

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, September 17, 2007
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Humphrey, Jay Litman, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, and Ruth Sullivan

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Martins Amedeo, Regina Connor, Shirley Long, and Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):
Howard Boksenbaum, Debbie Cullerton, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, and Beth Perry

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. FY 2008 Budget Updates
3. 2007 – 2008 Proposed Meeting Schedule (PowerPoint Handout)

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved and accepted as submitted.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mark McKenney welcomed everyone back from summer break. The Chair especially wanted to welcome the 4 members of the Library Board that were reappointed, Regina Connor, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, and Rose Ellen Reynolds. And also the 2 new Board appointments, Phyllis Humphrey representing School Libraries and Shirley Long representing Medium/Large Public Libraries.

III. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT

IMLS

Howard Boksenbaum reported that IMLS has accepted our Five Year Plan. Mr. Boksenbaum thanked everyone for all the effort that was put into it.

NELINET

With the encouragement of the Karla Harry Commission there is a subcommittee that was talking about things that we could do by buying on a larger scale. Looking at what was going on in the rest of New England in particular and the rest of the world. In the course of that investigation one of the things that we did was take another look at our NELINET membership. NELINET (originally stood for New England Library Network),

Inc. is a collaborative non-profit organization through which we buy our OCLC Services. Until now, we have been a solitary member of this organization. We have done some Continuing Education, OCLC – First Search and we have also started doing WebJunction (which is an online Continuing Education Program) with them. We have discovered that if we were to become a Consortial Sponsorship Member, that all of the members of our LORI network could have the benefit of membership as part of our (LORI) consortium. At the time Ocean State Libraries was a Consortial sponsor, but its members didn't realize that they were consequently already members. By reducing Ocean State Libraries to an individual membership and growing OLIS into a Consortial Sponsor Member, RI gained membership for all LORI libraries (over 100 additional associate members) while saving almost \$3,000. So, both OLIS and OSL closed the deal. Associate membership provides for access to many NELINET services without any additional expenditures, some at substantial discounts if purchased through OLIS, and others at standard member-only rates made available to all 153 members of LORI. Under the new Consortial Sponsor contract, we have been able to contract with NELINET for a minimum of 6 Continuing Education Sessions, which in turn we can offer to the 153 library's staffs at no additional charge. This will allow us to expand our Continuing Education/Professional Development.

SIX STATES FUTURES CONFERENCE

NELINET brought together Mr. Boksenbaum and the 5 other counterparts from the New England states together for a meeting to discuss having a Futures Conference like the one we held in Rhode Island but for all of New England. Discussion from all members attending the meeting was that no one could afford to do much of anything. A conference is being proposed for May. Howard Boksenbaum stated that he would welcome any and all suggestions. Discussion from the Library Board followed.

Karla Harry Commission

Ms. Beth Perry reported on the meeting held on August 16th. It was stated that the commission was pleased on getting some of their legislation passed last year. For example extending the life of the commission another year. Discussion was held on what the agenda of the committee should be in the future. Rep. Lewis is looking to expand the committee even further. The Commission discussed the possibility of getting it made into a permanent commission.

Mark McKenney mentioned that the chances of getting more done being a temporary commission verses permanent would be something to consider. Discussion followed.

The next meeting for the Karla Harry Commission is scheduled for September 27th at 3:00 p.m.

Department of Administration

Mr. Boksenbaum reported that he is now reporting to an Executive Director who reports to the Director. His name is Ronald Renaud, he has taken the place of Jerry Williams. Mr. Renaud was amazed on how much we accomplish with the small amount of resources we have. And how much that little bit of expenditure means to the State of Rhode Island.

Informal AdHoc Committee

Jay Litman and Peter Deekle will do some research and gather information for the Library Board on the role of libraries and economic development.

OLIS Budget

Accounting errors gave us a little bit of a return of our money. We were able to get back \$57,000 and we were able to catch up with some of the purchases that we should have been making. Because of our fiscal caution we were able to finish the year with a little bit of a surplus which will take us through the end of the state fiscal year and the beginning of the federal fiscal year.

FY 2008 Budget Updates

A PowerPoint Presentation was given by Howard Boksenbaum. This was an overview of the recent budget updates. A hard copy of the presentation was provided. Discussion followed. It was mentioned by Alice Barrows that when she first came on the Library Board 2 terms ago the OLIS staff was much higher. Staffing has diminished downward by 40% and the department is still accomplishing quite a bit.

