

## LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

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

April 16, 2018

At the Department of Administration,

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

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

**Members Attending:** John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Rosita Hopper, Doug Norris, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Edward Garcia, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Phyllis Humphrey, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Davis-Maxell, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, 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:**

- Draft Library Construction Reimbursement Regulations, Dated April 16, 2018

### I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the March 19, 2018 meeting

**Moved by:** Mr. Norris

**Seconded by:** Mr. Bucci

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

#### A. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD)

National Library Legislative Day will be held in Washington DC on May 7-8. Jack Martin, Executive Director of Providence Public Library, Cheryl McCarthy, Chair of the Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA), Sarah Hunicke, Past President of School Librarians of RI (SLRI), LBRI members Mr. Garcia and Mr. Viall, and Ms. Mellor are registered to attend NLLD. All four RI Congressional offices are scheduled for visits from the RI Library Delegation.

#### B. Coalition of Library Advocates

COLA held its annual meeting at the RI State House on April 10. Jim Neal, President of the American Library Association (ALA), was the event's keynote speaker, and COLA's 'Sweetheart of the Year' award was presented to Neeltje Henneman, COLA Board Member and Treasurer.

COLA has voted to become a section of the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA). Mr. Bucci reported that Cornucopia of Rhode Island: A Library Community of Color (CORI) and SLRI are also investigating becoming sections of RILA. By joining together, RI library groups will combine their individual strengths to create a unified library organization for all kinds of RI libraries.

Mr. Viall extended his gratitude to Ms. Mellor, Mr. Bucci, and Ms. McCarthy for their work in facilitating communications between the library groups to address RILA merger questions and concerns.

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

##### **A. Ongoing**

###### **i. OLIS Staffing**

The job announcement for the vacant Library Program Specialist III position (supervisor of the Library for the Blind and the OLIS Library) was posted, and closed on 4/13. Numerous applications were received and OLIS will move forward with the candidate selection process to fill the position in the most expedient manner possible.

The recently vacated position of Library Program Manager is proceeding through the state hiring process. Ms. Mellor is absorbing the duties from several staff absences, including the State Data Coordinator; the additional workload is impacting the timely completion of projects.

##### **B. Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Certification Annual Process**

Ms. DiMichele reported that the annual LORI Certification process was completed in early April. 179 libraries were certified as LORI libraries, including six new libraries: the RI School for the Deaf, Moses Brown, Meeting Street School, Lincoln High School, Community School of Cumberland, and Metcalf School of Exeter. Roger Williams Law Library declined to renew their LORI membership, and two elementary schools, closing at the end of the 2018 school year, did not renew their LORI memberships.

##### **C. Library Construction Reimbursement Program**

###### **i. Providence Public Library**

Providence Public Library (PPL) applied for construction reimbursement funding for a substantial \$21 million renovation project that will meld the original library building with the 1950s section facing Empire Street. The project is slated to begin in August 2018, and be completed in Spring 2020. Following funding approval from the State Budget Office, OLIS entered an agreement to reimburse \$8.9 million of the project cost; reimbursement will begin in 2021.

For the duration of the project, PPL plans to store most of their collection, but will maintain a portion for interlibrary loan purposes. PPL communicated collection limitations for the renovation period to other RI libraries, and is negotiating a temporary location to provide limited library services during the renovation. Ms.

Mellor recommended that the LBRI hold a meeting at PPL once the renovation is complete.

ii. Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (Narragansett)

Narragansett voters approved a library bond referendum for a project in November 2016; the project was later cancelled because the town could not complete a purchase agreement for the new location. The project has been revived: a purchase and sales agreement was signed for a building located within a few blocks of the current library.

iii. Jamestown Public Library

Jamestown Public Library has scaled back its design for renovation, but is continuing to plan its renovation project. The library is planning to apply for construction reimbursement funding.

D. Studio Rhode

Studio Rhode projects are progressing smoothly and engaging patrons with their varied programming. Warwick Public Library's "Virtual Worlds at Warwick" project has reported making an impact with patrons because the program allows users to virtually experience real life scenarios in far off locations. During a book club program, participants could virtually walk through a Syrian refugee camp, enabling them to place themselves inside the refugee experience.

Grant awardee programs also include Central Falls Library's "Teen Space on Wheels," Providence Community Library's "Virtual Providence," and Greenville Public Library's "Get Growing at Greenville."

