

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
June 18, 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, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Joan Retsinas, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb and Carol Terry.

Members Absent: Kristen Chin, Regina Connor, Phyllis Lynch, Mark McKenney, Joan Ress Reeves, Alison Peirce and Ruth Sullivan

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):
Howard Boksenbaum, Donna DiMichele and Cheryl Space

Reporting: Carol Ciotola (DoIT) for Debbie Cullerton

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

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed attending Library Board members and OLIS staff.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 21 MEETING

The minutes from the May 21, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Moved by: Carol Terry
Seconded by: Rose Ellen Reynolds

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Tom Viall

Tom reported that the Governor reappointed the following Board members: Kristen Chin, Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Joan Ress Reeves, Mary Ann Slocomb and Carol Terry, and pointed out the differing term ending dates--Kristen Chin, Shirley Long, Mary Ann Slocomb and Joan Ress Reeves—December 31, 2013, and the remaining reappointed members—December 31, 2014.

Howard spoke of the three vacancies on the Board due to term expirations resignation.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT – Howard Boksenbaum

Kids Reading Across Rhode Island (KRARI) – Cheryl Space

This initiative was a statewide kick off for the Summer Reading Program, targeting grades four-six. The kickoff of the Third Annual KRARI, in partnership with the Rhode Island Center for the Book, was held on June 16 at the State House. Cheryl explained the collaborative process and criteria involved in choosing a book to complement the Summer Reading Program theme, "Dream Big, Read" -- *Dave at Night* by author Gail Carson Levine was chosen. Since a major goal of this program is for children to meet authors, the author was in attendance to lead workshops, give a speech, sign books, etc. Exhibits, games and a performing parrot were also on hand. Each family received a free copy of the book signed by the author. Additionally, the 30 participating libraries will each receive 10 books conditional upon the book being celebrated in some manner.

Reading Aloud in Rhode Island (REAL) – Cheryl Space

On June 1, OLIS kicked off its Summer Reading Program families with kids age 4-10 at the Providence Children’s Museum. Kara LaReau suggested having ten local authors read from their books, sign them, etc., and through her efforts brought this to fruition. Additionally, children’s librarians provided activity tables related to the program.

Teen Media Production Project (My Digital Life) – Cheryl Space

OLIS partnered with the State Council on the Arts to bring video production classes into libraries. She explained how the four participating libraries were chosen for the twelve-week project and spoke about the collaborative efforts involved, which coincides with OLIS’s goal to think of libraries as places to create instead of just places to consume. The summer teen video competition--to produce a public service announcement for the Summer Reading Program—resulted in a win for three teens who participated at the Westerly Public Library (additional details at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/services/ya/cslp2012winner.php>)

In response to a question from the Board, Cheryl presented the criteria used to select libraries, including a dedicated teen librarian, ability to identify a group of teens to participate, freedom of teen librarian to attend weekly sessions to learn along with the teens and availability during office hours to offer assistance to the teens.

Cheryl has a DVD of the videos and plans to place them on the OLIS website—members will be alerted to the link once posted. She also noted that funding has been secured to continue training library staff in managing video production classes as programs in libraries.

Letters About Literature 2012 – Howard Boksenbaum

The Center for the Book issued the document referred to above presenting letters from youths as to how literature changed their views of the world. Howard passed this document around the room for Board members’ review, and Donna DiMichele cited several examples of the powerful affect reading can have on people.

Group Movie Licenses – Howard Boksenbaum

Howard read part of a letter sent to OLIS Library Program Specialist Chaichin Chen citing appreciation for consolidating movie licenses so that libraries across the state can have access to movies year round. He presented this as a good illustration of how the library business is slightly changing, in that its accomplishments are through partnerships and coordinated efforts.

Protecting the Past – RI – Donna DiMichele

Donna reported on Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency’s (RIEMA’s) Annual Hurricane Conference (held today) that reviewed lessons learned and made projections about this coming season with a focus on improving past practices. It was a full day of presentations, together with exhibits; and new connections were made with community emergency managers.

Protecting the Past held a planning and preparation workshop at Roger Williams University, with twelve to fourteen people participating. Programming will be reviewed this summer before providing additional training sessions.

Budget – Howard Boksenbaum

The State passed its budget; OLIS has been level funded, which, given the reduction in LSTA funding, necessitates keeping a close eye on expenditures again this year. We have already reconfigured the delivery schedule, as the new delivery contract had to take into account gas price increases, and we have eliminated LORI grants.

The report of the Chief Library Officer was unanimously accepted

Moved by: Rose Ellen Reynolds
Seconded by: Phyllis Humphrey

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

21st Century Committee – Bart Hollingsworth

Currently the 21st Century Committee is putting together a survey to learn what's going on in libraries; its goal is to identify individuals associated with libraries across the state doing interesting activities and/or taking proactive approaches to providing library services modeling 21st Century ideals. Once identified, they will be asked to serve as mentors to OLIS and/or other libraries. The survey should be finalized next week. OLIS has agreed to host the survey on Survey Monkey; however, since she and Donna (OLIS' other Survey Monkey person) will be away from the office next week, posting will most likely take place the early part of July. A deadline for survey submissions will be established; once returned, the results will be discussed.

Legislation Committee - Rose Ellen Reynolds

The Legislative Session concluded; the budget passed. It will now be necessary to watch for any changes to library funding at the municipal level through maintenance of effort or elimination which can occur until June 30 (with the exception of East Providence). If necessary, the Board will need to object for the record.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS--None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Carol Terry commented on an Internet news blog (ESPN Sports Center) she found interesting about Lebron James. He reads as a way to get ready for a game. The picture shows him with stacks of books that he reads and shares with other teammates in the locker room. It helps him to clear his mind before games. She thought this to be a great statement about the importance of reading and suggested incorporating it into some type of public service initiative. Donna suggested an ALA poster of members of the Pawtucket Red Sox team reading.

Ken Findlay proposed the following Resolution: Draft a letter to Lebron James from the Library Board to show its great appreciation for his public display of reading, citing it as a good example.

Joan Retsinas asked the Board to proceed cautiously to ensure his actions are not disingenuous. Carol believed the story to be true. James had explained that he reads books to keep from reading negative things about himself on the Internet.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT--None.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Board meeting will be held on September 24, 2012, at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B.

X. ADJOURN—Motion made to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

[Following the meeting, Ken Findlay played several digitally recorded books read by ACI inmates and sent to their children via the Books Beyond Program.]