Mr. Boksenbaum asked that the Board write to the Governor and/or administration stating OLIS's plight in regards to budget cuts. Rose Ellen made the motion for authorization that a letter be sent when the Board deems the time is right. Mary Cummings seconded that motion. **It was unanimously approved.**

IV. BOARD DEVELOPMENT - DISCUSSION

There will be a need for new Library Board of RI Members as we have 9 vacancies coming up. There have been some people that have expressed interest. Mark McKenney stated the importance of getting new people to serve. The time to pursue this is before terms run out. He also stated how important the orientation for new Board Members will be for them to understand the language used by library members.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Joan Ress Reeves stated that we have an urgent federal issue. The SKILLS Act. It refers to the House version of Jack Reed's bill. By next Monday, please contact Rep. Patrick Kennedy or Rep. Jim Langevin and ask them to cosponsor this important legislation. This legislation is critical to the future of school library media specialists.

Howard Boksenbaum wanted to announce that the Pre-K Calendar is in production. He had one available for the Board see.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR

Handouts for the proposed meeting dates were reviewed. The dates were approved for the meeting schedule for 2007 – 2008.

The next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2007 in the DOA building.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, October 22, 2007
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, Joan Ress Reeves, and Ruth Sullivan

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Martins Amedeo, Regina Connor, Jay Litman, Rose Ellen Reynolds, and Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Howard Boksenbaum, Debbie Cullerton, Donna DiMichele, and Beth Perry

Observers: Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Glossary of Library Terms (Updated)

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September 17, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved and accepted as submitted.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mark McKenney noted that he has started with the new group in Providence that is made up of some members of the board (Providence Public Library Board of Trustees) as well as members of the public and city appointees. Based on that one meeting it does appear that there are some very good people who are involved and truly hoping to find a common ground before we get to a crisis again.

III. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT

GRANTS-IN-AID FY 2008

Those have been level funded from previous year. OLIS managed to negotiate with Providence Public Library, which was the only grant that was increased this year (Statewide Reference Resource Center Grant) to share some of that with the institutional libraries. Institutional grants had been left out of the budget and we were able to fund them from Providence Public Library. Many thanks to Providence for helping out with that. Institutional grants seem to be back in the budget for FY2009.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORTS

All of them have been very responsive this year on the annual reports. We have almost all of the data in. The exciting thing this year is we have purchased the second half of the Bibliostat product that we use to collect the data. Connect will let anybody who has a license to go in and get information. This is a powerful tool for library managers to use. We have managed to get a license for all the public libraries in the state and the staff at OLIS is licensed as well. This will make it possible to respond to requests from people who aren't public libraries.

KARLA HARRY COMMISSION

The commission did meet on the 10th of October. The meeting was primarily a recap of things that we have done before. Reports were received from the subcommittees. There are now 5 subcommittees. The 3 original subcommittees are One Catalog, Surf RI, and Legislation. The 2 new subcommittees are Preservation & Digitalization, and School Library Standards.

The commission seems to be interested in putting through the legislation to straighten out all the language in the existing legislation.

The commission will be looking again for 1.6 million for surf RI. There is some hope that the Surf RI demo of last year might be repeated this year.

Currently the commission is obligated to make its final report in April 2008. A suggestion had been made to seek an extension. Betsy Dennigan suggested that the commission look to a permanent position instead of extension. The commission will be thinking of that.

Mark McKenney commented that sometimes your better off not having a permanent commission. Sometimes there are so many commissions that they get pushed into a corner and forgotten about. When you have a temporary commission you have a deadline to get the job done.

Discussion followed on the pros and cons of permanent versus limited commissions.

Howard Boksenbaum will carry the message back to the commission of the Library Board's concerns.

IMPACT OF GOVERNOR'S REDUCTIONS

As we have heard, the Governor is serious about his 414 layoffs. The best information that we have been able to get through the Department of Administration is that it is very unlikely that OLIS will be able to fill either of the 2 vacancies. Mr. Boksenbaum noted that the executive director has stated that the Department of Administration has served up no current or active members of the Office of Library & Information Services for reduction. It doesn't sound like we are going to lose somebody who is here. The 2 positions that will not be able to be filled are the Library Program Specialist positions from Frank Iacono and Sheila Carlson. Also Dolores Caruolo, who is one of our Information Services Technicians, is planning to retire in December. From what we are hearing that puts another position that we are not able to fill. At that point, our staff will be down to 14.

Mark McKenney stated that sadly, services will have to be affected, and when they are; let's hope we are in a position to make the best possible case to clearly tie the loss of services to economic development. Mr. Boksenbaum noted that brainstorming has already begun to discuss which of our services are the most important.

