

Draft  
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
Monday, September 26, 2005  
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, William Allen, Cristina Amedeo, Alice Barrows, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Donna Good, Jay Litman, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: Deborah Barchi, Regina Connor, Phyllis Harnick, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Karen Mellor, Beth Perry, and Chief of Library Services Anne Parent

Observers: None

Reporting: Beth Perry

Materials Distributed:

1. Draft agenda
2. Schedule of Meetings September 2005 through June 2006

The meeting was convened at 4:20 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

1. Check the requirements for an MLS for other states' State Librarian –Anne
2. Review 2005-S0759 legislation for the next session – Board
3. Notify LBRI of completed construction projects and opening ceremonies – Karen/Anne
4. Report on Academic and Special Libraries at next meeting (put on agenda) – Peter D/Tovah R
5. Schedule a School Libraries report at the November 2005 meeting, or whichever meeting is the second one to follow this one – Donna G.
6. Provide a current roster of LBRI members and committees – OLIS
7. Revisit LBRI By-Laws – Mark/Joan

**I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the April 2005 meeting were not available at this time.

**II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION**

1. Laurie Scialabba will no longer be providing any services for Library Services  
2. Phyllis Harnick can no longer attend LBRI meetings, per a letter received by Mark M. from Commissioner Jack R. Warner of the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education. Mr. Warner indicated he wishes to receive meeting agendas and minutes, and will attend when he can. He indicated particular interest in meetings that relate to resource sharing and electronic libraries.

3. Ann Piascik (Data Coordinator) returned to work Sept. 7 after extended leave. While she was out, Donna DiMichele and Karen Mellor implemented the new annual report data collection from public libraries through use of the Bibliostat program. Kudos were given to them for their hard work. Work on the construction regulations regarding cost reimbursement limits per square foot, as requested by the Providence Public Library, necessarily had to be set aside during this busy period.

4. Status of OLIS:

a. The program's official name is Library and Information Services within the Department of Administration, but externally, in the local and national library community, the program will continue to be known as the Office of Library and Information Service (OLIS.)

b. Legislation to clean up the language regarding OLIS in the General Laws was not passed this year.

c. The Chief of Library Services position was posted, Anne Parent applied, was interviewed, was hired, and the position was effective this week. Anne noted that the library community should be mindful of the fact that the position description does not include a requirement for a Master of Library Science (MLS or MLIS) degree.

5. Future of RI Libraries – legislation was not approved this year because the Governor's appointments to a legislative commission were deemed a violation of the separation of powers. It is expected that the legislation will be redrafted and resubmitted to the General Assembly for the January 2006 session.

6. CLAN technology - OLIS contributed \$50,000 from LSTA funding to the cost of the public library catalog migration from the Dynix system to Innovative Interfaces, Inc. An interface with the academic/health sciences catalogs was not approved by CLAN along with the migration, due to cost concerns, but is eagerly anticipated as a future step toward providing one catalog for the state.

7. Continuing Education

A new fall schedule has been posted on the OLIS website . Library Board members as well as library staff should check the listings at <http://www.lori.ri.gov/ce/default.php>. Upcoming programs of possible interest to Board members are 1) Economic Value and Today's Public Library on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 9:30 a.m. at the Cranston Public Library and 2) Introduction to Planned Giving on Wednesday, October 26, 5:30 p.m. at the Warwick Public Library.

8. Talking Books Plus position. OLIS received applications from a number of well-qualified candidates. Hope Houston was chosen as the Readers' Advisor for TBP. She started Sept. 6. Her background is multitype with public library, school library and academic library experience. Hope is a welcome addition to the staff.

9. Construction update. Karen Mellor reported that the projects of the Cumberland Public Library and the Bristol Public Library have been approved by the Budget Office. It is anticipated that RI will reimburse Cumberland \$350,000 and Bristol

\$2.9 million. Barrington is finishing up the renovation of their 1st floor. Riverside Branch of the East Providence Public Library is scheduled to open at the end of October 2005. It was recommended that LBRI members visit the sites. Pictures of projects are updated fairly frequently online and can be found at

<http://www.lori.ri.gov/construction/projects/default.php>

10. Weblogs or “blogs” were touted as a way to get succinct news on a variety of topics. OLIS’ “Rhodarian: Library news and information with a Rhode Island accent.” is available at <http://www.lori.ri.gov/blog/wordpress/index.php>. (It is also linked from the right-hand corner of the LORI website.) Bloglines <http://www.bloglines.com/> was suggested as a place to find relevant blogs. Jay Litman noted that he had his own blog. Donna Good commended Karen Mellor for the session held on library blogging that was attended by many school librarians because it was (deliberately) scheduled for after school hours.

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

### IV. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that a letter was received from Dr. Jack L. Warner, Commissioner of Higher Education. The letter stated that Phyllis Harnick will no longer be the representative of the Office of Higher Education. He requested that LBRI agenda and minutes be sent to him and that he be apprised of times that issues relating to resource sharing and electronic libraries will be discussed.

