

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

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

May 15, 2017

at the Department of Administration,

2nd Floor, Conference Room B,

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Humphrey, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Alison Davis-Maxell, Phyllis Lynch

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

Guests: Ms. Eileen Dyer, Providence Community Library, Co-chair, Rhode Island Library Association Legislative Action Committee; Dr. Dzialo; Ms. Wendy Keenly and Mr. David Je of ESC New England

Materials Distributed:

- OLIS Five-Year State Plan for Library Services and Technology (LSTA) Funding 2018-2022, Draft
- OLIS Five-Year State Plan for LSTA Funding - Summary
- Environmental Scan by ESC New England: Summary of Findings

I. WELCOME

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the April 17, 2017 meeting

Moved by: Ms. Reynolds

Seconded by: Ms. Feldman

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) 2017

A delegation of eight RI library advocates attended NLLD on May 1-2 in Washington D.C., and met with RI's congressional delegation to discuss issues of importance to libraries. The group included Melody Drnach, Ed Garcia, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, and Tom

Viall, of the LBRI, Sarah Hunicke, representing School Librarians of RI, Jack Martin, Executive Director of Providence Public Library, and Karen Mellor from OLIS.

The trip was very successful as the group met with all the members of RI's Congressional delegation. The American Library Association (ALA) did an excellent job outlining key issues for dissemination during the congressional visits.

Ms. Reynolds reported that a retirement reception was held for Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director of ALA's Washington Office, on Monday, May 1. Ms. Drnach inquired whether 'Thank You' letters would be issued to the congressional offices. Ms. Mellor reported that letters are being prepared.

B. RI Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) and Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) Video

Mr. Viall reported that a short video, jointly created by COLA and RILA as a Public Service Announcement (PSA), was posted to the RILA website. Sponsors are being sought to help support the purchase of television airtime for the PSA to raise awareness of libraries and demonstrate the positive impact that libraries have in communities.

C. June 2017 LBRI Meeting

Mr. Viall reminded the board members that the June 2017 LBRI meeting has been rescheduled to June 12.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. OLIS Staffing

i. Adult Services Coordinator

- a. The new Adult Services Coordinator, Nicolette Baffoni, began work at OLIS today. Ms. Baffoni has experience working in school libraries, and has a strong technology background. Some of her areas of responsibility will be facilitating adult education programming, developing programming for digital literacy and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) initiatives, and expanding school library connections.

b. Library Program Manager

Interviews for the Library Program Manager are being scheduled.

ii. OLIS LSTA Evaluation and Environmental Scan

The Evaluation of the expiring LSTA Plan, and the Environmental Scan and its summary, discussed at the last LBRI meeting, are posted on the OLIS website. Print copies of the summaries of the forthcoming OLIS Five-Year State Plan for LSTA Funding and the Environmental Scan by ESC of New England are available at this meeting.

iii. Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)

Ms. Mellor attended a meeting of COSLA on May 3 in Washington D.C. The meeting was held at the Library of Congress. Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, and Dr. Kathryn Matthew, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), stopped by the meeting to offer their greetings to the COSLA attendees. The discussion at the meeting focused on the Grants to States program, and the potential elimination of IMLS in the proposed FY18 Federal Budget.

B. Talking Books Plus (TBP)

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) visits OLIS biennially to review the TBP program. A visit with OLIS is scheduled for June.

C. Studio Rhode

The Studio Rhode winners were officially announced at the Kids Reading Across Road Island (KRARI) event that took place at the RI State House on June 13. Studio Rhode was awarded to Woonsocket Harris Public Library for their project, "My Woonsocket Life," which was developed as a collaborative effort with the City of Woonsocket. Training and equipment for the project is supplied by Apple Corporation.

The Carnegie Corporation provided an additional grant to establish a second Studio Rhode site at the Westerly Public Library. Westerly's project, titled, "Be an Artist at the Library," will be developed with a variety of arts groups in Westerly. The library will use technology to make artistic endeavors more accessible to the public, and cement the reputation of Westerly as an art center.