IV. GRANT APPLICATIONS

The opportunities for additional grant funds are not necessary the ones we would be looking for to fund the holes in our budget, but one of the things that we could provide as a service to the library community is to be aware of what's going on out there and go for it. Two proposals that we have pending are

a. Connecting to Collections

Howard Boksenbaum worked with the state archives to make a proposal to IMLS for about \$40,000 worth of training for the heritage collections that are of archival value. If we get the funds we could adapt an online tool that the New England Document Conservation Center has created.

b. Prime Time

We are in the midst of applying for a grant from ALA called Prime Time. It requires no matching funds. The grant is for OLIS to coordinate 4 public libraries in offering the Prime Time Family Reading Time Program. It is meant to appeal to people in low income level areas and Spanish speaking populations. The program is to encourage parents with school age children to continue reading to them even after they enter elementary school. The program funding is for sets of books to be circulated among the 4 libraries, Cranston Public Library, Central Falls Public Library, Providence Public Library, and West Warwick Public Library who all have populations that fit into the low income and Spanish speaking categories. Sessions will be held and at each session they will have a story teller that will read the book in Spanish and in English. Parents and children will participate together. Discussion will be on the cultural theme of the book and activities will take place. The grant will also provide monies for transportation. The deadline for applications is November 1st. The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for November 19th, so we might have an answer by next LBRI meeting.

V. The Wheel of Confusion (GLOSSARY)

Beth Perry gave a demonstration to the board, using a visual wheel, denoting many of the acronyms relating to library terms. With assistance from Mr. McKenney, and participation from those in attendance, several explanations on library terms and organizations were reviewed. This exercise was to help the Library Board of Rhode Island become more familiar with the many acronyms being used.

VI. The Hunt for New Board Members Progress Report

Mr. Boksenbaum announced that we have been making very good progress on finding people to fill the categories that need to be filled. We have almost all the paperwork on 4 people to let us submit their name. First they have to go to the governor's office for

approval, then to the senate for approval. Mr. Boksenbaum noted that the paperwork he was referring to was OLIS's recommendations, candidate's resume and a completed ethics form.

Mr. Mark McKenney reported to the Library Board that he had received William Allen's resignation from the Board. Mr. Allen indicated that because he has missed so many meetings, and because of a conflict with his schedule it has made it very difficult for his participation on the Board. He did mention that he will continue on the Karla Harry Commission.

The Chair reminded the Board of previous discussions in regards to always recruiting new board members and getting ready for training and replacement. One of the main concerns is continuity. We stand to lose institutional knowledge that could present a problem in the future. Mr. McKenney noted a conversation that he had with Tovah Reis in regards to their terms having already expired. Mr. McKenney is not rushing to go elsewhere because of the fact that he would like to be able to help train whoever will be taking over. Ms. Reis had mentioned in that conversation that perhaps there is a way, as we look at future legislation, to make the Chair of the Library Board an Ex-Officio. Perhaps that is something for future reference. Another item for future reference is the possibility of an alumni group.

Mr. Boksenbaum reported that we have a number of folks that have already expired or are about to. Jay Litman, Joshua Teverow and Cristina Martins Amedeo all have expired in years past and have been staying on until we get them replaced. We have some people interested in several of those positions. Tom Vial from RI.gov is interested in coming in to take Jay Litman's position, whose position expired in 2003. Ed Garcia is a very interesting, soon to be graduated, GSLIS student, and also a prism scholar. I think he will be a real addition to the Board. He will be coming in to occupy the seat for the Representative for the Economically Disadvantaged that is currently occupied by Cristina Martins Amedeo. Ida Magee, who was the founder of Cornucopia, which is an organization for librarians of color in Rhode Island has recently moved into Rhode Island. She retired from the faculty of Southern Connecticut State College and has expressed an interest to come to the Board as a replacement for Alice Barrows whose term expired in 2006.

At the end of this year, Phyllis Humphrey, Mary Cummings, Tovah Reis, and Peter Deekle are all expiring. Mr. Mark McKenney commented that as we go forward perhaps we can also take a look at making some changes in the legislation so that we are not left in these situations.

Mr. Boksebaum continued that we have 2 categories that we are looking for people right now. One is the Mary Cummings category. We don't have many librarians left who are serving institutions. We are still looking for a public library trustee also. The Library Board was asked to make recommendations and submit by email to Howard Boksenbaum.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Peter Deekle made a request that at a future session of the Library Board, that there be discussion of how other state agencies are organized and the many different meanings of Public Library.

Mr. Deekle also mentioned an invitation to the Library Board. The Friends of the Library at Roger Williams is hosting a really interesting speaker and compelling young man who is a translator for the allied forces in Iraq. He will be talking about the fate or circumstance of libraries in Iraq and the Middle East. The event will take place on Friday at the University Library at the Bristol Campus. The Board was encouraged to attend.