Issues: LBRI needs to keep the “Big Picture” in mind; defend what needs to be defended

1. The question of downsizing effects on OLIS and its mission
2. LBRI needs to be ready to assist the LibFutures committee and the legislative commission
3. The public relations brochure published on the LORI website should be revisited to update on impact of libraries, etc. – perhaps a trifold booklet like ALA provides could be published if a grant could be found to publish it
4. The Library Board should put some effort into building LBRI committee memberships, filling Board positions, inviting participation of others in the library community
5. The by-laws of the LBRI should be reviewed. Joan Ress Reeves had done some preliminary revision some time ago. Her review should be located and updated if necessary so that revised by-laws can be finalized.
6. Vacant positions on the LBRI should be filled proactively -- some members’ terms will end in December.
7. The LBRI should review legislation that may be needed other than fiscal.
8. Library Board members should visit new library construction, especially at the openings
9. LBRI should hold a couple of meetings at different libraries throughout the state again this year.
10. Kudos were given to the OLIS webteam for their extensive work on the LORI website.

11. Support is needed for the library board to be involved in OLIS' budget; Anne is now involved in the budget hearing for Library Services (previously Library Services were represented by the CIO who may have had different priorities. Anne noted that the state aid to libraries has increased over 36% but OLIS' state agency support has decreased more than 22% over the last five years. The State is not protecting its investment in libraries by diminishing the oversight of the substantial grant-in-aid funding that goes to and for libraries.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meetings of the Board are tentatively scheduled for each of the subsequent months through June, but will be canceled if there are insufficient agenda items. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, November 21, 2005

Monday, December 19, 2005

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Monday, February 27, 2006

Monday, March 20, 2006

Monday, April 17, 2006

Monday, May 15, 2006

Monday, June 19, 2006

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

# LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, November 21, 2005

## MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Deborah Barchi, Alice Barrows, Peter Deekle, Donna Good, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, Tovah Reis

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

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Anne Parent, Chief of Library Services, Beth Perry, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Hope Houston, Debbie Cullerton

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library; Cindy Lunghofer, RILA

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

### Materials Distributed:

1. Draft agenda
2. (Summary) Highlights on Planning for the Future of Rhode Island Libraries
3. Statewide Reference Resource Center 2005 Survey Results
4. LBRI Committee Members Roster

The meeting was convened at 4:20 p.m.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions of Hope Houston and Debbie Cullerton were made by Anne Parent. Hope Houston is the newly appointed Reader's Advisor in Talking Books Plus. She spoke to the Board briefly about her new duties and her interaction with the patrons of Talking Books Plus. Debbie Cullerton will now be the Library Board of Rhode Island liaison, replacing Laurie Scialabba.

### I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the March 21, 2005, April 25, 2005 and September 26, 2005 meetings were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

### II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that he has accepted an invitation to serve on the Providence Public Library Strategic Planning Committee.

### III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

#### OLIS Status

Legislation that would have cleaned up the hopelessly outdated language about the state library agency was not approved this year, but the position of Chief of Library Services position is now official. Anne Parent has approached RILA about considering finding sponsors to reintroduce the legislation in the next session of the General Assembly, given that no legislation developed by the DOA was approved last year. Ms. Parent will keep the Board posted on the progress of seeking a different route to accomplish the change.

With regard to the physical location of Library and Information Services, all the remaining eleven 4<sup>th</sup> floor staff are being moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in January as part of a massive reorganization of DOA staff. The 11 staff members will join the 4 Talking Books Plus staff in relocated space at the northeast corner of the building. The OLIS Library and Media Services will remain on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

#### Youth Services News

##### 1) Summer Reading Collaborative

OLIS has coordinated a statewide Summer Reading Program for 27 years, but 2006 will be the year that RI's state library agency will become the 32nd state to join the national Collaborative Summer Library Program. Youth Services consultant, Melody Allen, admits that there is some loss of local control and recognition for sponsors, the advantages are a full scale manual with sections on teen programs and serving kids with disabilities, a CD with lots of graphics and clip art, materials available in Spanish, and a broad range of items to order. School libraries also help promote the public library Summer Reading Program as a way to keep students actively reading over the summer.

2) OLIS' Mother Goose Team is developing a "**Getting Ready for Kindergarten**" **calendar** which introduces wonderful books for 4 year olds with family activities based on the 8 areas of the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards that were developed by the RIDE and the Department of Human Services. Tips related to libraries and literacy are featured. A pilot calendar in both English and Spanish and covering four months is being tested with parents and providers.

#### L-TV

OLIS' Supervisor of Media Services Joe McGovern serves as technical advisor to a long term Rhode Island Library Association project known as L-TV. "Library television" is a cable television project produced by OLIS and RILA. This half hour cable show showcases library programs, collections and services, and promotes literacy. Special shows have also focused on such library issues as CIPA and library funding legislation. L-TV is shown on Channel 13, a statewide cable television interconnect channel, three times a week: Sundays at 12:30 p.m., Mondays at 2 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Over 100 episodes have been produced and cablecast. Every type of Rhode Island library has been featured including public, school, university, medical, and law libraries.

