

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
January 08, 2018
at the Department of Administration,
2nd Floor, Conference Room C,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Louise Herrington-Bright, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Edward Garcia, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Davis-Maxell, Phyllis Lynch, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds

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

Guests: None

Materials Distributed:

None

I. WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:24 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the December 18, 2017 meeting

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the February 05, 2018, LBRI meeting.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Mr. Viall spoke with Senator Whitehouse, thanking him for his support of recent federal legislation on behalf of libraries, and asked him to relay the Board's gratitude to Senator Reed for his support of funding for the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA). Senator Reed submitted a bill reauthorizing the MLSA, which was supported by Senator Whitehouse.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Studio Rhode Grants

The RI Office of Innovation is allocating funding from a Carnegie Foundation grant for Studio Rhode that will enable OLIS to fund a second round of Studio Rhode projects. OLIS will host a Studio Rhode Phase II design thinking workshop next week to assist libraries with the development of project ideas, and outline the grant application process. The grant application period will close on February 2; grants will be awarded in mid-February. The focus of the grants will be rethinking library services, with an emphasis on creating spaces for digital learning and creation. LBRI members are asked to encourage libraries to apply for the grants.

B. Open Educational Resource (OER) Initiative

OLIS is working with the RI Office of Innovation on the Governor's Open Textbook Initiative (OTI) that assists faculty in identifying and using free online educational resources for university classes to relieve students of the expense of purchasing textbooks. All RI universities and colleges are participating in the initiative.

To address content and copyright concerns, the Office of Innovation, OLIS and the OTI committee (a group of librarians representing each of the state's academic libraries) will present a 'Copyright Bootcamp' at the end of February. The workshop will address copyright basics, fair use, and other copyright concerns. The workshop content will focus on copyright from a higher education perspective, but will present content relevant to K-12 and public librarians.

C. Narragansett Library Construction Project

Narragansett voters approved a referendum in 2016 to build a new library. The project has encountered some roadblocks with property acquisition, but the town recently entered into an agreement to acquire a building that will be renovated to create a new library.

D. OLIS 2017 Year in Review

Ms. Mellor reviewed highlights from OLIS' annual State Program Report on the use of Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) funds, which was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in December. The report is based on the federal fiscal year, and as such, the figures presented differ slightly from the figures in the state budget. The LSTA grant reported on was slightly over \$1,000,000, an increase of \$4,000 from the prior year; matching state funds were approximately \$1,400,000, a nearly \$200,000 increase. Library aid to municipalities increased by \$900,000.

The Library of Rhode Island (statewide delivery and interlibrary loan) accounts for 39% of the total OLIS budget, followed by the Talking Books Library, which accounts for 22%. OLIS administrative costs, 13%, increased by 2% from FY16 due to costs incurred for the evaluation of the prior strategic plan and the development of the new strategic plan. Public library development costs (consultant services to libraries, continuing education) and youth services account for 7% each, with the balance of the OLIS budget consisting of expenditures on AskRI, research and statistics, reference services, and preservation. Ms. Mellor will create a report outlining programming costs, funding sources, and a brief narrative of program expenditures for the OLIS website.

E. New OLIS Website

During the evaluation of the previous LSTA plan, OLIS received feedback from libraries indicating that the OLIS website was difficult to navigate due to the large amount of information. OLIS' web team performed a major reorganization of the website over the last nine months, and the new iteration will launch on January 11. The new site is streamlined, and follows the same template as most state websites.

Ms. Mellor demonstrated the new website and its updated design, fielded questions, and requested feedback from the LBRI as they continue their site review. Libraries will also be solicited for their input on the website. New website features include a section titled 'Resident Services' to make it easier for Rhode Islanders to find information relevant to their needs, a Twitter stream to showcase programming from libraries across the state, and the use of LibGuides for the Continuing Education (CE) calendar and registration.

Ms. Drnach recommended more public facing content on the homepage, and Ms. Amedeo suggested that an AskRI slide be included on the homepage slideshow.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Representative Joy Hearn (Barrington) will not seek re-election in 2018. Representative Hearn is a prominent supporter of libraries, serving as co-chair of the Karla Harry Commission on Libraries, and has been honored in the past by the Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA).

Ms. Mellor reported that Rhode Island has a projected \$250M budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2019, and will inform the Board of any impact to the OLIS budget following the release of the Governor's later this month.

B. Federal Budget

On December 21, Senator Jack Reed introduced a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA). Information about the bill has been posted on Rhodarian on the OLIS website.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Ms. Amedeo

Ms. Amedeo reported that some RI libraries served as warming centers during last week's cold spell. She inquired if federal or state law requires that libraries remain open to provide this public service. United Way 2-1-1 was issued a list by the RI Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) that indicated that libraries would be open as warming centers, and the Mayor of Warwick placed robotic calls to residents advising that libraries would be open to provide this service. However, many libraries in the state were not open.

Ms. DiMichele reported that libraries are not required by law to remain open during inclement weather, and she will contact RIEMA to address the dissemination of this information as it pertains to libraries for future weather events.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board Strategy for Support of School Libraries

Mr. Viall reported that LBRI member, Phyllis Lynch, contacted him to advise that the RI Department of Education (RIDE), will identify another representative to attend LBRI

meetings. Dr. Lynch reported that she has begun the discussion at RIDE about school libraries.

RIDE's Basic Education Program (BEP) was researched by Mr. Viall. The BEP is established law, and is written in generic and broad terms to accommodate the large variety of RI municipal school systems. The document references libraries as designated areas that afford age-appropriate access to library media. Library media centers are included as part of the adequate facilities requirement. High-quality library media programming, library specialists, and the necessity of library media instruction and materials is included in the language of the BEP. Non-compliance is not addressed.

Mr. Viall will review the Basic Education Programs of other states for library requirements, and advised that the best way for the LBRI to support school librarians and school libraries is to continue to work with the RI Department of Education on their behalf.

B. Net Neutrality

In response to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) ruling to repeal Net Neutrality rules, some states have initiated a lawsuit against the FCC. Mr. Viall advised that RI Attorney General Kilmartin is considering joining the lawsuit, and if RI does not join the lawsuit soon, the Board will send a letter to the Attorney General recommending that RI join the lawsuit.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2018, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.