Joan Ress Reeves announced that her son-in-law, Jeffrey Goldberg is speaking on the topic of Iran, Al Qaeda and The Future of Israel, on December 2, 2007 @ 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El. Electronic invitations will be sent to the Library Board.

Mark McKenney stated that in regards to PR, probably next spring, we are going to want to get our voices heard in regards to saving programs and keeping OLIS up and running. Perhaps through LTV, board members can appear. It was recommended that the PR Committee look into this for spring.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for November 19, 2007 in the DOA building.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, February 11, 2008
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Regina Connor, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Martins Amedeo, Mary Cummings, Jay Litman, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, Ruth Sullivan and Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):
Howard Boksenbaum, Debbie Cullerton, Karen Mellor and Beth Perry

Observers: Edward Garcia, LBRI nominee, Mary Ann Slocomb, LBRI nominee, Bart Hollingsworth, LBRI nominee, Tom Viall, LBRI nominee, Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. IMLS Grant Announcement
2. How State Library Agencies Are Organized
3. The Varieties of Public Libraries Experience

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Howard Boksenbaum went around table for introductions. Making mention of several people who have been nominated by the Governor to become part of the Board, waiting senate approval.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 22, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected and accepted.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

Mark McKenney sent a letter to the Governor on the Library Boards behalf on January 11th 2008. In reality of the fiscal situation, the Board wanted to raise its voice on the impact of reductions not only to OLIS but to public libraries as well.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

GRANTS

We are the recipients of a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that focuses on preserving our heritage collections.

Also, the Gates Foundation is doing a last round of hardware grants to public libraries. They have a series of criteria by which they are ensuring the hardware that they authorize being purchased is only going to people where they are serving the neediest of populations. Because of the decreasing size and resources at OLIS, we are working with Ocean State Libraries to put them in the administrative seat. With the help of NELINET we have patched together an administration grant going back to Gates. It's a two-year cycle; the first level of screening for sufficient poverty in the service area took place in December. Forty-six percent of our library locations were eligible. The second screening, data collection ends on the 13th of this month. We will find out shortly thereafter who is eligible and how much each library is eligible for.

STAFF REPORT

A progress report was given on Donna DiMichele, an OLIS manager. After severely breaking her leg in December, and requiring extensive surgery, she has been out and not expected to return till mid April. Mr. Boksenbaum reported that even though morale at the Department of Administration is really low. OLIS got permission to put together a sick bank, because Ms. DiMichele was running out of sick leave. Despite moral people have been extremely generous. Enough donations were given to carry her through to her return.

BUDGET

OLIS had a minor triumph by getting the grants in aid into the budget that the Department of Administration was going to submit to the Governor at the rate that the law talks about. (Twenty-five percent of the local contributions from two years ago) When it came out the other side it went from the Governor to the legislature, it was flat funded. Mr. Boksenbaum explained, for the benefit of the nominees, what the Grants-In-Aid grants cover.

In fiscal 2008 the Office of Library and Information Services has lost 2 FTE's, there are also some other cutbacks that we will have to go through. Mostly what we are going to balance that on is savings from switching over our phone system and not filling the position, that was vacated by Dolores Caruolo who retired in December, for this fiscal year. It shouldn't have an impact on our activities for this current fiscal year. The big impact that it is going to have is that with the cutbacks we won't meet our maintenance of effort for LSTA. If LSTA was being awarded by the State of Rhode Island, we wouldn't be getting any funding. Fortunately, at the federal level, the policy is that they will reduce our grant award by the proportional amount of what we don't come up to in our maintenance of effort. We are hopeful that we will be able to get a waiver from the Federal government next year. Discussion followed.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Beth Perry referred members to the OLIS website for updates and information on legislation. There are two bills currently in the legislation that are basically fixing the language in the library legislation in regards to the Chief Information Officer/Library Officer and IMLS verbiage.

WEBJUNCTION

Karen Mellor, from the Office of Library & Information Services, explained how Rhode Island is going to become a community partner along with three other states. She explained to the Board that WebJunction is an online portal to information and resources, sharing information and learning. What OLIS will gain through our

membership is resources for continuing education, tools for libraries and library staff and mainly having community space to share resources. The webteam is working with WebJunction and the OLIS staff to develop a portal that will work with the OLIS web site. On February 26, 2008 OLIS is having an all day planning session and Ms. Mellor invited any interest Board members to come and contribute their thoughts and ideas. Discussion followed.

V. BOARD ORIENTATION CONTINUED – HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Responses were given to (2) two questions that came up previously. One is How Are State Agencies Are Organized and the other was the Varieties of Public Library Experience. Mr. Boksenbaum provided handouts with this information. Materials were explained and discussed among Board Members.