#### LibFutures

Joan Ress Reeves reported that the LibFutures committee met last Friday, and significant new possibilities resulted. The working group on Statewide Databases, completed its report and the report has been mounted on the Futures website. The website has moved from RIC to RWU, along with its webmaster Tim Spindler. The new web address is linked from the OLIS website, [www.lori.ri.gov](http://www.lori.ri.gov) in the yellow column on the right (click on "Future of RI Libraries.") The other two working groups, Lifelong Learning and One Catalog for All presented their reports at the LibFutures meeting, and these are expected to be mounted within a matter of days. Joan Reeves, LibFutures liaison, spoke and discussion followed on the costs over a 5 year period for the One Catalog for All.

#### Gates Grants

Beth Perry reported that RI was in the final round of states to receive Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation "Staying Connected" grant funding after the State Partnership Program and the Training Grants. The Staying Connected grant funds are currently being used to fund Spanish-speaking instructors for computer training sessions in public libraries, to purchase new computers for libraries in poverty areas, for technical support and for training of librarians in

public access computing and related topics. The Spanish-speaking instructors fill a vital need in Rhode Island. The RI program has been cited in national presentations to library groups by Gates Foundation staff.

OLIS has been asked by Webjunction (funded by the Gates Foundation) to participate in two additional state grant programs -- reaching out to the Spanish-speaking and providing support for rural and small public libraries. The Gates Foundation is sponsoring a workshop for three rural librarians from each state in conjunction with the Public Library Association (PLA) conference in Boston next March. The workshop will help rural library staff understand existing data resources and models for measuring libraries' impact, and will give them new tools and skills to effectively communicate and advocate for their libraries.. OLIS has nominated library directors from Charlestown, Hope, and North Scituate to attend at the Foundation's expense, which also covers three days' hotel fees and PLA registration.

#### IMLS, LSTA Conference

Donna Longo DiMichele reported that she attended the IMLS' LSTA Conference on Wednesday and Thursday, November 16 and 17. Chaichin Chen also attended the conference this year, including a one-day preconference held on Tuesday at which she learned about the overall LSTA program. The primary focus of the conference was on various evaluation methods, processes and techniques that can be used for the upcoming evaluations of the states' Five-Year Plans for LSTA. Every state receives LSTA funds and is required to submit a Five-Year strategic plan to the IMLS, LSTA office. Toward the conclusion of the plan the IMLS requires an evaluation of the complete plan. OLIS' previous Five-Year plan covered the years 1997 to 2002 and was evaluated during 2002.

The current plan runs from 2003 to 2007 and evaluations are due into IMLS in March 2007. A new Five-Year plan, covering 2008-2013, is due to IMLS in June of 2007. These two projects and deadlines have to be central to OLIS' schedule in the coming year.

OLIS will look into the efficacy of proceeding with a joint RFP and evaluation contract with other COSLINE states, which is how OLIS proceeded in the last evaluation. This is an effective process because at the end of it each state has an individual report, but the means to hiring an evaluator is smoothed and RI benefits from the input of other state agencies about the qualifications of the selected evaluator. Additionally costs are lower if a consultant is shared.

#### Bibliostat

It was reported that the public library directors had a positive experience using the Bibliostat program for their annual reports and think it is the best interface OLIS has thus far provided. It was easy to use and the technical support line at Bibliostat was very helpful and responded in a timely manner.

#### National Book Festival

Donna DiMichele attended the Library of Congress Center for the Book National Book Festival in Washington, DC, with Sarina Wyant from the RI Center for the Book. They staffed a table in the Pavilion of the States, along with other state Centers for the Book. Funds to pay for travel expenses, handouts and shipping were from the Council of State Library Agencies (COSLA). The festival had more than 70,000 attendees.

#### Library Construction Update and SRRC Negotiations

Karen Mellor reported that on Sunday, December 4, 2005, the East Providence Public Library Riverside Branch will open, and that LBRI members are cordially invited to attend. Barrington Public Library has scheduled an opening on January 29, 2006. Also, the Town of Bristol went

out to bid on their library project last month; bids are more than a million dollars over budget and the library is examining options so it can proceed with the project. Burrillville is preparing to go out to bid on their project this spring.

Ms. Mellor reported further that the Statewide Reference Resource Center contract with Providence Public Library has been finalized. This year's contract will provide expanded electronic access to SRRC services, including six additional hours of telephone and live chat online reference. In addition, PPL will provide statewide access to World Book Online for all CLAN cardholders. These new and expanded resources, along with current services offered by the SRRC such as Ask a Librarian, will be available via a new website that PPL will develop, host and promote; this website will have its own unique website address. The SRRC contract will be posted on the LORI website soon.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

#### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MLS requirements for State Librarian in other states will be postponed until a future meeting due to the complexity of the responses Ms. Parent received when she posted the question to the list of all Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. A number of states reported by citing statutes that are open to interpretation.

