

## LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on

March 20, 2017

at the Department of Administration,

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B,

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

**Members Attending:** Cristina Amedeo, Annette Feldman, Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Humphrey, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

**Members Absent:** John Bucci, Alison Davis-Maxell, Melody Drnach, Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Lynch, Rose Ellen Reynolds

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

**Guests:** Ms. Eileen Dyer, Co-chair, Rhode Island Library Association Legislative Action Committee; Dr. Dzialo

**Materials Distributed:**

- OLIS Framework for 2018-2022 Comprehensive Strategic Plan (Draft)
- OLIS 2016 Annual Report
- *Libraries Hold Their Value*, Cranston Herald Editorial; February 8, 2017;  
<http://cranstononline.com/stories/libraries-hold-their-value,121806>

### I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.

### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the January 09, 2017 meeting

**Moved by:** Dr. Hopper

**Seconded by:** Mr. Garcia

The meeting minutes were approved with non-substantive changes.

### III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

#### A. Strategic Plan Focus Groups

Mr. Viall and Ms. Feldman attended a focus group for LBRI members and school librarians on March 13 at the Department of Administration. Ms. DiMichele has been organizing focus groups of librarians and library stakeholders for external consultants to gather information for the OLIS Strategic Plan. An online survey was also available to the library

community to provide feedback for the strategic plan, and Mr. Viall thanked LBRI members who completed the online survey.

B. RI United Way 2-1-1 Celebration

Mr. Viall attended the ten-year anniversary celebration of RI United Way 2-1-1 on March 2 at the RI State House. 2-1-1 has partnered with OLIS since 1999, and Mr. Viall thanked Ms. Mellor for the work that OLIS has done in support of 2-1-1.

C. 'Libraries Hold Their Value' Editorial

Mr. Viall recognized Mr. Garcia for his submission of an editorial, *Libraries Hold Their Value*, printed in the Cranston Herald, Warwick Beacon, and Johnston Sunrise on February 8. The editorial discussed the work performed in libraries in the towns of Cranston, Warwick, and Johnston, and the value of libraries to the community.

D. Ocean State Innovate Initiative

Mr. Viall, Mr. Garcia, and Nicole Dyszlewski, Research/Access Services Librarian at Roger Williams University of Law, were chosen to represent libraries at the 'Ocean State Innovates' initiative the weekend of March 11-12. The initiative is a collaboration between Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design that seeks to engage Rhode Islanders from all backgrounds to explore ways to improve quality of life through smart government, affordable housing, and public transportation.

E. Community Building & Engagement: Partnerships at Work, Continuing Education Program

On April 4, from 6-8 pm, OLIS will partner with the Coalition of Library Advocates, and Rhode Island Library Association, on a continuing education program about community building and engagement. The primary speaker will be Deb Hoadley, Hoadley Consulting, and the program will be held North Kingstown Free Library. All LBRI members are welcome to attend and participate in the event. Registration for the event is available on the OLIS website.

F. RI Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) Annual Meeting

The COLA Annual Meeting will be held on April 13, from 5-7 pm, at the RI State House. The keynote speaker for the event is Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director of the American Library Association Washington Office, and her keynote speech is titled "Advocacy is More Important Than Ever."

G. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD)

National Library Legislative Day is May 1-2 in Washington D.C. LBRI members who would like to attend are requested to contact Karen Andrews. Library supporters may register for Virtual Library Legislative Day activities on the NLLD webpage, <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/nlld>.

H. Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) Annual Conference

The RILA annual conference will be held at Bryant University in Smithfield from May 31 to June 1. The theme of this year's conference is 'Building Connections, Growing Community.'

I. Proposed FY18 Federal Budget

The proposed FY18 Federal Budget recommends the elimination of funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). RILA and COLA are engaged in reaching out to art organizations to unify support to keep funding for these organizations in the federal budget. Ms. Mellor posted a statement on the OLIS website about the potential impact that the proposed cuts would have on OLIS and libraries.

J. Joan Ressa Reeves Correspondence: LBRI Grant-in-Aid Funding Formula Committee

Ms. Reeves sent a letter to Mr. Viall expressing her congratulations to the LBRI Grant-in-Aid Funding Formula Review Committee for their work on the review of the current funding formula, and their recommendations for improvement.

#### **IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

A. Governor Raimondo's FY18 Proposed Budget

OLIS has received a slight increase in the proposed RI FY18 Budget to cover contractual salary increases. The budget includes funding for 13 full-time employees.

B. Ongoing

i. OLIS Staffing

a. Adult Services Coordinator

OLIS conducted interviews February 1-3 for the vacant position of Adult Services Coordinator. The selection process is anticipated to be completed on May 1.

b. Library Program Manager

The position of Library Program Manager was posted on March 4, and is extended until March 27 to allow for a diverse pool of candidates. The goal is to interview for the position and have it filled by the beginning of June.

C. OLIS Five-Year Plan Evaluation and New Strategic Plan (Ms. DiMichele)

OLIS received a draft report of the evaluation of the Five-Year State (LSTA) Plan from the consultants. The draft was reviewed and returned to the consultants with corrections and recommendations for changes. The evaluation report for the current OLIS Five-Year LSTA Plan is due to the Institute of Museum and Library Services on March 31, and a new plan is due on June 30. OLIS has also begun work on its new Comprehensive Strategic Plan by launching a survey, and convening focus groups.