Many of the services and areas that OLIS is responsible for were mentioned and discussed at length. Mr. McKenney expressed the importance of all the areas that OLIS is in involved with for the benefit of the new Library Board Members.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

TREJO FOSTER SYMPOSIUM

Because of limited time, Mr. Boksenbaum told the Board that he would be sending email out with this information. OLIS had been asked to be a co-sponsor for an institute a year from this coming August. Although Mr. Boksenbaum would love to put our name on it OLIS will not be able to do it because of financial reasons.

COMMITTEES

The Chair noted that the List of Committees has not been updated in some time. Mr. McKenney stated that it would be wise to get the committees up and running again. It was suggested that the new members coming on the Library Board take a look at the committees and decide what committee they would be interested in serving on. Who is on what committee and an explanation of each committee should be reviewed. At the present time we have the Legislative Committee, PR Committee, Bylaws Developing Committee and Library Futures Committee.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VIII. ADJOURN & NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for March 10, 2008 in the DOA building.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, April 21, 2008
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Mary Cummings, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ruth Sullivan, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Peter Deekle, Phyllis Humphrey, and Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):
Howard Boksenbaum, Debbie Cullerton, Karen Mellor and Beth Perry

Observers: Jackie Lamoureux, RIEMA, Christopher LaRoux, Greenville Public Library, David Macksam, Cranston Public Library, Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

The meeting was convened at 4:25 p.m.

I. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND NLLD DELEGATION - INTRODUCTIONS

Tovah Reis, an outgoing Library Board Member after six (6) years, came to say good bye to the Library Board. She stated it was a pleasure to serve on the Library Board and that she learned a lot and met many interesting people on the state level. Ms. Reis wished all the best for the new members, beginning their terms.

Mark McKenney made note that people don't always fully understand and appreciate the amount of time that folks on this Board, and on all charitable and volunteer boards, have put in. And every now and then it's worthwhile to remind ourselves that what we are doing is good and noble and very much worthwhile.

The Chair went around the table for introductions of all Library Board Members. Also introduced were the Rhode Island delegates who would be attending the National Library Legislative in Washington, D.C.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 11, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

Mark McKenney stated that he was pleased to welcome all new Board Members and gave the floor to the Chief Library Officer to proceed.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

NLLD

Howard Boksenbaum shared legislative information from the ALA Washington Office Website outlining the major issues that they will be focusing on for National Library Legislative Day. The URL was provided. (www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nld2008.cfm)

Mr. Boksenbaum stated that ALA does a very good job of defining legislative issues but their website is more and more complex and it makes it difficult to use. There are several issues mentioned below that can be found on the website. Some of these issues have been seen going on in the legislature year after year.

- [FY 2009 Appropriations and Budget](#)
- [E-Government, Open Government, and FDLP Issues](#)
- [School Libraries \(No Child Left Behind and the SKILLS Act\)](#)
- [Telecommunications and Broadband Issues](#)
- [E-rate and Universal Service Issues](#)
- [Privacy, National Security Letters & FISA Reform Issues](#)
- [Copyright](#)

Brief explanations of these issues were mentioned and discussed.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Boksenbaum had the privilege of being a part of PPL's strategic planning implementation committee. Howard Boksenbaum wanted to share PPL's resultant new vision with the Board as an example of an excellently crafted library planning vision:

The library is both a physical and virtual presence and is the premier free personal learning institution in Rhode Island. All ages and backgrounds engage in a robust and vigorous lifelong learning which incurs in ways from delightfully serendipitous to intensely purposeful. The library is a committed partner with each individual in meeting their intellectual and cultural goals, and with the broader community of reader/learners to achieve an informed, enlightened and engaged citizenry.

BUDGET HEARINGS/FTE'S/GRANT-IN-AID

Thoughts about the future came from the Budget hearings and the consideration of what's going to happen to OLIS down the road in terms of money and FTE's. As the Board is aware, OLIS is not fully funded this year and there have been considerable rescissions in fiscal year 2008, to the extent that it is not at all unlikely that we will fail to meet our maintenance of effort for the federal grants this year. Which means we will have a proportional reduction in our FY2011 federal LSTA grant. At the latest Budget meeting it did sound like the Central Business Office was going to come up with some of the shortfall for us, which would reduce the extent of the reduction. When this is all settled Mr. Boksenbaum will prepare a presentation that will put it into context for the Library Board. It is difficult to be optimistic and OLIS will not have the resources it needs. For example, it looks as if we will have to abandon the idea of having any LSTA Sub-Grants at all.

Mr. Boksenbaum reminded the Board that they are the ones charged with deciding how we distribute funds that come to OLIS.