Review of Board Bylaws will be postponed until the next meeting.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

Peter Deekle reported on activities of the HELIN and CRIARL consortia, including the following:

- HELIN completed the process of incorporation as a nonprofit organization, and moved its financial management from URI to Bryant University. Roger Williams University remains HELIN's personnel service agency.
- The Davis Foundation approved a multi-year grant to fund a digital repository project for HELIN libraries (enabling the conversion and management of unique materials in member library holdings)
- HELIN created a third position, a new Knowledge Management Librarian, to work with HELIN member institutions and clients
- The Consortium of RI Academic and Research Libraries Union List was added to HELIN and InRhode online catalogs
- Hospital libraries' book and serials holdings were added to HELIN and InRhode catalogs
- Wheaton College became a full HELIN member in July 2005
- HELIN's Annual Conference is January 10, 2006 at Bryant University. Library Board members are invited to attend. Among the featured speakers will be Russell Bailey who will talk about the Information Commons concept in libraries and television news reporter Jim Taricani who will talk about his recent court case. His story will be of particular interest to librarians and library staff because of the link between



confidentiality of sources in journalism and confidentiality of patron records in libraries. His story is also of particular interest to libraries in regard to the Patriot Act, and the privacy right implicit in the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. ALA President Michael Gorman will speak via Video Conference. His talk will also be streamed by live video. All librarians in the state are invited to the Conference. Invitations will be sent through library listservs pointing to the Conference Web-site and on-line registration form.

Tovah Reis reported on some of the major issues currently facing the hospital libraries such as:

- Library as place and its location
- Who is responsible for consumer health – librarians or the PR department
- Who is responsible for selection of electronic content – the library or the computing/technology department
- Role of librarians in providing informational links from the electronic patient record
- Making all health information users aware of the limits of Google

#### VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna DiMichele announced the RI Center for the Book is currently reorganizing and anyone with interest in becoming involved should contact her.

#### VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2005, at the Department of Administration.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Tovah Reis, Joan Ress Reeves, Alice Barrows, Donna Good, Leslie Mc Donough, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Regina Connor,

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Amedeo, Deborah Barchi, Jay Litman, Joshua Teverow

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

Observers: Dale Thompson, Shirley Long

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Draft agenda
2. Talking Times Newsletter – 2 editions
3. Copy of article in Providence Journal on Cranston
3. Brochure from FSCS (Federal – State Cooperative System for Public Library Data)

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

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the November 21, 2005 meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mark McKenney reported that he has been appointed by the governor to serve on the board of the Providence Public Library. He has attended his first meeting and is pleased to be a part of the board.

Mr. McKenney also stated that he had spoken to those convened for the LibFutures Town Meeting II on January 10. He said that pursuing legislation for a Legislative Commission to study the future of libraries is well worth while, despite the setbacks in 2005, and that LibFutures should not be too hasty to move ahead with a 2006 bond referendum, but 2008 will be here before long. A great deal of political groundwork has to be done to propose funding for the LibFutures initiatives.

Additionally, Mr. McKenney also asked board members to look for candidates to serve on the Library Board. There are vacant positions and every attempt should be made to fill the positions.

### III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

#### **Introduction of Shirley Long**

Shirley Long was introduced as a proposed new Library Board member. Ms. Long is the director of the South Kingstown Public Library. She has an undergraduate degree in history from URI and received her Master of Library Science from Emporia State University in Kansas. Ms. Long has been very active in the library community over the years. She is the current treasurer of CLAN, was a member of the LibFutures Databases working group, and served on OLIS' LORI Committee. Ms. Long's resume has been sent to the Governor as a recommendation for his appointment to replace Debbie Barchi as representing medium to large public libraries of RI.

#### **SRRC Contract**

The contract between OLIS and the PPL for Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC) services was finalized and publicized. AskRI.org went live on December 27 at <http://www.askri.org>. This is the SRRC website and offers all holders of a public library card access to World Book Online Reference Center. At AskRI.org, users can connect with the Ask a Librarian service, which offers access via chat, email, or phone for 56 hours a week, which reflects the expanded hours for the SRRC.

Karen Mellor is currently working with RI.gov and PPL to brand and promote the AskRI service through RI.gov and at local libraries. RI.gov is designing a logo for the service and promotional materials and will work with PPL to produce these materials, such as posters. Several libraries have already linked to the service and put links on their home page. The LBRI can take at least partial credit for having stimulated dialogue about askRI.org, when Board members discussed about promoting the "Ask a Librarian" service statewide. OLIS has received good feedback about the new contract, including several expressions of support for the extended telephone reference hours.

#### **OLIS PLA Contest**

Given that it can be difficult for many public libraries to send even their directors, let alone any staff, to national conferences, and given that the conference of the Public Library Association will be held in Boston in March 21-25, 2006, OLIS sponsored a contest that offers those who enter the chance to have their registration fee – up to \$300 -- paid by OLIS using Federal LSTA funds. Up to five public library staff members or URI library school students were to be selected.

Seventeen applications for subsidies to attend were received by OLIS. The total amount requested far exceeded the amount available for the subsidies. The final selections were based on the hope to encourage some staff that might otherwise never have the opportunity to participate in a national conference.

