

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
December 15, 2014
at the Department of Administration,
Conference Room B - Second Floor,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Cristina Amedeo, Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Davis Maxell, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

Members absent: Kristen Chin, Kenneth Findlay, Shirley Long, Phyllis Lynch, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Karen Andrews, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor

Guests: Jack Martin, Director, Providence Public Library; Jane W. Koster, President, League of Women Voters of RI; Susan Escherich, Secretary, League of Women Voters of RI

Reporting: Karen Andrews

Materials Distributed:

- Plain, Rob. "State library funding rewards Barrington, punishes Central Falls." *RIFuture.org*, 13 March 2014.
- State Aid to Libraries, Fiscal Year 2015 (State Budget)
- State Aid to Libraries at 25% Level, Fiscal Year 2015

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the November 17, 2014, meeting

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved with minor changes.

Moved by: Joan Ress Reeves

Seconded by: Ed Garcia

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Viall reported that Karen Mellor has been officially appointed to the position of Chief of Library Services.

Tom Evans, the Rhode Island State Librarian, is the subject of a December 08 Providence Journal article entitled *State librarian Tom Evans speaks volumes about R.I. history*. The article is linked on the OLIS Rhodarian website.

Mr. Viall extended his thanks to Co-Chair Rose Ellen Reynolds for chairing the November 17 LBRI meeting.

The Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) will hold their annual meeting at the RI Statehouse on February 10, 2015. The guest speaker will be Brian Jones, Co-Founder of the Library Report.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

Transition planning is in process at the RI Department of Administration (DOA) in advance of the governor-elect's inauguration on January 06, 2015.

A. State Program Report

Karen Mellor is working with Donna DiMichele to complete the annual state program report for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The report is due to the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) by December 30, 2014. The report reflects OLIS expenditures and activities for the period beginning October 01, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014.

B. Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Statistics

The LORI Standards Certification survey is located on the OLIS website. The information gathered includes the top lending libraries, technology available at libraries, and the ways that e-resources are being utilized by patrons. The data gathered from the survey will be discussed in depth at the January 12, 2015, LBRI meeting.

C. Newport World Heritage Commission

Karen Mellor was appointed by Governor Chafee to the Newport World Heritage Commission. The effort to have Newport, RI, recognized as a World Heritage site began in the mid 2000's when the original unsuccessful application was submitted to the US National Park Service for consideration for inclusion on the US World Heritage nomination list to UNESCO.

D. Youth Services

The name of an applicant has been submitted to Human Resources to fill the Youth Services position. Final approval to fill any position at the Department of Administration must be granted by the Director of DOA.

E. AskRI

The AskRI portion of the Statewide Reference Resource Center, administered by the Providence Public Library, is updated with new resources. The new RI Resource Hub has been added as a resource; the Resource Hub provides adult education resources, especially for individuals with lower literacy skills. Updates to the site are on-going.

F. Continuing Education (CE)

i. Behavior Issues in the Library

The evaluations from participants in the November 18 program, *Identifying and Managing Behavior Issues in the Library*, included requests from librarians for CE programs that would address specific mental health issues. Requested subjects included Asperger's Syndrome, Autism spectrum, and college students with mental health problems.

ii. Summer Reading Program (SRP) Performers Showcase

The SRP Performers Showcase was held on December 03 at the Henry Barnard School. Twenty-one educators/performers auditioned for children's programs. Students from the school were in the audience for the performances and their responses to the performers help librarians gauge the impact of the performers on children.

On December 03, fifteen educators/performers presented for the young adult summer reading program in a session at Warwick Public Library.

Motion to approve: Rosita Hopper

Seconded by: Cristina Amedeo

The report of the Chief of Library Services was unanimously accepted.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislation

Mr. Viall will seek a meeting with Governor-elect Raimondo, after her inauguration, to discuss library initiatives.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Hiring Chief of Library Services

Karen Mellor is officially appointed as the Chief of Library Services.

B. Construction Regulations

A survey of library construction costs in the Northeast is planned. The information gathered will be reviewed to gain an understanding of current library construction costs to determine an appropriate reimbursement rate in Rhode Island.

C. LBRI By-Laws and Vision Statement Review

Ed Garcia, Rosita Hopper, Joan Ress Reeves, and Robert Sloan will review the current LBRI By-Laws and Vision Statement, and then report their findings and recommendations to the LBRI.

D. LORI Standards and Interlibrary Code (ILL) Review

Donna DiMichele requested feedback from the LBRI from their review of the proposed revision of the LORI Standards. The feedback received will be reported to the LORI Standards Committee for consideration and a draft will be prepared. The draft will be presented to the LBRI board for approval at the February 2015 meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Distribution of State Aid to Libraries

The issue of state aid funding for public libraries is a subject that is revisited frequently in the public arena. The Chair requested that the Board engage in discussion to

determine its stance on this important issue, and either affirm their agreement with the current distribution formula or propose a new funding formula.

B. Access to Public Records Act

The definition of 'public body' in the Open Meetings Act, which includes libraries that receive at least 25% of their funding from public funds, does not match its counterpart in the Access to Public Records Act. It was suggested that aligning these two definitions to include libraries would be an appropriate legislative initiative in the upcoming legislative session to standardize terms as they relate to open meetings, access to public records, and libraries.

C. Homeless Bill of Rights

According to Rhode Island Law, homeless people cannot be discriminated against because of their lack of a physical address. Legal opinion from the RI Department of Administration advised that denying a library card to an individual on the basis of their address or lack thereof would be discriminatory under this law, based on a court case in Massachusetts. The domicile status of an individual cannot be grounds to create lending practices for homeless individuals that differ from standard lending practices.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT and ANNOUNCEMENT

Cristina Amedeo thanked libraries on behalf of HealthSourceRI for their contribution in providing crucial HealthSourceRI enrollment assistance to the public.

Jane W. Koster, President, League of Women Voters of RI, thanked the LBRI for the discussion about the distribution of funding for public libraries. Ms. Koster also extended her thanks to Karen Mellor for her attendance at a meeting of the League of Women Voters of RI.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2015 from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. at Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosett Cross Road, Cranston, RI.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Moved by: Joan Ress Reeves

Seconded by: Ed Garcia