

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
October 26, 2015
at the Department of Administration,
Conference Room B - Second Floor,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

Members absent: Kenneth Findlay, Edward Garcia, Phyllis Humphrey, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Davis Maxell, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo

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

Guests: None

Reporting: Karen Andrews

Materials Distributed: LBRI Manual Updates; Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Letter; American Library Association (ALA) Library and Other Information Resources Standard Seven; ALA National Policy Agenda for Libraries; Valley Breeze Cumberland Lincoln Edition article, *Cumberland library is seeking historical information* (October 15-21, 2015 Edition)

I. WELCOME

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the September 21, 2015, meeting

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.

Moved by: Dr. Hopper

Seconded by: Ms. Reynolds

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. LBRI Member Introductions

LBRI members introduced themselves to new members who were not present at the September 21, 2015, LBRI meeting. Members reported their length of time on the Board and the types of libraries or library user communities that they represented.

B. Joan Ress Reeves

Mr. Viall welcomed Ms. Reeves at her first meeting as Board Member Emeritus. Ms. Reeves was appointed as Board Member Emeritus by Governor Gina Raimondo and is the first Member Emeritus on the Board.

C. Providence Public Library 140th Anniversary

The Chair attended the 140th Anniversary of the Providence Public Library (PPL) on October 18 at PPL and toured the library with Jack Martin, the Executive Director. PPL is also celebrating their reopening on Sundays with hours from 1-5 p.m.

D. LBRI Future Meetings

Mr. Viall recommended that future LBRI meetings be held at different libraries so that members may have the opportunity to view the various libraries in the state. If possible, the Chair recommends that members tour the libraries after the meetings.

E. Cornerstones of Democracy, November 12, 2015

Cornerstones of Democracy: Libraries, Intellectual Freedom and Privacy, co-sponsored by OLIS, the Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA), and the RI Library Association (RILA), will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Cumberland Public Library. The presenter will be Nancy C. Kranich, Ph.D., President of the American Library Association (ALA) from 2000-2001. Board members were encouraged to attend.

F. All Access Event, Cranston Public Library, November 16, 2015

The All Access Meeting at Cranston Public Library will be held on November 16, 2015, from 3-6 p.m. The Chair suggested that the LBRI meeting scheduled for November 16 be moved from the DOA to Cranston Public Library with a rescheduled time of 4:30-6 p.m. so that members can attend some of the All Access sessions at the event. The members agreed.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. 2017 State Budget

The state's Budget Office and agency directors are working on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) at this time. Preliminary discussions indicate OLIS will be level-funded at the 2016 service level in FY17, including full funding for the interlibrary loan delivery service; Ms. Mellor will update the board as the budget is developed.

B. State Lean Government Initiative

Lean government seeks ways to make services as efficient as possible by reviewing processes, eliminating inefficiencies and adding value whenever possible. Ms. Mellor has attended Lean training and will work with staff to seek ways to streamline processes at OLIS.

C. OLIS Staffing

There are currently 13 full-time positions at OLIS; 12 of those positions are funded in the FY16 budget and 11 are filled. The position of State Data Coordinator is currently vacant and Ms. Mellor had received preliminary approval to fill this position. The position has been upgraded to a higher grade, with position duties expanded to include coordination of other statewide library projects, such as the public library construction reimbursement program.

D. FY15 Annual Reports

Ms. Mellor has been filling the role of the State Data Coordinator. All the Annual Reports have been received; state grant-in-aid applications are in the process of being reviewed and approved for aid disbursement.

E. One Catalog Project

The catalogs of Ocean State Libraries (OSL), the public library consortium, and HELIN, the academic library consortium, were linked in Spring 2015, enabling patrons of OSL and HELIN libraries to borrow directly from libraries outside their consortia. Three academic libraries currently in the HELIN consortium will leave HELIN in December 2015: Brown University, Bryant University and the University of Rhode Island. Materials from the three institutions will no longer be accessible through the linked One Catalog. To enable these libraries and other libraries that are not in the OSL or HELIN consortia to borrow materials from the OSL-HELIN One Catalog, OLIS is issuing borrowing cards to libraries. OLIS will mediate loans from OSL and HELIN for libraries that are not part of the One Catalog project; patrons of libraries that are not part of the project will have to work with a librarian at their institution to acquire materials from other libraries.

F. Fall 2015 Conferences

i. Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast (COSLINE)

Ms. Mellor and Ms. DiMichele attended the COSLINE annual meeting in Mystic, CT on October 5-6. Thirteen states participate in this organization.

ii. Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)

The COSLA annual membership meeting was held October 18-21 at Cape May, New Jersey. The event was attended by 46 of the 50 chiefs of state library agencies. The event provides Chiefs with opportunities to learn about national initiatives, common issues and regional projects to facilitate cooperation of library agencies and organizations on a national level.

a. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD)

NLLD is sponsored by the American Library Association and will take place on May 2-3, 2016, in Washington D.C. Library representatives and supporters convene in Washington to meet with their Congressional delegations and discuss matters of national importance to libraries. Ms. Mellor encourages new LBRI members to attend the event.

b. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), New Director

Dr. Kathryn (Kit) Matthew is the new director of the IMLS and represents the museum community. (The President appoints a new director to the IMLS every four years, alternating between the museum and library communities.) Dr. Matthew addressed the 2015 COSLA membership meeting and updated the state agency chiefs about activities and objectives of IMLS.

