

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

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

April 17, 2017

at the Department of Administration,

2nd Floor, Conference Room B,

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Rosita Hopper, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Kenneth Findlay, Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington-Bright, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Davis-Maxell, Phyllis Lynch

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

Guests: Dr. Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

- OLIS Framework for 2018-2022 Comprehensive Strategic Plan (Draft)
- OLIS Environmental Scan by ESC New England

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the March 20, 2017 meeting

Moved by: Ms. Feldman

Seconded by: Ms. Reynolds

The meeting minutes were approved with non-substantial changes.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

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

Mr. Viall attended the COLA Annual Meeting on April 13, from 5-7 pm, at the RI State House, where he was honored as COLA's 'Sweetheart of the Year.' The keynote speaker for the event was Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director of the American Library Association (ALA) Washington Office.

B. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) 2017

Eight RI librarians and library advocates will attend NLLD on May 1-2 in Washington D.C. The group will meet with RI's Congressional delegation to discuss issues of importance to

libraries and library users. Library supporters may register for Virtual Library Legislative Day activities on the NLLD webpage, [NLLD 2017 Virtual Activities](#).

C. Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) Annual Conference

RILA's annual conference will be held at Bryant University in Smithfield from May 31-June 1. The theme of this year's conference is 'Building Connections, Growing Community.' Early Bird registration closes on May 12, [Annual RILA Conference Registration](#).

D. RI Ethics Commission, Annual Financial Disclosure Statement

Mr. Viall reminded LBRI members that 2016 Yearly Financial Disclosure Statements are due to the RI Ethics Commission by April 28, 2017.

E. Money Smart Week

The Rhode Island Library Association's (RILA) Money Smart Week is April 22-29. RILA has participated in Chicago Federal Reserve's Money Smart Week since 2011, which is supported by ALA and the Federal Reserve. In 2014, OLIS expanded the initiative in RI when it partnered with the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB).

During Money Smart Week, RI libraries will offer programming to assist the public with learning about money management and finances. Links to information and programs for Money Smart Week is located on the RILA website, [Money Smart Week](#).

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Staff changes in RI public libraries

Elodie Blackmore, Director of East Smithfield Public Library for sixty-three years, retired from library service in March, and passed away in April. Frank Floor is serving as the Acting Director. OLIS recognized Ms. Blackmore's long standing service to East Smithfield.

Anne Shepherd, Director of Newport Public Library, will be leaving Newport for a position in Florida. The library is conducting a search for a new director.

B. OLIS Staffing

i. Adult Services Coordinator

The new Adult Services Coordinator will start work at OLIS on May 15. This is a new position.

ii. Library Program Manager

The job posting for Library Program Manager closed on March 27, and interviews for the vacancy will begin in a few weeks.

C. OLIS Annual Report

The OLIS Annual Report, distributed and discussed at the March 2017 LBRI Meeting, is posted on the OLIS website.

D. Proposed Federal Budget FY18

Information about the potential elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), as proposed in the FY18 Federal Budget, has been posted on the OLIS website. Information was posted in response to questions received from the LBRI during the March meeting, and questions received from the library community about the proposed cuts. The information includes a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section, which may be helpful for library trustees and library advocates.

Ms. Mellor met last month with a contingent of leaders of RI cultural institutions to discuss actions in response to the proposed elimination of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEA), and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

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

A continuing education program for community building and engagement was held on April 4, from 6-8 pm, at North Kingstown Public Library. The event, a partnership between the Coalition of Library Advocates, RILA, and OLIS, was designed for trustees. The primary speaker was Deb Hoadley of Hoadley Consulting of Massachusetts, and the program was well-attended by trustees and library friends' groups.

F. OLIS LSTA Plan Evaluation

The evaluation report for the current OLIS Five-Year LSTA Plan was submitted to the IMLS, and will be posted on the OLIS website once it is approved by IMLS. A new five-year LSTA plan is due to the IMLS on June 30.

G. Public Library Visits

OLIS Professional staff has been visiting RI public libraries to learn more about what is happening at local libraries, and how OLIS can support their work. Approximately 80% of libraries have been visited, and library directors have responded positively to these visits. This activity helps to inform the upcoming strategic plan, and is helping OLIS to better connect with libraries.

H. Studio Rhode Project

OLIS partnered with the RI Office of Innovation for the Next Generation Library challenge titled 'Studio Rhode.' The goal of the challenge was to place a multi-generational digital learning space in a RI library. Many excellent projects were submitted for the challenge. Woonsocket Harris Public Library was awarded Studio Rhode, which includes equipment, services and support from Apple Computer. The project, 'My Woonsocket Life', is being developed in partnership with the City of Woonsocket and will capture the spirit of city and forge a renewed identity for the community of Woonsocket.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

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

There is no update on Senate Bill 0035.

ii. Senate Bill 106: Media Literacy Education

There is no update on Senate Bill 106.

iii. House Bill 5093: Public Safety and Protection Act

A hearing for House Bill 5093 was held, and the bill is being held for further study.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

No board member reports were heard.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RI Congressional Delegation Letter about proposed FY18 Federal Budget

Mr. Viall drafted a letter to the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation about the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the proposed FY18 Federal Budget. The letter was submitted to the LBRI prior to the meeting for review, and no changes to the document were recommended.

Mr. Viall requested approval for the letter to be mailed to Senator Reed, Senator Whitehouse, Representative Langevin, and Representative Cicilline. The LBRI approved the Chair's request to mail the letter to the RI Congressional Delegation.

B. OLIS Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Mellor reviewed the updated OLIS Framework for the 2018-2022 Comprehensive Strategic Plan draft document discussed at the last LBRI meeting, and thanked the board for their recommendations. Along with updates to the Vision and Mission Statements, some of the goals were modified.

Based on the findings from the LSTA evaluation, the Learning Goal was tweaked to be sure that digital information and media literacies were addressed, and that library leadership, management, marketing, and public relations were a part of the goal. The Engagement Goal inclusion activity was updated, and now includes English language speakers and diversity as part of the efforts for inclusion.

A primary goal for the plan is to keep it as streamlined and flexible as possible to be prepared for changes in funding or needs.

Ms. Mellor reviewed the results of the OLIS Environmental Scan by ESC New England, and reported on the findings and observations. Overall, OLIS is performing well, and has received good reports from the library community. Focus groups were held by ESC New England with a variety of RI library groups to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of OLIS, the impact of its services, and opportunities for OLIS to lead and strengthen library services in the state.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2017, 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

Moved by: Dr. Hopper

Seconded by: Mr. Norris

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.