D. Kids Reading Across Rhode Island (KRARI)

The annual KRARI event was held at the Rhode Island State House on Saturday, June 13. The KRARI book for 2017 is *Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan. The event attracted a diverse audience, including groups from the Indian community, a cricket team, and an Indian dance troupe. The Rhode Island Center for the Book, a project of the RI Council for the Humanities, is co-sponsor of the KRARI event. KRARI also serves as the kickoff for the annual Summer Reading Program.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

i. Senate Bill 0035: Legislation to Support Distressed Communities

Senate Bill 0035 provides for additional Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding to be distributed to distressed communities in an amount equal to the annual fees paid to Ocean State Libraries (OSL). Ms. Dyer reported that the bill has been withdrawn from consideration by its sponsor.

ii. Senate Bill 106: Media Literacy Education

Senate Bill 106 requires the RI Department of Education (RIDE) to incorporate media literacy education into the Basic Education Program (BEP). The bill has passed in the RI Senate. Ms. Dyer reported that although the bill has passed, it may not be implemented because the BEP would have to be reopened to affect the changes in the bill. Ms. Humphrey reported that the bill may not be implemented in its current state because the language is vague, requiring only that RIDE “shall consider” the incorporation of media literacy education.

iii. House Bill 5093: Public Safety and Protection Act

House Bill 5093 promotes cooperation and assistance in the enforcement of existing Immigration Laws. There is no update on House Bill 5093; the bill had been held for further study following a March committee hearing.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Ms. Feldman

Ms. Feldman reported that Loren Spears, Executive Director of the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter RI, spoke at a recent meeting of the Small Public Libraries group. Ms. Spears discussed the programming offered at the museum, and the museum’s programming for libraries. A membership pass program was offered by the museum to RI public libraries.

The Tomaquag Museum is the only museum in RI for indigenous people. Ms. Spears is the keynote speaker at the annual RILA conference on May 31-June 1 at Bryant University.

B. Mr. Findlay

Mr. Findlay reported on a meeting held at the Rochambeau library about the Department of Corrections ‘Books Beyond’ program that allows inmates to record audiobooks for their children. The audiobooks are mailed to the children with the associated book and a packet of information. The goal of the meeting was to determine how to connect the Department of Corrections program with the Providence Community Libraries to facilitate Books Beyond, and to encourage library engagement with the children. The project is ongoing.

C. Ms. Amedeo

Ms. Amedeo reported that today’s Dorcas International presentation at United Way 2-1-1 advised that there are a number of scams targeting documented and undocumented immigrants. There are only four agencies accredited to assist immigrants, and a pamphlet with the details for those agencies will be provided to LBRI members when available.

Because libraries are a refuge for immigrants, Ms. Amedeo suggested that libraries might benefit from a presentation from Dorcas International about immigrant assistance.

The Division of Elderly Affairs (DEA) has published a new Pocket Manual for services to the elderly and their caregivers. Please contact United Way 2-1-1 for copies. Ms. Amedeo circulated a brochure with information about various DEA resources.

D. Mr. Viall

Mr. Viall reported that the Cranston Public Library's main branch will be dedicating their new children's wing on Saturday, June 3, 2017, at 11:00 a.m.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. OLIS Strategic Plan

Ms. Mellor reported that a framework for the comprehensive OLIS Strategic Plan has been written and includes state and federally funded OLIS programs. The framework is referenced in the drafted Five-Year State Plan for Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Funding.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Five-Year State Plan for LSTA Funding, Review of Draft

Ms. Mellor extended her thanks to Wendy Keenly and David Je of ESC of New England for the Environmental Scan they prepared for OLIS. The Scan is the basis of the needs assessment in the Five-Year Plan. The Scan details the impact that OLIS has in the library community, reflects how OLIS is viewed by libraries, and examines library needs across the state.

A review of the Five-Year State Plan, the assessed community needs, and a summary of the Plan was presented by Ms. Mellor. LBRI members offered suggestions and recommendations for additions or changes to the document.

Ms. Mellor asked that LBRI members communicate additional comments or suggestions to her by email or fax by May 27. A final draft will be emailed to members on June 5 to allow them time to review the plan prior to the June 12 LBRI meeting.

Mr. Viall reminded members that the vote on the Five-Year State Plan will take place at the next LBRI meeting on June 12.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for June 12, 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: Mr. Bucci

Seconded by: Mr. Sloan

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.