IMLS provides funding to OLIS through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). OLIS receives about half of its funding through IMLS.

c. National Policy Agenda

ALA has put forth a national policy agenda that seeks to set a national agenda for libraries. The initiative focuses on the essential nature and value of libraries, targeting specific areas such as education and learning, employment and entrepreneurship, health and wellness, veterans and the military, and heritage and history. The goal is to craft messages around these five areas, determine how libraries can build capacity in these areas, and how these efforts can advance the public interest.

Ms. Mellor recommends that, using the national policy agenda as a framework, OLIS and the Board should conduct an environmental scan in Rhode Island to better understand the needs of the public and the role of libraries. The scan will inform the development of a new strategic plan for OLIS.

The Colorado State Library held a Research Institute for Public Libraries last summer. This ongoing project provides powerful tools for librarians to use data to tell the story of libraries. The power of connecting data with individual stories to make the case for libraries as an essential service was a recurring theme at the COSLA meeting.

iii. New England Library Association (NELA)

The NELA annual conference was held in Manchester, NH on October 25-27. Ms. Mellor attended the event on October 25 and, along with other New England State Library chiefs, spoke at the 'State of the States'.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislation

Ms. Reynolds reported that there will not be a fall session of the RI State Legislature. Pre-filing for new bills will begin in November for the 2016 session.

Mr. Viall recommended the use of the Sunlight Foundation's 'Scout' website (<https://scout.sunlightfoundation.com/>) to investigate or track legislative bills.

Ms. Mellor reported that, in response to the Dept. of Administration's request for legislative proposals, OLIS proposed to update RIGL 29-6-3, Grant-in-Aid eligibility requirements, to include the requirement that libraries receiving 25% or more of their funding from public sources must comply with the Open Meetings Act and the Access to Public Records Act. Under the existing statutes, libraries receiving 25% or more of their funding from public sources must comply with the Open Meetings Act, but not the Access to Public Records Act.

B. Review of Library Board By-Laws and Vision Statement

A draft of the Board By-Laws and Vision Statement will be provided to the Board in November for review. Mr. Viall proposes that the Board vote on the draft at the December

LBRI meeting so that the approved LBRI By-Laws and Vision Statement may become effective in January 2016.

VI. REPORTS OF THE BOARD

A. Ms. Herrington-Bright

Ms. Herrington-Bright reported that Cumberland Public Library is seeking information about the three small libraries that were combined to create the current Cumberland Public Library. The three libraries were the Sherman-LeClerc Library, Arnold Mills Community Library, and Valley Falls Public Library. Information about these three libraries may be sent to the Cumberland Public Library Director, Celeste Dyer. Ms. Dyer may be reached at 401-333-2552 ext. 5, or at administration@cumberlandlibrary.org.

B. Mr. Sloan

Mr. Sloan reported that renovations to East Greenwich Free Library are complete. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on October 20, 2015, at 8:30 a.m.

C. Ms. Amedeo

Ms. Amedeo reported that stories about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) benefiting patrons could be shared with RI representatives during National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on May 2-3, 2016.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Construction Reimbursement: Caps and Priorities

Ms. Mellor proposed that the full Construction Reimbursement Standards be reviewed for revision. LBRI members are requested to advise Mr. Viall or Ms. Mellor if they wish to join the review committee. Input will be sought from libraries that have had recent construction projects or that will be embarking on constructions projects in the near future. Members were encouraged to suggest individuals for inclusion on the committee.

B. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Letter

The draft letter to NEASC regarding proposed standards revisions was unanimously approved and will be sent to NEASC.

Moved by: Ms. Reynolds

Seconded by: Mr. Bucci

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Library resource sharing, interlibrary cooperation and library consortia

Ms. Mellor recommended that, using ALA's National Policy Agenda as a framework, that OLIS and the Board conduct an environmental scan of the information needs of Rhode Island residents and the role of libraries. Generating data about the needs for and role of library service in the state will assist OLIS in developing a strategic plan to guide resource

sharing among libraries, and to identify priority service areas for OLIS. A framework for this study will be developed by OLIS, with input from the Board.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT and ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no public comments or announcements.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2015 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosett Cross Road, Cranston, RI 02920.

(Meeting Venue Change Notification: Please note that the meeting venue has changed since the October 26 meeting. The LBRI meeting for November 16, 2015 will be held from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the RI Department of Labor & Training (DLT), 1511 Pontiac Avenue – Building 73, Room 73-1, Cranston, RI.)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. Norris

Seconded by: Dr. Hopper