The successful candidates were Jon Anderson, Director, Marion Mohr Public Library in Johnston; Kathleen Fitzgerald, Young Adult Librarian, Newport Public Library; Gretchen Hanley, Reference Librarian, Lincoln Public Library; Pam Mead, Branch Librarian, Kingston Free Library in South Kingstown, and Carol Shedd, part-time Reference staffer, Barrington Public Library and also a student at URI GSLIS. It is hoped that they will return with expanded horizons and anecdotes that will be helpful in reporting to the IMLS, OLIS' federal funding agency.

## **LSTA Funding 2006**

Federal LSTA grants for FY 2006 that began October 1, 2005 have not yet been finalized, but Oregon state librarian Jim Scheppke runs a spreadsheet each year to let state librarians know estimated changes. For RI, he believes this will be \$1,050,574 – roughly \$1 per resident (pop. 1,080,632.) This would be an increase of just over \$30,000 from the previous year, which was \$1,020,285. While OLIS would be grateful for any increase, the increases nationwide were not sufficient to trigger the new formula that would particularly help smaller states by doubling the base. Overall, this increase does not break even with the decreases on the State side of OLIS funding over the past several years. The federal funding is now actually higher than the agency funding, which has crept under \$1 million over the last couple of years.

## **LSTA Annual Report**

Ms. Parent commended Donna DiMichele and all the other staff who contributed to the LSTA report for federal FY2005 that was completed just over a week ago.

## **LibFutures**

At the last meeting it was reported that the three working groups: Statewide Databases, One Catalog For All, and Lifelong Learning, have completed their reports, and that these were mounted on the Futures website. The web address is linked from the OLIS website, [www.lori.ri.gov](http://www.lori.ri.gov). in the yellow column on the right of the homepage. Not all the reports were linked at the time, however, but as of today, the third report on Lifelong Learning has been mounted.

LibFutures owes special thanks to the HELIN consortium (the academic library network) for giving us space after their annual meeting on January 10 to hold a second Town Meeting, to follow up on the one that was held a year ago last December. At that meeting, summaries were given of LibFutures activities to date and the three work group reports, and then the floor was opened up for comments. The meeting provided an opportunity for feedback from those who may not be heavily involved day to day. There was some debate about the best way to pursue funding for the priorities; bond referendum, budget bill, or a combination of both, perhaps even in different years. LibFutures is seeking legislative input at this point on how to proceed, as well as advice on continuing to seek establishment of a Legislative Commission.

### **III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Donna Good reported to the Library Board that school libraries “keep struggling along.” The money is so tight, and the demands and needs are growing. Some school librarians are at one school all day, and some, especially elementary school librarians, cover between 2 and 4 schools each week. That means that the libraries are closed often, and all the studies show that student achievement is tied closely to library programs. School libraries are still operating under the BEP (Basic Education Plan-our Standards) of the 1960s!

Ms Good spoke about the Providence school library situation. Melody Johnson, when she was Superintendent of Schools in Providence, requested a staffing waiver from Commissioner McWalters. He did not act on it for a year, thus allowing the waiver to take place while he considered. Two high school librarians in Providence were moved from their high school positions to elementary library positions, thus ousting the elementary librarians. The BEP states that schools with over 1,000 students should have 2 full-time librarians.

A committee from RIEMA (RI Educational Media Association) met with the Commissioner and presented to him the elements of a good library program. He said he knew all that was said, and he wanted to know how RIEMA could help him with the Providence situation. Last spring the Commissioner sent a letter to Providence, RIEMA, and others stating his position. He would not grant the waiver, but he wanted reports and proof that the achievement of students in the Providence schools was in fact improving through the use of good library programs. He said that he was not going to waste money. He wanted proof that two librarians were necessary at those high schools. The administration allows no money because they say the libraries are not used. If they are not used, the reason may be that the materials are outdated from lack of funding. RIEMA met with the Providence librarians and later with the principals of the Providence high schools this past fall. They sent a report to the Commissioner for the first quarter. Now the other reports should come from the Superintendent's office.

Ms. Good asked what role the Library Board could play in this. Would a follow-up letter be of any help?

Discussion followed and it was agreed that a follow-up letter could be helpful. Ms. Good was to gather appropriate information and forward it to the Chair.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### **Budget & Planning Meeting**

Alice Barrows set the next meeting for the committee for February 27, 2006 at 3:15 p.m., prior to the next LBRI meeting.

##### **Committee on Legislation**

Rose Ellen Reynolds would like to establish work on the bipartisan support for the bills on the Legislative Commission. Ms. Reynolds will work on this and contact people with regard to this legislation.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

##### **RI Library Futures**

Peter Deekle reported that CRIARL would like the Library Board to get behind and support the RI Library Futures agenda on their initiatives. These are the Statewide Database, One Catalog for All and Lifelong Learning. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Library Board would go on record indicating their support.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mark McKenney and seconded by Rose Ellen Reynolds to send a letter of support to the RI LibFutures Steering Committee indicating the Board's support and endorsing the direction of the proposed initiatives of RI LibFutures .**

**The motion was unanimously approved by the board.**

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna DiMichele reminded the Board that COLA will be meeting on February 14, 2006 and will present their annual Sweetheart of the Year Award.

