

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**Monday, October 17, 2011**  
**Minutes**

**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held**  
**October 17, 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, Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Mark McKenney, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Mary Ann Slocomb and Carol Terry

**Members Absent:** Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Peirce, 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:** None.

**Reporting:** Debbie Cullerton

**Materials Distributed:**

Minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting.

Chair Tom Viall convened the meeting at 5.15 p.m.

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Howard introduced Bill Wilson of Himmel & Wilson library consultants who have been contracted to perform the evaluation of OLIS' past 5 years of LSTA use.

**FOCUS GROUP FOR 5-YEAR EVALUATION**

The Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) requires that each State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA) submit a 5-year plan for the use of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds; and, at the end of that period, perform a formal evaluation. Together with 9 other states, OLIS has engaged Himmel and Wilson Library consultants to perform the evaluation. As part of the evaluation, Bill Himmel planned five focus group meetings of OLIS stakeholders, one of which was the Board. The Focus Group constituted the first hour of the regular meeting. OLIS staff recused themselves from the focus group.

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

The minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting will be considered for approval at the November meeting.

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

Mr. Viall reported that because of the focus group, this would be an abbreviated meeting.

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

##### **Tiverton.**

Howard addressed the Tiverton Town Council at their October 11 meeting, explaining OLIS' Construction Reimbursement Program and supporting the Town's intention to let \$7 million of bonds to help finance a new \$11 million building. The state would reimburse approximately \$4 million. Several people at the meeting expressed concern about whether the state would come through on the reimbursement. Tiverton residents will vote in a referendum about the bond issue on November 8. Three Town Council members including the vice president spoke eloquently about the multi-faceted need for libraries.

##### **Budget**

OLIS received a waiver from the LSTA maintenance of effort requirement for federal FY 2012 from IMLS. The current state budget includes an increment that will raise OLIS' level of support so that there will be no need for a waiver in FY2013.

In regard to the 2013 state budget, although nothing is yet firm, Personnel costs are likely to rise as much as an additional 10% to cover the demands of the pension system with no increase to balance it. Between that and the reduction of LSTA funding this year OLIS will offer no LORI (LSTA subgrants) Grants this year.

##### **Public Library Annual Reports**

Public library annual reports, including applications for grants-in-aid, had initially been due on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Because of Irene and some technical difficulties with Bibliostat (the vendor that maintains the online reporting system for us), we extended the deadline through the end of the month. All the reports got in on time except East Providence and Central Falls which have special dispensation. East Providence's fiscal year runs November 1 – October 31, so they didn't have budget information at deadline time. Central Falls is a unique case.

##### **Broadband RI**

BroadbandRI (BBRI), has completed a pilot of a train-the-trainer course. The pilot sessions were held at Providence Community Library's Rochambeau and South Providence Libraries and at and the main branch of the Cranston Public Library on October 4 and 5. Howard and Karen Mellor had participated in the development of the curriculum that got its first trial at the pilot... Before Thanksgivings BBRI is hoping to have some trainers do some training. The project is on track to roll out to libraries and other community anchor institutions in the spring.

##### **Delivery**

The RFP is almost ready to go for the new delivery system. We want to run in by the Ad Hoc Committee on Logistics before sending it out to the Division of Purchasing, who will put it out on the street.

##### **Protecting the Past - RI**

On behalf of the project, Donna DiMichele and Howard interviewed four candidates for the position of Project Manager. Donna currently is in the process of checking references. The Project Manager will work for PreserveRI on a subgrant from OLIS..The project has been extended through May 31, 2013..

## **AskRI**

Howard apologized for the tardiness of the AskRI question long reports. The Board should be receiving the reports shortly.

### **Adoption of the Chief's report**

Moved: Carol Terry  
Seconded: Mary Ann Slocomb

unanimously adopted.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Legislation – Rose Ellen Reynolds**

No significant activity.

### **B. Public Relations – Ed Garcia**

No report.

### **C. Ad hoc\_CCCC – Joan Ress Reeves**

Joan Ress Reeves reported that the short document is ready to go to a graphic artist and to Don Bousquet. There is, however, no money available to do this right now and the artist is likely to want a stipend. Ms. Reeves asked the Chair and the Board to seek a source of funding to produce the report. Tom Viall promised to add that task to the agenda of the next Library Board Meeting.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Report: Frank Iacono Library Dedication**

The Chair reported on the wonderful turnout at the September 21 dedication of the Frank Iacono Library. He found it very moving and thanked Howard for putting it together. The dedication included a proclamation from the Governor which is framed and hung in the library. There are pictures of the event on the OLIS website. There is also now a plaque on the door identifying the library.

### **B. Report: What's new with Central Falls?**

The Adams Library and the Central Falls Receiver have presented a second proposal for provision of library services to Central Falls residents. This was in addition to OLIS' proposal to have Central Falls contract with the City of Pawtucket for its service. The new proposal seeks to establish a new not-for-profit library organization to operate a library in the existing Adams Library building, much as the City's Central Fall Free Public Library Board had prior to the bankruptcy.

Howard subsequently last Friday convened a panel of experts to advise him on how to go forward given the new proposal. He has promised to get back to that panel with a decision by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **IX. FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

#### **X. ADJOURN**

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