

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, April 30, 2012
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
April 30, 2012
at the Department of Administration,
Conference Room C - 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, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Carol Terry and Ruth Sullivan

Members Absent: Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Lynch, Mark McKenney and Alison Peirce

Guests

Karisa Tashjian, Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative
Nancy Fritz, Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative

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

Howard Boksenbaum, Debbie Cullerton, Donna DiMichele, and Karen Mellor

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

BBRI (Broadband Rhode Island) Brochure

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

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tom welcomed those from the public as well as Library Board members.

II. Special Report: OLIS LSTA 2013 – 2017 Five-Year State Plan – Ad hoc Committee

Tom referred all to the plan document and gave a quick history. It was drafted by OLIS staff; principally Donna DiMichele and Howard Boksenbaum with input from all. The draft was, in turn, submitted to a committee of the Board comprising Kristen Chin, Shirley Long, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ken Findlay, and Tom Viall. The committee met on April 13 to review the draft and made some recommendations. OLIS incorporated those into a second draft and put it online. Donna notified over 400 people on the OLIS “subscribers” email list as well as on the School Librarians of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Library Association listserves.

Tom explained that later on in this meeting, as an item “under unfinished business” the Board is scheduled to discuss the plan, comments received via email to date and the input heard today and to entertain a motion to accept the plan or send it back to OLIS staff for further revision.

Tom called for public comment on the plan.

Karisa Tashjian spoke about the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative’s disappointment that adult literacy was nowhere included in the plan and asked the Board to consider adding adult literacy programming back in.

There were no further comments on the plan.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the March 19, 2012 meeting were unanimously adopted with corrections.

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

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Tom Viall

Tom reported on his trip to Washington, D.C. last week to participate in the National Library Legislative Day (NLLD). He was joined in that trip by Howard Boksenbaum, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Phyllis Humphrey and Jenifer Bond. Not only did they have a terrific time; Tom also found it fulfilling. Monday was an ALA education session on the important library legislative issues. Tuesday, the group met with RI's senators and representatives. Of RI's four legislators, only Jack Reed was available to meet with them but they spoke with staff at the other three offices. Tom complimented the group on their presentations to the legislative staffs.

On Monday evening, when Senator Reed received an honorary lifetime membership to ALA and a Crystal Apple Award from AASL, Tom and the RI advocates were on hand and proud to be Rhode Islanders. Tom encouraged the Board to participate in NLLD next year.

V. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

OLIS Annual Report to LSTA

IMLS has accepted OLIS' 2011 annual report.

Public Library Budget Worries

The budgets in the bigger municipalities continue to be worrisome. East Providence has already closed two branches for financial reasons.

Delivery – Donna DiMichele

Donna thanked the LORI Team of Chaichin Chen, Alicia Waters, Jeremy Cutler and Kelley Lima for their efforts in going out to bid for a new delivery contract and making the transition from the old to the new. The new contract with NOW Delivery began on April 2 and raised the price per stop 18%. In order to keep costs down at the higher price, beginning in June, OLIS will implement a new schedule based on a review of the frequency of each individual stop (out of 200) and the volume of materials.

Protecting the Past – Donna DiMichele

After the regional COSTEP meeting in the Blackstone Valley in March, several people signed up for RI.dPlan training. The Project had an exhibit at the RI Statewide Historic Preservation Conference on April 21, in Woonsocket. Morgan Greffe, the new Executive Director of the RI Historical Society, has joined the Steering Committee. The next regional COSTEP meeting is scheduled for May 15 in Narragansett. Donna passed around an invitation.

SRRC Grant – Karen Mellor

We have awarded the Statewide Reference Resource Center Award grant to the Providence Community Libraries and are currently in the process of working with the Providence Community Library to transfer the statewide reference resource center's operations from the Providence Public Library. Discussion followed.

DLT Collaboration – Karen Mellor

OLIS is working with RILA and DLT to strategically place computers in public libraries and the Community College of Rhode Island, where they will be used for unemployment insurance and

job-seeking. Critical locations will be in public libraries that are on bus routes. Discussion followed.

Broadband Rhode Island

Ed Garcia spoke about Broad Band of Rhode Island. The BBRI ran a digital literacy pilot last fall with 2 participating libraries, Cranston Central and Providence Community Library Rochambeau. They are almost finished with a portal that will enable us to download the class materials. Cranston is the only library so far doing the digital literacy classes post pilot. They just finished a first session last week successfully. More classes will be offered and we have waiting lists for the spring and fall session. Discussion followed.

Ocean State Libraries

Ocean State Libraries is making progress on its 5-year Strategic Plan. There is also progress in getting libraries on to the OSHEAN Ring.

Agenda change

As several members indicated they would have to depart soon, a motion was made to move consideration of the OLIS 5-year plan item up on the agenda so as many as possible could participate in the discussion.

Moved By: Mary Ann Slocomb
Seconded By: Ed Garcia

The report of the Chief Library Officer was unanimously accepted

Moved By: Rose Ellen Reynolds
Seconded By: Mary Ann Slocomb

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

21st Century Committee – Bart Hollingsworth

The Committee will meet on Friday to develop a survey to administer throughout the state to discover what 21st century projects libraries are involved in.

Legislation Committee- Rose Ellen Reynolds

Rose Ellen reported her hope the Governor's budget passes intact and that there is no reduction of library appropriations.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LSTA Evaluation - Progress Report

OLIS' 5-year LSTA evaluation of 2008 – 2012 was due at IMLS March 30, 2012. Consultants Himmel and Wilson completed the study and submitted it on OLIS' behalf in time. The study is available on the OLIS web site.

OLIS LSTA 2013 – 2017 Five-Year State Plan – Adoption

Mary Ann Slocomb began the discussion by pointing out that the version of the 5-year plan on the OLIS website did not include the glossary of acronyms abbreviations and terms that had been promised the committee when it had reviewed the draft. Donna DiMichele replied that a glossary has been created and will be added to the final edition of the Five Year Plan.

Donna DiMichele summarized the email input OLIS had received after the draft had been published on the OLIS Website and announced to RILA, SLRI and the OLIS "subscribers" list, then related OLIS' responses. There was much discussion of Karisa Tashjian's input regarding the absence of Adult Literacy programming in the plan. Several Board members were unhappy with the exclusion of Adult Literacy.

Several Board members pointed out grammatical and spelling errors.

Joan Retsinas moved approval with only the grammical and spelling changes just as is without any further additions.

Moved: Joan Retsinas
Seconded: Carol Terry

Joan Ress Reeves remarked that the plan is exceptionally well written and proposed kudos to OLIS.

Mary Ann Slocomb again mentioned the need to add the glossary.

Ed Garcia objected to the absence of any reference to adult literacy programs including the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative and the Kent County Literacy Volunteers of America in the 5-year plan. Considerable discussion ensued. Shirley Long expressed her annoyance at the idea that the state agency for libraries had given up the idea of literacy. Kristen Chin concurred.

The motion passed with

Ayes: 9 (Tom Viall, Chair, Regina Connor, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Carol Terry and Ruth Sullivan)
Nays: 2 (Shirley Long, Kristen Chin)
Absent: 1 (Ed Garcia was absent for the vote).

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Tom mentioned that CRIARL will be celebrating 40 years of service to the academic and research libraries in Rhode Island. His suggestion that a proclamation from the Board would be appropriate to send to CRIARL for the occasion was unanimously approved.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board will be held on May 21, 2012, at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

XI. ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn

Moved By: Mary Ann Slocomb
Seconded By: Kristen Chin

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