E. Census 2020

On April 13, Ms. Mellor attended a workshop about Census 2020 at the Urban League of RI. Librarians from Brown University and eight public libraries attended. The workshop focused on approaches to increase Census participation by many traditionally undercounted populations in Rhode Island, including young children and young men who are minorities.

The workshop also emphasized the importance of creating partnerships to promote the importance of an accurate census count. Census 2020 will be the first decennial census that allows people to complete their census survey online; libraries will play a critical role for people needing technology access. It is estimated that states lose \$1,100 in federal funding for each person that is not counted in the census.

F. RI Library Legislative Day

April 10 was Library Legislative Day at the RI State House. Along with other Rhode Island library organizations, OLIS staffed an exhibit table for the event. Hearings for several high-profile bills were held that day, and the State House was crowded. OLIS staff used the opportunity to discuss libraries, and their services, with the attending public.

## G. RI Library Day

April 14 was RI Library Day, and Rhode Island public libraries offered fine amnesty and a variety of activities in celebration of libraries.

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Ms. Mellor attended the budget hearing for the Department of Administration, however there has been no movement on state legislation that concerns libraries.

The Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act will be heard by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on April 18.

## VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

### A. Ms. Feldman

Ms. Feldman reported that Louttit Library participated in the West Greenwich Spring Fair. The farm-based fair brought together farming vendors with community groups, such as 4H, and focused on 'all things poultry', including poultry-related learning. Louttit's February 'Pet Month' showcased patrons and their pets communicating their favorite books.

Ms. Feldman attended a six-week RI Interlocal Trust Management Institute 'Management Bootcamp' at Roger Williams University. The program offered instruction on a variety of administrative issues, including insurance, risk management, and personnel management.

### B. Mr. Sloan

Mr. Sloan reported that the Town of East Greenwich allocated 2019 funding for a high school librarian. East Greenwich Public Library's town aid was level-funded for a second year, but the Library may no longer participate in town services such as bookkeeping and health insurance which will add additional expenses to the budget. Medical insurance was later reinstated for library staff.

Ms. Mellor reported that North Kingstown Public Library is also being billed by their town for bookkeeping services. Reductions in town services for libraries impact library's maintenance of effort requirement. Mr. Viall responded that library service reduction actions by towns requires research.

OLIS will further explore the issue to determine how many libraries are losing services previously provided by their municipalities. Ms. Mellor reported that the State is also adopting a charge back system: beginning in FY19, the State will charge state agencies such as OLIS for facility and IT services.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Board Strategy for Support of School Libraries (S 2338)

Senate Bill S 2338 was heard and held for committee study. Mr. Viall inquired if this item requires additional LBRI action or should be removed from the agenda. Mr. Norris asked if

Dr. Lynch, the RI Department of Education (RIDE) LBRI representative, commented about RIDE's Basic Education Plan (BEP) language on school libraries, and Mr. Sloan replied that the BEP is vague on school libraries. Mr. Viall reported that Dr. Lynch advised that the BEP is written broadly in many areas to allow municipal flexibility in school governance.

The board determined that the item will be removed from the agenda, and revisited when additional action is required for school library issues.

#### B. Net Neutrality

##### i. House Bill H 7422, Net Neutrality Protection Act of 2018

Net Neutrality H 7422 was heard and held for further study.

##### ii. House Bills H 7076 and S 2008, Net Neutrality

House Bill H 7076 was scheduled for a hearing on March 16, and requires state agencies to purchase internet connection services only from providers that honor Net Neutrality rules. Beatrice Pulliam of Providence Public Library and Kieran Ayton, RILA Chair, testified on behalf of the bill.

Senate Bill S 2008 is the Net Neutrality companion bill to H 7076, and it has been referred to Senate Commerce.

The legislative bills will be moved from Unfinished Business to Committee Reports on the agenda.

### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Construction Regulations

Ms. Mellor reviewed the updates to the reimbursement regulations recommended by the Library Construction Reimbursement Regulations Review Committee, and thanked committee members for their work on the regulations. Mr. Bucci, Ms. Drnach, Ms. Feldman, Ms. Mellor, and Kay Bullard, retired Assistant Director at Providence Public Library, comprised the committee.

Mr. Viall requested a motion to accept the revisions with minor changes.

**Moved by:** Ms. Drnach

**Seconded by:** Dr. Hopper

The regulations were approved unanimously. OLIS will work with the DOA Legal Services Division to promulgate the rules, which will include a public hearing as part of the process.

### IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2018, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Dr. Hopper

**Seconded by:** Ms. Drnach

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.