

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
Monday, January 23, 2012  
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on  
January 23, 2012  
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, Phyllis Humphrey, Mark McKenney, Joan Retsinas, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Carol Terry, and Ruth Sullivan

**Members Absent:** Regina Connor, Kenneth Findlay, Ed Garcia, Shirley Long, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Peirce, Joan Ress Reeves, and Mary Ann Slocomb

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

**Reporting:** Debbie Cullerton

**Materials Distributed:**

OLIS Monthly Report, December  
AskRI QuestionLog, December

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

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tom welcomed everyone.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes from the December 19, 2011 meeting were unanimously adopted.

Moved By: Rose Ellen Reynolds  
Seconded By: Carol Terry

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

Tom mentioned that Board members are also advocates. The budget scalpel's knife is likely to be pretty severe this year, not so much on the State as in the cities and towns where it will affect public libraries. So the Board will need to be on guard.

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

**Budget Update**

The Governor has promised a budget by next Tuesday. To date it appears that, the Library Construction Reimbursement Program and the Library Resource Sharing and Municipal Grants and Aid will be at least flat funded again. The rumblings about OLIS' agency budget are not so sanguine, but it is too soon to tell.

### **RITEAF – Karen Mellor**

The Rhode Island Technology in Education Access Fund is the program you support with the surcharge on your Verizon bill or Cox bill to fund telecommunications in schools and libraries. This year for the first time, OLIS has been asked to participate in the selection of the telecommunications vendors for that program. Karen Mellor has represented OLIS on the evaluation committee and so has been working with the proposals from the carriers.

### **DLT Collaboration – Karen Mellor**

OLIS has expanded its collaboration to include RILA. Most recently, The Department of Labor and Training has purchased some computers with unemployment related ARRA funds that they would like to deploy in libraries to enhance public access to unemployment insurance online. (It is likely that, beginning this fall anyone filing for unemployment insurance will have to do that online.) The partnership is working to expand usage to job searches and perhaps AskRI as well. Karen has been talking to selected public libraries and CCRI. Discussion followed.

### **Delivery Update – Donna DiMichele**

OLIS completed the RFP for a new delivery contract and Purchasing issued it December 27, 2011 with a submission deadline of January 25, 2012. Purchasing then held a bidders' conference on January 10, which three vendors attended.

### **Protecting the Past - Donna DiMichele**

Donna reported that she continues to be delighted with the work of new project manager Theresa Woodmansee. She has been working on finding locations for programs and has made some forward movement on the database that is a piece of our grant project. Discussion followed.

### **COLA Annual Meeting**

Cola's Annual Meeting is planned for February 15 at the State House at 5:00 p.m. There will be proclamations from both Houses of the General Assembly and Gale Eaton, Director of URI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, will be sweetheart of the year.

### **Karla Harry Commission**

The Karla Harry Commission will meet at 3:30 on the January 30, 2012 at the Barrington Public Library.

### **HELIN Annual Meeting**

HELIN held its annual meeting on January 11 with the theme, moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **OLIS Five-Year Plan**

Howard noted that OLIS is just beginning to craft a new 5-Year Plan for 2013 - 2018. It is due at IMLS on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

OLIS would like to work with a subcommittee of the Board to receive a draft of the plan mid April, take a couple of weeks to take a look at it, hold a public meeting for additional input, then present it back to the Board for approval. Members who are interested in being on the sub committee should let Tom know. After some discussion, the Board adopted the following schedule:

April 11: subcommittee receives draft form OLIS

April 30: a part of the Board meeting will be given to public consideration of the plan

June 18: Board votes on approval of the plan.

The report of the Chief Library Officer was unanimously approved.

Moved By: Bart Hollingsworth

Seconded By: Kristen Chin

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee - Bart Hollingsworth**

No report.

### **Legislation Committee – Rose Ellen Reynolds**

Rose Ellen reported that the committee is awaiting word from Howard to spring into action. The Committee has developed a very good mailing list and an extensive email list and is prepared to ask those on the lists to do whatever is necessary. The Committee is ready to take action. Discussion followed.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **LSTA Evaluation - Progress Report- Donna DiMichele**

Himmel and Wilson are analyzing data and compiling the first reports, which they will send to OLIS for review.

### **Statewide Reference Resource Center - RFP – update – Karen Mellor**

Last year's legislation changed the SRRC from a grant to the Providence Public library to a grant awarded through an RFP process to a Rhode Island public library. OLIS has obtained permission from Purchasing to treat the SRRC like a grant rather than a procurement and handle it all in-house. Karen and Howard are completing work on two RFPs; one for Operations and another for Reference Services that will be issued and bid on separately. A third component of the SRRC, including the Internet domain and web hosting will be retained by OLIS. OLIS hopes to get the RFP onto the street this week. Volunteers were requested to be part of an evaluation and selection committee once OLIS receives proposals in response to the RFP.

### **Minimum Standards for Public Libraries in Rhode Island – Procedure for review – Howard Boksenbaum**

Howard proposed a strategy for review of Minimum Standards for Public Libraries in Rhode Island. The current standards were put together in the late 90's, and adopted in 2000. Libraries were required to meet them beginning in 2003. There are 54 standards that each library has to self-certify that it meets each July.

Howard suggested that OLIS staff take a first look at rewriting the standards and present it to the Board at the May Library Board meeting. The chair could then appoint an ad hoc committee to spend a couple of months with the draft evaluating and amending it as needed. The Committee would return them to OLIS in September for a second draft. The goal will be to issue new standards in July of 2013.

The Library Board instructed Howard Boksenbaum to come back to them in May with a draft.

Moved By: Mark McKenney  
Seconded By: Bart Hollingsworth

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Board Vacancies – Tom Viall & Howard Boksenbaum**

Alison Peirce's resignation started Howard and Tom thinking about Board development. In addition to Alison, Mark McKenney and Regina Connor, both of whom are currently serving expired terms, have asked to be replaced. Appointments are the governor's prerogative and must have approval of the Senate. In the past, the governor's office has been responsive to requests to appoint specific people to the Board. so Howard and Tom are looking for names of some folks who would be good board members. Alison was a trustee of a public library and Mark McKenney is a general user, Regina Connor represented a user of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Their replacements should represent the same constituencies, membership categories are in RIGL Title 29-3.1-1, available from OLIS' website. Send recommendations to Tom. It was suggested that the Board be provided with a roster of who fits what category. That information is also available on the OLIS website, but not sorted by category.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **IX. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Board will be held on February 27, 2012, at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

The meeting of April 20 will be moved to April 30 because of the conflict with National Library Legislative Day.

## **X. ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn.

Moved By: Bart Hollingsworth  
Seconded By: Ruth Sullivan

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.