Beth Perry brought to the Board's attention the two issues of the Talking Times newsletter that were distributed to the Board. This newsletter is written by the Talking Plus staff which is part of the Office of Library & Information Services.

Ms Perry also commented on the brochure from FSCS (Federal – State Cooperative System for Public Library Data) that had been distributed. She thought the Board would like to read about some of the facts and statistics and how they are promoting libraries.

## VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting February 27, 2006

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, February 27, 2006

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Alice Barrows, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Donna Good, Jay Litman, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Members Absent: William Allen, Cristina Amedeo, Deborah Barchi, Regina Connor, Joan Ress Reeves, Joshua Teverow, Jack Warner

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

Observers: Kathy Ellen Bullard, Shirley Long, Cindy Lunghofer, and David Macksam

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Draft agenda
2. LBRI Committee Members List
3. 2006 – H 7219 An Act Relating To Library Funding
4. 2006 – S 2382 Reinstating and Extending the Commission Life and Amending the Membership of the Special Legislative Commission to Study the Current Strengths and Weaknesses of Library Services in the State of Rhode Island
5. Spanish Language Outreach Workshop Information Sheets
6. Facts About Rhode Island Libraries Brochure
7. Draft Proposal for the Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program
8. Informational handout of MSLIS requirements for other states

The meeting was convened at 4:19 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of January 17, 2006 meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mark McKenney passed on giving a report; however, he did announce that William Allen has agreed to serve another term on the Library Board.

## II. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

### **LibFutures**

Ms. Parent reported that three pieces of legislation have been filed on behalf of LibFutures thus far this year. Two are mirror bills in the House and Senate that would establish the Legislative Commission to study the future of RI libraries. They are H7166 and S2382. Additionally, a budget bill for \$2.3 million that would be used to "increase interface capabilities between all library systems," has been filed as H7219. In discussions with sponsor Dennigan, one million of this funding would go for statewide databases and the remainder for a HELIN/CLAN interface. H7166 (Commission bill) will be heard Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 211 of the State House. Expected to testify are LBRI chair McKenney, LBRI Board member/COLA chair Bill Allen, and RILA President Cindy Lunghofer. The next meeting of LibFutures is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, at 3 p.m. at the Cranston Public Library.

### **TBP Newsletter**

In the most recent edition of the *Talking Times* TBP newsletter, Hope Houston devised a survey instrument. The survey asks users about satisfaction with TBP services and staff, and also about their computer use and skills, and including an offer of telephone assistance in responding to the survey.

### **Continuing Education**

Ms. Parent reported that 21 new programs have been announced on the LORI website for this spring, including nine workshops designed to equip members of the library community with knowledge and resources to reach out to Spanish speakers and increase access to library services and technology. Additional programs of note include Blogging – back by popular demand, Improving your Flyers by Importing Pictures and Graphics into Word, Handling Intellectual Property, and Boys and Books. A specially featured program is Dealing with Difficult People. Donna DiMichele secured the services of a speaker with over 20 years experience in this topic. K. Carey Baker, M.Ed., is a consultant specializing in training and organizational development issues. She will lead participants through exercises that will allow them to “practice interacting with such challenging behaviors as anger, whining, sarcasm, and negativity.”

### **Construction Funding**

Ms. Parent spoke on Karen Mellor’s behalf. Karen will answer any in-depth questions the Board may have about the Planning & Budget meeting and the Draft Construction Reimbursement statement as necessary.

### **Woman’s Day Initiative**

Ms. Parent reported that *Woman’s Day* magazine wants to hear about libraries changing lives. In this initiative, part of ALA & Woman’s Day’s Put it in Writing@your library® program, stories are being collected on how libraries have changed readers’ lives. They ask readers to submit their stories in 700 words or less. Stories can be sent to womansday@ala.org from now until May 10, 2006, when the promotion closes.



### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MLS Requirements for Chief of Library Agencies – Ms. Parent distributed her findings on MLS requirements of other states that she obtained from her research. Although the majority have stated that they do require an MLS, there are a lot of gray areas. Wording and stipulations vary from state to state. In some cases the requirement is not in statute but is in the position description. Some states have the clause “or equivalent training and experience,” which means that the MLS may not necessarily be required. In RI, this clause is in the job description for the Chief of Library Services as it was posted in 2005. The RI statute remains murky because it still refers to Library Services reporting to a CIO. There has been some consideration of legislation that would alter the RI statute to clean up outdated language.

### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Planning & Budget Committee**

Karen Mellor provided an extensive report to the Planning & Budget Committee on Library Construction Costs. She proposed an increase of the maximum reimbursable amount per square foot for library construction projects and renovations by \$50 in each category as follows:

1. Increase new construction to \$200 per square foot from \$150 per square foot
2. Increase renovation reimbursement to \$175 per square foot from \$125 per square foot

The committee voted to approve the changes to reflect those amounts and make the recommendation that the Library Board approve this action.