With some staff leaving us, we will be saving money because of longevity and step increases. This might help get us through the year; however we will be losing all the skills and knowledge that they have developed. OLIS has six potential retirees out of a total of 15 positions. We do know that 2 of them will be leaving us not too far into the fiscal year. The Board was made aware that Beth Perry and Melody Allen have definitely decided to retire. As mentioned in the paper and on the news, the great incentive is the Governor's plan that state employees who don't retire now will lose out on some major retirement benefits. It does sound as if we will be able to fill these positions. Right now we do have the money and the FTE's.

The Grant-in-Aid will be level funded. There was no discussion at any of the hearings that there would be anything happening beyond that to the municipal grants-in-aid. Mr. Boksenbaum wanted to thank Representative Peter Lewiss who is both Chair of the Karla Harry Commission on the Strengths and Weaknesses of Library Services in Rhode Island and the Chair of the Sub Committee of the House Finance Committee on General Government, which is the one that hears our budget. He was very good to us. He brought up library services as a separate item even though it appears in the budget as just a small piece of the Department of Administration. He also brought up Surf RI as well. Discussion on Surf RI followed.

Howard Boksenbaum announced a task that he would like the Board to address. The Department of Administration has a new Director, Jerome Williams. In order to get things organized, Director Williams has instructed all managers to take a look at their rules, regulations, policies, and procedures and bring them all up to date. Mr. Boksenbaum responded that he had a board that does that and that it couldn't possibly be done by the end of the month; however he would bring it up with the Library Board and let them know that this would be something that they would have to address. The last time the Minimum Standards for Public Libraries were revised was in 2000. It is mentioned in the introduction of the Minimum Standards that it would be revisited in 2008. Mr. Boksenbaum suggested that the Board create a committee to accomplish this task. Mark McKenney mentioned that now would be a good time to revisit all the committees within the Library Board and move forward once again on a number of issues including bylaws.

LEGISLATION

Beth Perry referred members to the OLIS website (www.olis.ri.gov) for updates and information on legislation. There was no activity to report at this time. Ms. Perry did note that we were lucky to get our new members approved. Mark McKenney stated that, that in itself was progress.

KARLA HARRY COMMISSION

The Karla Harry Commission was supposed to have a report submitted to the to the House by April 1st that would summarize its activities since its beginning. It took some time for the committee to get going but with the help of the committee members, Mr. Boksenbaum was able to put together a draft. The chair of the committee wanted to take the time to read that draft thoroughly before it went any further. Peter Lewiss told Mr. Boksenbaum this afternoon that the next thing on his agenda was to read through it and get it out to the committee and then to the whole commission. Mr. Boksenbaum believes it should be out sometime this week.

A YOUTH SERVICES TRANSITION TEAM

Previously mentioned was that we are having people retire. That leads to the need to think about succession. Mr. Boksenbaum is in the process of writing a succession plan now at the request of the Director and the Governor. They want a succession plan for all potential retirees. There are over 250 of those in the Department of Administration alone.

The biggest one of those publicly speaking for OLIS is the Youth Services Librarian. Melody Allen has been a guru for Children's Librarians in Rhode Island for years. She has put together an incredible set of programs. In order to cope with the fact that she may not be here for moving from one summer reading program to another, Mr. Boksenbaum has asked Hope Houston to follow her around. We have convened a committee of six (6) children's librarians from across the state. They had their first meeting last week and will be meeting on a regular basis to make sure that nothing falls between the cracks and that all the tasks are covered.

A lot of what has to be covered is making connections again. We get between 10 and 15 thousand dollars from McDonalds. If nobody goes and talks to them that money will not be there. The PawSox are also big players in the Summer Reading Program and they need to be connected with as well.

Mark McKenney interjected that he has experienced the interest level in that position, having just given Debbie Cullerton a stack of letters that have come to him on the subject. Howard Boksenbaum has received a matching set. Clearly, there is a great concern out there that the functions that Melody has been carrying out will continue. We will just have to find a way to make sure that happens.

For those members who were not familiar with the Summer Reading Program, an explanation of the program and its value were discussed.

DIRECTORS' MEETING

OLIS is now convening quarterly meetings of Library Directors. The last meeting took place at CCRI in Warwick where 41 attended. There were three (3) parts to that meeting. The first part was a live presentation from Minneapolis by WebJunction. WebJunction is an online community of library staff that RI will become a state partner of this summer.

The second part was from NELINET. We have switched our membership to a consortial sponsorship so that all LORI members may also have the benefits of NELINET membership. Susan Abell, NELINET director of member service explained the many benefits of the new arrangement.

