towns (Pawtucket, West Warwick and North Smithfield) will not meet their maintenance of effort.

Central Falls

OLIS convened a meeting of Ocean State Library directors and representatives of RILA and the Library Board when Central Falls announced that the library would close. When the library closed on July 1st that group had arranged for the Pawtucket Public Library to provide access for Central Fallsians through July 15th. OLIS invited additional stakeholders, the Central Falls Receiver's Office and the Municipal Finance Office in the Department of Revenue and the Governor's Office. Just before the agreement with Pawtucket ran out, the larger group agreed that Central Falls would pay Pawtucket to keep the accessibility going through August 1st. The stakeholders group continues to work toward a long term solution to Central Falls' library service problem.

LSTA Schedule

Donna DiMichele explained that OLIS must have completed and submitted to IMLS an evaluation of the last 5-years of LSTA by March 31, 2012 and a new 5-year plan for the coming 5 years of LSTA by June 30, 2012.

OLIS joined 8 other states to hire Himmel and Wilson Library Consultants, Inc. to do the evaluation. The evaluation process started last week when staff met with the consultants.

The next step will 2 to 4 focus groups, an on-line survey and telephone interviews with a dozen Rhode Islanders. OLIS will identify the focus group participants and the recipients of the telephone calls. The survey will go out to OLIS' comprehensive email list

Donna requested that the Board to be a focus group at the next Library Board Meeting. That meeting will be held on October 17th. It will be part of the regular meeting. The Board accepted the invitation by consensus.

Protecting the Past - RI

Eileen Warburton, Protecting the Past -RI Project Manager has resigned for health reasons. OLIS and partner, PreserveRI, Inc, have solicited resumes from applicants for the position and we are hoping to have a new manager on board by the next Board meeting.

AskRI

Karen Mellor has been working with the Providence Public Library to publicize AskRI on RIPTA busses. She passed around some samples of the ads.

Motion to accept the Chief Library Officers Report

Moved: Mark McKenney
Seconded: Rose Ellen Reynolds

unanimously adopted

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislation

There has been nothing to report since the end of session.

Public Relations

No report.

Ad hoc CCCC

Chair Joan Ress Reeves reported that RISD has offered to help design a final version of "the document;" she is hoping there may be something ready for the November elections.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

21st Century Skills

No report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

The draft calendar for the year 2011 – 2012 was approved by the Library Board. The next meeting of the Board will be held on October 17, 2011, at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

Ken Findlay called Howard before the meeting asking Howard to say hello to everyone and bring his regrets that he wouldn't be able to make it to the meeting.

XI. ADJOURN

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