Chair McKenney asked that this be placed on the next LBRI agenda for a vote.

#### **Public Relations Committee**

Tovah Reis stated that the Public Relations Committee is recommending to the Board that Facts About Rhode Island Libraries, currently on the LORI website, be printed and sent to 168 network libraries with the Board’s recommendation that distribution be to library users during National Library Week (April 16-22, 2006). Hope Houston will work with the OLIS staff to make necessary changes to the content (e.g., adding URLs, and selecting pictures). It is recommended that 5000 copies be made and a number of copies be sent out to each library based on its size.

As one of the tasks of the Committee is to promote OLIS in the state, it is recommended that a brochure about OLIS be prepared for distribution to the library community, the general public and the media. OLIS staff would provide the content. Donna DiMichele will gather such publications from other states for the committee to review. Funding options will need to be discussed.

It was recommended that the Board look into having the Facts About Rhode Island Libraries and other publications distributed also at places such as the Convention Center along with other state information.

The Board liked the idea and it was the consensus of the Board that OLIS and the Public Relations Committee move forward with this distribution.

**Legislation Committee**

No report.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Closing of Department of Health Library**

Ms. Reis gave some background on the Department of Health's budget cut and their decision to close their library. There are numerous concerns with this decision. Discussion followed. Chair McKenney stated that he would prefer knowing more details about the money that will be saved and about any alternative recommendations before the Board considers writing a letter about the closing. Peter Deekle, Tovah Reis, and Anne Parent were charged with further investigating the facts about the situation, and report back to the board on possible action if necessary.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beth Perry encouraged the Board to attend and promote the Spanish Language Outreach Project Workshops made possible by WebJunction through a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant.

**ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Consideration of the recommendation of the Planning & Budget Committee in re: changes to Appendix F (Library Construction) that would increase the maximum reimbursable amount per square foot for library construction projects and renovations by \$50 in each category.

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 20<sup>th</sup>.  
It was recommended and approved by consensus that the scheduled meeting for April be changed from April 17 to April 24 because of school vacation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

**Draft**  
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
Monday, April 24, 2006  
MINUTES

Members Present: Acting Chair Rose Ellen Reynolds, William Allen, Alice Barrows, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Donna Good, Leslie McDonough, Tovah Reis, and Joan Ress Reeves

Members Absent: Chair, Mark McKenney, Peter Deekle, Jay Litman, and Joshua Teverow

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

Observers: Dorothy Frechette and Shirley Long

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Draft agenda
2. Final report on MLS requirements in other states
3. Information Packet on Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program

The meeting was convened at 4:30 p.m.

**I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of February 27, 2006 were unanimously approved.

**II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

In Chair McKenney's absence, Rose Ellen Reynolds presided over the meeting. Ms. Reynolds stated that she (representing COLA) along with Joan Ress Reeves (representing the Library Board) would be attending the ALA National Library Legislative Day in Washington next Monday.

**III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Staff move**

Staff has been heavily involved for the last several weeks with preparation for and implementation of a move of 10 staff from the 4<sup>th</sup> floor to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the DOA between March 23 and April 21, and a reconfiguration of existing space for Talking Books Plus staff. The last of the moves, of Debbie Cullerton and Anne Parent, were completed last Friday.

**Hispanic/Latino workshops**

The schedule extends through July 17. Libraries are encouraged to send multiple representatives, even in communities that have not yet seen a significant Spanish-speaking population, as statistics indicate that this group now represents 11 percent of the state's population and it continues to grow. No knowledge of Spanish is necessary for this program. Beth Perry spoke of the success of the programs and encouraged Library Board members to attend or pass the word to others to attend.

### **LBRI Appointments**

Although there are several openings on the Library Board as a result of term expirations, the process of filling the available slots is currently in a hiatus. Several names have been proposed to the Governor's Office, but there have been indications that the Governor's Office intends to make specific recommendations on the filling of the available positions. Available positions include a librarian from a medium or large public library, a school library media specialist, representatives of the economically disadvantaged and public library trustees, and a "general user."

### **PLA attendees thank OLIS for sponsorship**

The five people who received OLIS "scholarships" to cover their registration costs at PLA in Boston this March have reported that they enjoyed the conference immensely. Several have provided OLIS with "quotable quotes" that we can use when reporting to the IMLS.

OLIS also recommended three attendees for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation rural libraries' preconference to PLA. Leslie McDonough was one of those attending and reported that it was a remarkable experience. She made comments on the fact that advocacy in Rhode Island is "two steps ahead" of the other states in the country.

### **Talking Books Plus Survey**

It was reported at the last meeting that Hope Houston had developed a survey instrument that was included in the most recent issue of the *Talking Times*. Beth Perry reported that they had a 13% return rate, and that the majority were very satisfied with the services provided. Also 57% of users either own or have access to a computer and 93% have internet access.