The third part was an open discussion. Among the topic raised was that of disruptive patrons. David Macksam, Director of the Cranston Public Library and Debbie Barchi, director of the Barrington Public Library had had recent experiences that led them to believe there would be value in a CE session on that topic. OLIS, unable to fund such a session in the very near future, offered any other services that would further that aim. Susan Abell offered NELINET as a resource in creating such an event as well. Much discussion followed, indicating much interest, and David and Debbie are now planning a workshop for sometime in late May.

BURRILLVILLE OPENING APRIL 27TH

The Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library in Burrillville will be celebrating its grand opening on April 27, 2008. Scheduled to appear are Senator Jack Reed, Congressman Patrick Kennedy and Howard Boksenbaum. All are welcome.

V. BOARD ORIENTATION CONTINUED – HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

The Library Board Manuals have been revised. New binders have been created and distributed to new Library Board Members. Updates on sections were also made available to replace the previous Library Board Manuals. OLIS will provide a new binder for any board member needing a replacement. Requests should be made to Debbie Cullerton.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2008 in the DOA building.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, June 16, 2008
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Mary Cummings, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ruth Sullivan, and Thomas Viall

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Peter Deekle, Rose Ellen Reynolds, and Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):
Howard Boksenbaum, Debbie Cullerton, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor and Beth Perry

Observers: David Macksam, Cranston Public Library

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Article: Is Google Making Us Stupid?
2. Article: Revolution In The Stacks
3. Packets of Information from National Library Legislation Day

The meeting convened at 4:30 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark McKenney welcomed everyone and went around the table for introductions of all Library Board Members.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the April 21, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

Mark McKenney reported on the successful trip to Washington, DC for National Library Legislation Day. The attendees met with most of the Rhode Island Delegation. Senator Jack Reed was fantastic, as usual, and his staff was great. Senator Reed has always made it a point to meet with the visiting Rhode Island group. The group also met with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Representative Patrick Kennedy. Representative James Langevin was unable to clear his schedule but the group was received by his staff. The Chair noted that it was another very productive session.

Joan Ress Reeves, a member of the Library Board who also attended, commented that she found the Webinar information on lobbying, that the group received before the trip, helped put a different spin on bringing up library issues to delegates. Ms. Reeves stated that she had a wonderful time.

The Chair also reported on Providence Public Library. Mr. McKenney has been involved with the LPAC (Library Partnership Advisory Counsel). A subcommittee of that counsel is looking into long range planning. One of the things that the subcommittee is looking at is co-location.

They are trying to look at the cost of maintenance beyond the bricks and mortar and dual use of physical buildings. An intern is doing an independent study over the summer. She will provide the committee with a presentation and a report.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

NATIONAL LIBRARY LEGISLATION DAY

On our trip, one of the things that we were able to mention to Representative Kennedy along the lines of the mental health issue was the continuing education workshop on disruptive behavior in the library.

Even though the group was unable to meet with Representative Langevin, they were able to walk away with an invitation to invite him to an event during the Summer Reading Program either at Meeting Street School or Bradley Hospital.

RETIREMENT FRONT

On the 20th of this month, people are going to be discovering that it is no longer gainful to work for the State of Rhode Island, because the benefit package upon departure has been slashed. There are other people who are planning to retire for other reasons. OLIS has 5 people eligible to retire out of a staff of 15. We have been informed that 3 of them will definitely be leaving.

One person gave a whole year's notice. That happens to be somebody who has contributed an awful lot, not just to OLIS over the years but to the whole concept of librarianship in the State of Rhode Island. We had to make sure that Beth Perry was here today so we could say an official good bye to her. For 37 years she has been working libraries in RI. The list of things that Ms. Perry has made possible is enormous. She has worked in the library at Rhode Island College, the State Library, and Department of State Library Services, which then became the Office of Library & Information Services. It is difficult to recount all the things that we have to thank Beth for. Her involvement with everything having to do with disabilities, her connection with TechAccess, Meeting Street School, Legislation, and the expanded area, which is known as Talking Books Plus.

Mark McKenney presented Beth Perry with a plaque on behalf of the Library Board of Rhode Island in appreciation for all that she has done. Ms. Perry thanked the Board and expressed her pleasure and enjoyment with all the people and groups she has worked with. She thanked everyone for their support and friendship.

The two other people that will definitely be leaving are Ken Marold who has worked for over 30 years with the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (Talking Books Plus), and Melody Allen. Ken Marold will be leaving on June 20th and Melody Allen (Library Children's Specialist) as has been mentioned previously, will be leaving at the end of September. Mark McKenney brought up the fact that he and Howard Boksenbaum both have received numerous letters regarding support for Melody Allen's position. Mr. Boksenbaum explained that when Melody announced last December at a planning meeting for the children's librarians that she was planning to retire, things got a little accelerated with the Governor's announcements of benefit cuts to retirees staying past October 1st. With the anxiety of not having a Children's Consultant Librarian at OLIS over 44 letters have been received urging us to make sure that when Melody did depart that we would replace her with someone who could handle the job. Besides the letters, OLIS received 8 petitions with

hundreds of signatures also pleading their support. This could prove valuable in case we hit a snag filling that position.