#### D. Annual Reports

##### i. Office of Digital Excellence (ODE)

In January, the Office of Digital Excellence submitted its department report to the Governor's office. OLIS' priorities were discussed in a one-page entry in the report that included the Summer Reading Program, Interlibrary Loan Delivery, and Continuing Education programming offered to libraries.

##### ii. OLIS Annual Report

OLIS completed work on a 2016 Annual Report that was compiled by the State Data Coordinator, Lauren Plews. This is a new initiative for OLIS and provides a calendar year overview of OLIS activities that include library data and statistics and funding information. The LBRI is invited to submit any recommendations or questions about the report to Ms. Mellor.

#### E. Studio Rhode Project

OLIS has partnered with the RI Office of Innovation and Apple Corporation to launch a Next Generation Library challenge titled 'Studio Rhode Project.' The challenge gives libraries the opportunity to learn how to use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to solve community problems. Apple Corporation is donating \$50,000 of equipment to the library that wins the challenge, established by guidelines from the project partners. Many excellent projects were submitted, and the winning library will be announced later this week.

### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

##### i. Senate Bill 0035: Legislation to Support Distressed Communities

Mr. Garcia reported that Senate Bill 0035 not been scheduled for a hearing. This bill would increase the state's share to support local public library services in distressed communities by an amount equal to the amount paid by the distressed city or town for Ocean State Libraries (OSL) annual assessment charges.

##### ii. Senate Bill 106: Media Literacy Education

Senate Bill 106 would require the RI Department of Education (RIDE) to consider incorporating media literacy education into the basic education program. A hearing for this bill is not scheduled.

##### iii. House Bill 5093: Public Safety and Protection Act

House Bill Act would promote cooperation and assistance in the enforcement of immigration laws, and establish penalties for failure to further the active enforcement of immigration laws. A hearing on this bill is scheduled for March 22.

## B. Library Construction Regulations Review

Ms. Mellor and Ms. DiMichele met with the Office of Regulatory Reform to discuss the new state process for posting regulations. When originally convened, the Library Construction Regulations Review Committee intended to include the maximum eligible reimbursement - per-square foot as an appendix to the regulations. In the meeting with the Office of Regulatory Reform, it was determined that the maximum amounts must be included within the regulations. The committee will be reconvened to discuss this development after the OLIS strategic plan is completed.

## VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

### A. Ms. Amedeo

As a result of the recent release of the proposed federal FY18 Federal Budget that includes the elimination of IMLS, Ms. Amedeo recommended that the LBRI issue a statement to reiterate their support of libraries. Persons who rely on libraries have called 2-1-1 with concerns that their library will close. Ms. Amedeo expressed her gratitude to Mr. Viall and Ms. Mellor for attending the United Way 2-1-1 ten-year anniversary celebration.

### B. Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo has noted that she does not find enough audiobooks available in the RI public library catalog, and inquired if there is a fee for libraries to purchase audiobooks as opposed to purchasing print books. Ms. Mellor reported that media purchases are made by individual libraries, and that the audio materials available for Talking Books Plus patrons are in a different format than the statewide catalog audiobooks. Mr. Garcia stated that audiobooks are more expensive than print materials, and their high cost impacts their purchase by public libraries. Ms. Eileen Dyer added that many books are not available in an audiobook format.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Mellor presented an update on the environmental scan for the strategic plan. OLIS has hired consultants to gather data through focus groups, and has also released a survey to collect information from the library community. Additionally, OLIS professional staff are visiting public libraries to collect feedback from library directors about how OLIS can better support libraries, and learn more about the challenges facing libraries.

Ms. Mellor reviewed the framework for OLIS' Comprehensive Strategic Plan including the proposed Mission and Vision Statements, the guiding principles, and goals of the plan. Input about all aspects of the plan and language for the statements was requested from LBRI members.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Proposed FY18 Federal Budget Funding Impact

Mr. Viall discussed the proposed FY18 Federal Budget and its potential impact on libraries. Ms. Mellor reviewed in detail the disbursement of all OLIS' federal and state funding. The directors of the IMLS and the American Library Association (ALA) have released statements about the proposed budget's potential impact to libraries.

The RI Congressional Delegation has expressed their opposition to the proposed budget, and on March 17, Senator Reed spoke at a forum held at the RI School of Design about the proposed elimination of funding to the NEA, NEH and IMLS. Ms. Reeves and Mr. Garcia recommended that the LBRI issue a press release opposing the proposed budget.

Mr. Viall requested a motion for the LBRI to send a letter opposing the cuts to the RI Congressional Delegation, and to include statistical information about the direct impact the funding cuts would have on OLIS.

**Moved by:** Mr. Garcia

**Seconded by:** Dr. Hopper

The motion was approved.

Mr. Viall requested volunteers to review the proposed correspondence, and Ms. Reeves, Ms. Amedeo, and Mr. Norris offered to review the draft document.

### B. RI Library Day/National Library Day

Rhode Island National Library Day is April 8, and National Library Week is April 9-15.

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2017, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by:** Dr. Hopper

**Seconded by:** Mr. Garcia

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.