

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, March 19, 2012
Draft 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, Kenneth Findlay, Ed Garcia, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Mark McKenney, Joan Ress Reeves, Mary Ann Slocomb, Carol Terry and Ruth Sullivan

Members Absent: Kristen Chin, Regina Connor, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Peirce, Joan Retsinas and, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Guests

Eileen Dyer, Donna Good and Donna Good's student teacher Ellen Brewster

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):

Howard Boksenbaum and Debbie Cullerton

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

OLIS Monthly Report, January
OLIS Monthly Report, March
RIEMA Brochure

Chair Tom Viall convened the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tom welcomed everyone and recognized former board member, Donna Good, along with her student teacher. Ms Good wanted her student to see what happens at the state level.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the January 23, 2011 meeting were unanimously adopted with corrections.

Moved By: Joan Ress Reeves
Seconded By: Ed Garcia

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Tom Viall

Tom reported that a couple of good things have happened in the library world. He attended the COLA Sweetheart celebration where Gayle Eaton, Director of URI' Graduate School of Library and Information Studies was honored as sweetheart of the year. The co-chairs of the Karla Harry Joint Legislative Commission on Libraries each presented a

proclamations from their House of the General Assembly proclaiming February 15, 2012 as "I love libraries day" in Rhode Island..

He also attended the induction of Ed Garcia as he took over his role as the new director of the Cranston Public Library. That too was a wonderful event. The Friends Group put on this celebration. The Cranston community came together to support its library.

Tom has taken a seat on the board of COLA. He attended his first meeting on March 6. COLA had some great news regarding ALA and its efforts that Joan Ress Reeves will report on.

Joan reported that she has nominated Senator Jack Reed for an American Library Association honorary lifetime membership. This is an honor that ALA reserves for very special library supporters. The Senator was unanimously voted to receive the honor At a time and place to be announced.

Tom reminded all that ALA National Library Legislative Day is coming up April 23 and 24. Six people have signed up to attend so far. If you wish to attend please contact Howard, Tom or Debbie Cullerton.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Budget Update

LSTA was severely cut in 2011 with RI's share decreasing by about 7.2 %. We will not be able to fund any LSTA sub grants this year and we will have to take a hard look at the ASKRI databases that LSTA has funded: Mango Languages, Learning Express and ReferenceUSA. OLIS will again be seeking help from other state agencies, in particular the Department of Labor and Training and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, where we have had some good cooperation but little prospect of financial assistance.

DLT Collaboration

Our collaboration with the Department of Labor and Training and the Rhode Island Library Association has been particularly fruitful. Karen Mellor deserves many kudos for nurturing that effort. Most recently, The Department of Labor and Training has purchased some computers with unemployment related ARRA funds that they would like 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 so online. Eileen Dyer from RILA spoke about the three-way partnership.

Library Budget Worries

The big budget worries continue to be in the municipalities. Although some libraries are reporting surprisingly hassle-free budget sessions, libraries in the larger and more urban communities are likely to have problems. East Providence has already discovered that they will have to close two branches. Oddly the library in Woonsocket, where budget woes are in the news daily, reports having been told not to worry about the library budget.

Delivery Update

We have awarded the delivery contract to the same vendor that has held it for fifteen years, Current Carrier, dba NOW Delivery. Although the RFP turned up some wonderful sounding alternative strategies and techniques, particularly from Optima Deliveries, which does Massachusetts Library System's deliveries, we were unable to take advantage of

because of state purchasing technicalities. In particular, RI cannot enter into a contract that includes a variable fuel surcharge.

Protecting the Past - RI

Donna DiMichele is unable to attend the LBRI meeting because she is at our first COSTEP Meeting in a year. COSTEP, Coordinated State Emergency Planning, is a primary goal of Protecting the Past – RI. The last meeting was over a year ago in Newport, today’s meeting is in Woonsocket at the Depot and reaches out to the communities of the Blackstone Valley. COSTEP is an effort to bring together emergency managers, such as firefighters and police on the one hand and curators of cultural heritage organizations on the other to network around emergency preparation response and recovery.

Providence Public Library IMLS Grant

We have sent a letter of support for a Providence Public Library application for an IMLS Grant. to work with OLIS, the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority and RIDE and others in the Adult Education space throughout the state. to do training.

Ocean State Libraries

Ocean State Libraries continues its planning process. They have a new draft. Shirley Long noted that they are expected to have it completed by the end of April.

Broad Band Rhode Island

Broad Band Rhode Island held another community meeting last week. About 40 people attended and they were all excited to start to training people in digital literacy. Several organizations are involved.

SRRC Grant

We have awarded the Statewide Reference Resource Center Award grant to the Providence Communities Libraries based on a process that involved an evaluation committee of members of this organization and a couple of staff people from OLIS who did some extensive scoring. Karen Mellor is spearheading the work of transition from PPL tom PCL and an announcement is imminent.

The report of the Chief Library Officer was unanimously approved.

Moved By: Joan Ress Reeves
Seconded By: Mary Ann Slocomb

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

21st Century Committee
No report.

Legislation Committee
Howard reminded all of OLIS’ legislation tracking website.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LSTA Evaluation - Progress Report

Howard was hoping to give the board some interim or draft reports, however we are still waiting for them. Donna DiMichele is working with the consultants to ensure that we meet our deadline on March 31.

Board Vacancies – Tom Viall & Howard Boksenbaum

We presently have two vacancies on the Board resulting from resignations of Alison Peirce and Mark McKenney. Howard has put together a chart listing who represents what category on the board and which positions are vacant. Howard reported that we currently have someone from each of the five categories stipulated in the law, so we don't have any categories that are wanting for people. Meanwhile, seven Board members' terms have expired; all have agreed to serve a second term and their names have been remitted to the Governor's Office. Debbie Cullerton has been managing that process and has heard from the Governor's office that senior advisor to the governor Stephen Hourahan will be getting in touch with members up for renewal to meet them in person before presenting them to the Governor.

Minimum Standards for Public Libraries in Rhode Island –Howard Boksenbaum

Howard reviewed the timeline for review of *Minimum Standards for Public Libraries in Rhode Island*. He will come to present a plan to the Board at the May Library Board Meeting and a first look at rewriting the standards. 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.

OLIS Five-Year Plan

Howard reviewed the timeline for adoption of the 2013 – 2017 LSTA 5-year plan due at IMLS June 30, 2012. OLIS has promised to present a draft to a Committee of the Board mid April. The, 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 re-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.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board will be held on April 30, 2012, at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

X. ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn

Moved By: Ken Findlay

Seconded By: Ed Garcia

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.