The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on February 22, 2016 at the Department of Administration, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Edward Garcia, Rosita Hopper, Louise Herrington-Bright, Phyllis Humphrey, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Davis-Maxell, Joan Ress Reeves, Robert Sloan

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

Guests: Ms. Katherine Chansky, Executive Director of the Libraries of Foster; Ms. Eileen Dyer, Interim Director, Providence Community Library, Co-chair, Rhode Island Library Association Legislative Action Committee; Dr. Walter Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the January 11, 2016 meeting
The meeting minutes were approved without changes.

Moved by: Ms. Reynolds
Seconded by: Mr. Garcia

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR
A. Providence Journal article regarding Open Meetings Laws
The Chair reported on the February 3, 2016, article in the Providence Journal about a report by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) that discussed a perceived lack of transparency in open meetings by state and municipal boards in Rhode Island. Mr. Viall would like to improve the LBRI agenda as necessary to accurately depict the items to be discussed at LBRI meetings. LBRI members are requested to submit agenda items to the Chair.

B. House Bill H7239
RI House Bill H7239 includes mandates to public boards about open meeting requirements, including posting video and audio recordings of all public meetings on the RI Secretary of State’s website.
C. United Way 2-1-1 Steadfast Award

The Chair extended his congratulations to Ms. Mellor for her receipt of the Steadfast Support award from United Way 2-1-1 for her long-time support of the service. Ms. Mellor serves on the 2-1-1 Advisory Board and has done so since its inception in 2007; she has been instrumental in establishing libraries as an outreach venue for United Way 2-1-1. The award ceremony was part of 2-1-1 Day at the State House, on February 11, 2016.

Mr. Viall extended his appreciation to Ms. Amedeo for her work with United Way 2-1-1. Ms. Mellor acknowledged former OLIS manager, Beth Perry, for connecting Ms. Mellor and OLIS with United Way 2-1-1 through its origin as a service of Crossroads RI.

D. Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) Annual Meeting

The COLA Annual Meeting will be held on April 12, 2016, at 5 p.m., in the Governor’s State Room at the State House. Information about the event can be found on the COLA Website, www.colari.org. The keynote speaker for the event will be the Artistic Director of the Gamm Theatre, Mr. Tony Estrella. The title of Mr. Estrella’s presentation is A Serious House on Serious Earth It Is: Becoming Human Again at your Local Library.

E. Money Smart Week RI

Money Smart Week RI is the week of April 23-30, 2016. Libraries will partner with community groups to offer programs that assist patrons with learning about financial matters.

F. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD)

National Library Legislative Day is May 2-3, 2016, in Washington, DC. Registration is now open for the event on the American Library Association website. LBRI members were invited to contact Mr. Viall for more information about the event and advise Ms. Andrews of their registration for the event.

G. Providence Journal Article

The Chair reported that the Providence Journal printed an article on February 2, 2016, on the Governor’s proposed FY2017 state budget that stated the Office of Library and Information Services would be eliminated. This information was incorrect; OLIS is fully funded in the Governor’s budget, though there is a reduction to the Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC). The Providence Journal printed a correction on February 3, 2016.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Rhode Island Library Day

Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) is sponsoring Library Day on April 16, 2016, as a part of National Library Week. The intent of Library Day is to showcase RI libraries’ programs and services. Public libraries will also offer amnesty on that day for patrons to return overdue materials without incurring fines. Public, school and academic libraries are invited to participate in the event.

B. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) State Program Report
The OLIS state program report was completed and submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Ms. Mellor presented information about the report and provided a handout to LBRI members.

C. Governor’s Proposed Budget

i. Staffing

Ms. Mellor discussed the allocation of the Governor’s Proposed FY2017 budget for OLIS personnel. The proposed FY17 budget includes funding for 13 full time employees (FTE) including Ms. Mellor’s former position, Library Program Manager, which has been vacant since 2013.

ii. Grant-in-Aid (GIA) and Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC) Funding

The state aid to libraries program has been level funded in the proposed FY17 budget; as a result, public libraries will receive 21.2% of the amount appropriated and expended in 2015 by their municipalities on library services. Funding for the SRRC program has been reduced by $311,326; the FY2016 allocation was $1,012,378.

D. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants-to-States funding

The IMLS budget, released on February 9, 2016, reduces the Grants to States program by $941,000 in federal fiscal year 2017, and increases funding for the National Leadership Grant program. This reduction will reduce aid for each state and translates to a loss of $8,500 in funding for Rhode Island. The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) are concerned that this shift in funding reflects a policy shift in the distribution of federal aid, eroding states’ abilities to determine local priorities as funding shifts to nationally awarded grants.

E. Library eBook Access Project (LEAP)

OLIS will be awarding a grant to Ocean State Libraries (OSL) to participate in New York Public Library’s (NYPL) LEAP project. With funding from an IMLS grant, NYPL has developed an application that enables libraries to make content available from multiple eBook vendors through one application. Currently, Ocean State Libraries only provides eBook content available through Overdrive. The ultimate goal of the project is to create a national cooperative of libraries that will work together on eBook purchases from multiple vendors while making that content available through a single application.

F. Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids (RILINK)

OLIS staff members met with RILINK members, hosted by Ms. Humphrey of the Archie R. Cole Middle School, to determine how to better meet the delivery requirements of school libraries. After the meeting, the OLIS - LORI delivery schedule was modified to meet the needs of schools with high volume delivery.

G. Delivery Services Interstate Expansion

OLIS is investigating the expansion of delivery services between Massachusetts and Rhode Island as both states use the same delivery vendor. The Massachusetts Library System is
leading the project and has offered to cover the cost of an additional stop to facilitate interstate borrowing between RI and select Massachusetts networks.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislation
   i. Senate Bill 2397: Joint resolution to amend Article XII of the RI Constitution
      An amendment to Article XII of the RI State Constitution has been proposed. Libraries are still a feature of Article XII, however, there is expanded language on education as it relates to adequate educational opportunities for all communities.

   ii. Senate Bill 2029/House Bill H7292
      Senate Bill S2029 will increase the state’s share of grant-in-aid (GIA) support to public libraries in distressed communities by an amount equal to the amount paid by the distressed city or town for OSL annual assessment charges. H 7292 is the companion bill in the House.

   iii. House Bill H7200
      House Bill H7200 will make language and statutory clean-up changes to laws that pertain to OLIS, the Chief of Library Services’ position, and the Library Board of RI.

B. Library Construction Regulations Review
   The committee has met once and will hold another meeting in the next two weeks.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo
   Talking Books Plus (TBP) has a survey that is due for completion by March 1, 2016. Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo reported on the shift in demographics of the users of the TBP program and the Victor Reader device that is a popular and effective tool for TBP patrons.

B. Dr. Hopper
   Dr. Hopper inquired if the new LBRI standing committees require follow-up at LBRI meetings. Mr. Viall reported that new committees will be on the March 2016 meeting agenda.

The HELIN board of directors has voted to change vendors for their integrated library service, from Innovative Interfaces to OCLC. Once the agreement is signed, migration will begin immediately and is scheduled for completion by December 2016.

OLIS staff will provide an overview of the relationship of various library consortia at the next LBRI meeting.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Library Services Strategic Plan: Environmental Scan
   Ms. Mellor reported that OLIS has investigated the state process for hiring a consultant for the OLIS environment scan.
VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC) Databases and Services
   
   i. Reductions to SRRC in state budget
      
      The Governor’s Proposed Budget for FY2017 recommends a reduction of $311,000 to the SRRC budget, which will impact the purchase of statewide databases available via AskRI. Providence Public Library (PPL) currently serves as the SRRC. Ms. Mellor met with PPL staff to discuss the use of the current AskRI databases. AskRI will conduct a survey of libraries and work with the OSL Reference Working Group to evaluate the use and relevance of the databases currently available through AskRI. The Pawtucket Public Library has expressed concerns about the potential loss of Tutor.com as this resource is especially important to students in Pawtucket who lack access to other tutoring services.
      
      The RI Department of Education (RIDE) has been approached to help support Tutor.com but funding support is not available. Tutor.com and EBSCO are the two biggest database expenditures for the SRRC and have some of the highest usage statistics of AskRI databases.

   ii. SRRC Contract
      
      Providence Public Library is currently in the second year of the SRRC contract. State law requires OLIS to issue a request for proposals (RFP) every two years to select a public library to serve as the SRRC. OLIS plans to issue a Request for Information to assess interest in the library community for serving as the SRRC which will then inform the RFP process. Mr. Garcia suggested that the reference portion of the grant be reevaluated with respect to saving essential databases for patrons.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2016, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. Bucci

Seconded by: Dr. Hopper