SUCCESSION PLAN/BUDGET/FTE'S

Howard Boksenbaum was required to submit to the Director of Administration, a succession plan that he could share with the governor that indicated who was eligible to retire, and who was likely to leave, and who was definitely going to leave and what we were going to do about it. That plan has been approved. Being approved means we have the tentative approval to fill that position. It has been a long time since we have been able to hire somebody. The Chief Library Officer is encouraged by a couple of things. One of them is, last December just after Melody made her announcement, some of you may recall that Dolores Caroulo who had also been one of the paraprofessionals in the Talking Books Plus Program retired. It took from then until today to get the opening posted.

At this point, what has come out of the House Finance Committee in terms of the agency's budget is significantly smaller than it ought to be. It is certainly smaller than it was last year and it is not going to meet of federal maintenance of effort, but it will be adequate to fill those positions.

Unfortunately in the budget proposal that was reported out to the house floor on Wednesday, there was something that did not involve the numbers that was significant and we are going to have to move really quickly to do something about it. The budget article went back to Title 29 and removed the maintenance of effort clause. Discussion followed on the reasons why that would not benefit libraries.

A great deal of behind the scenes activity is working on this right now. David Macksam stated that an emergency meeting of librarians has been called for tomorrow morning. Getting the word out will be the main topic of discussion. It looks like they are going to be voting in the House starting Wednesday afternoon. Questions that have come up are what is it that we would like the House to do. We would like them to vote against the article, get the article removed. Mark McKenney noted that in terms of getting the word out, that Howard Boksenbaum very quickly put together a letter and sent it out to library supporters. Mr. McKenney suggested that the letter also be sent to the Speaker of the House, even if it does not produce any good, at least it would put the Library Board on record and weighing in and saying that we recognize what is happening and we are raising our voice in protest.

V. UPDATES AND REPORTS

UPCOMING DIRECTORS' MEETING

OLIS is now having quarterly meetings of Library Directors. The next board meeting will be taking place at the Jamestown Philomenian Library on June 19th.

CONNECTING TO COLLECTIONS GRANT – DONNA DIMICHELE

Donna DiMichele briefly announced that she had started working on the grant. We have a Steering Committee consisting of 17 individuals. They are representatives from museums, large university libraries, and from public libraries. So we have a nice variety of types. The Steering Committee's role is going to be to help the Northeast Document Conservation Center adapt this electronic disaster plan template to the Rhode Island theme.

WEBJUNCTION – KAREN MELLOR

We have finally got the keys to Webjunction last week. There have been some glitches in it and some new platforms but it is very rich in content. OLIS will be going through the 17 pages of information that is available to us through Webjunction and identifying what we feel would be the most pertinent to Rhode Island librarians. We want to try to customize WebJunction and integrate it with the OLIS website. We are hoping to have a soft launch that it July 21st.

CONSTRUCTION – KAREN MELLOR

Some good news comes out of the General Assembly. Johnston has been approved to out to bond. So on the ballot in Johnston, a referendum for 3 million dollars to construct a new library. Hopefully the voters in Johnston will approve that.

Also Greenville has a bond referendum. They are seeking 6.35 million. Originally they were seeking more however they have scaled down the size from 37,000 to 27,000 square feet in hopes of getting this passed.

The Bristol Library is going to be completed by the contractors in the beginning of July. They will be having an opening on Wednesday, September 17th. This is really exciting, for it has been a project that has been a long time coming.

Foster is looking at options of building a single structure. They have merged earlier this year and now they are looking at building a new library office. West Greenwich is also looking to put an addition on their building. Tiverton is hoping to build a green building. They have a green architect helping them work on plans for the building.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair entertained a motion for the Library Board of Rhode Island to go on record in contacting the Speaker of the House with copies to the Governor and to the President of the Senate advising them of our great concern with respect to a number of initiatives that we see as threats to libraries in Rhode Island. Those would be the elimination of the maintenance of effort, the weakening of the 25%, losing the librarian at Eleanor Slater, and the closing of the Department Health Library. With those points in mind, we want to make sure that the powers are fully aware of our concern.

The motion was made by Mary Ann Slocomb. The motion was seconded by Joan Ress Reeves. A vote by the Board was taken and it was unanimously approved to get this out the next day.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

A proposed meeting calendar for 2008 – 2009 was distributed and accepted by the Board. There was one change in the October date. The next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2008 in the DOA building.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.