### **National Library Legislative Day**

In addition to the attendees noted above in the Chairperson's report, Rhode Island attendees will also include Donna DiMichele representing OLIS, Donna Hayes representing RIEMA, and Cindy Lunghofer representing RILA. Debbie Cullerton has taken on the NLD State Coordinator task formerly performed by Laurie Scialabba.

## IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### **FINAL REPORT ON MLS REQUIREMENTS IN OTHER STATES – ANNE PARENT**

Ms. Parent presented her final report on MLS Requirements in other states. The Board will hold this information on hand for future reference.

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LIBRARY**

The library is still operational. Tovah Reis said she has heard that options for location and operations are being explored, but that the DOH Library is now in a holding pattern.

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Planning & Budget Committee**

None.

### **Public Relations Committee**

The committee had hoped to get the printed brochure on RI library facts that was presented at the last meeting distributed during National Library Week. Logistics prevented this from happening, so they are now hoping it can be distributed at the RILA Conference (June 1 & 2, 2006).

### Legislation Committee

The bills on the Legislative Commission, (H-7166 Sub A and S-2382), and on \$2.3 million funding (H-7219) are pending. No legislation has been submitted as of yet on OLIS administration.

Rose Ellen Reynolds will contact Fran Farrell-Bergeron who had discussed the latter legislation with Speaker Murphy's staff.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of the recommendation of the Planning & Budget Committee in re: changes to Appendix F (Library Construction) that would increase the maximum reimbursable amount per square foot for library construction projects and renovations by \$50 in each category.

Karen spoke briefly to summarize the distributed materials, including information obtained from the Library Journal construction survey, especially as pertaining to the New England area. Discussion on the recommendation had been initiated at the last Library Board meeting.

**It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island support the recommendation of the Planning & Budget Committee in re: changes to Appendix F (Library Construction) that would increase the maximum reimbursable amount per square foot for library construction projects and renovations by \$50 in each category.**

**The recommendation is retroactive to January 1, 2006**

**RILINK - Dorothy Frechette spoke to the Board about what RILINK is trying to accomplish, where they need to go, and her hope for how OLIS and the Library Board can help RILINK help school libraries.**

RILINK is very grateful for the LSTA Grant Funds that they have received from OLIS in the past, and have used those funds to update their equipment. RILINK is now at a crossroads. With the increase of schools coming on board they are near capacity, and do not have any capacity for further expansion. A major system upgrade is needed for school libraries that want to join RICAT in the future. RILINK is requesting that the board send a letter of support for potential funding to the East Bay Educational Collaborative. Discussion followed.

Ms. Frechette distributed a draft support letter for review.

Ms. Reeves moved to send a letter of support for RILINK, Ms. Barrows seconded the motion.

**The Board unanimously approved sending a letter to the East Bay Educational Collaborative in support of RILINK.**

### VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND  
Monday, May 22, 2006  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair, Mark McKenney, Rose Ellen Reynolds, William Allen, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Donna Good, Leslie McDonough, and Joan Ress Reeves

**Members Absent:** Alice Barrows, Regina Connor, Jay Litman, Tovah Reis, and Joshua Teverow

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

**Observers:** Shirley Long and Dale Thompson

**Reporting:** Debbie Cullerton

**Materials Distributed:**

1. Draft agenda
2. LSTA 5-Year Plan Evaluation
3. General Information on the LORI Grants 2006

The meeting was convened at 4:23 p.m.

**I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of April 24, 2006 were unanimously approved with two minor grammar changes.

**II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Mark McKenney reported on testimony given at the House Committee on Finance Hearing for the support of bill H7219. Mr. McKenney felt we had a very good representation and received positive feed back from Rep. Elizabeth Dennigan and Rep. Eileen Naughton.

**III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Chief of Library Services Position**

Anne Parent reported on her meeting with Jerry Williams, Associate Director from the Department of Administration. Mr. Williams assured Ms. Parent that the department would seek to fill her position and that it would not be absorbed. She also urged that Beth Perry be appointed in the interim.

Ms. Parent also spoke on her meeting with Beverly Najarian, Director of Administration. Ms. Najarian asked Ms. Parent what exactly does the Office of Library & Information Services do. Ms. Najarian wanted to speak with the Governor on what he has in store

for Library Services before making any decisions. She will meet with Mark McKenney to hear concerns and recommendations from the Library Board.

Ms. Parent stated that the Library Board will need to argue the necessity for the position to be filled with a candidate holding an MLS degree, and also the need for a national search.

### **National Library Legislative Day**

Rhode Island attendees reported that their visit went very well and that they were well received.

Joan Ress Reeves reported that Representative Kennedy's aide was new and was very interested in what they had to say. They were able to meet with both Senator Jack Reed and Senator Lincoln Chafee. Representative James Langevin had to speak on stem cell research with Dana Reeve so the RI attendees met with his chief legislative director. "Joan Reeves said that the trip was well worth it."

Ms. Reeves also stated that Donna Hayes was an excellent representative from Frenchtown School in East Greenwich.

### **LIBFUTURES**

A packet of testimony outlining talking points was passed around for board members to review. Ms. Parent said legislators were receptive. LibFutures Initiative is looking brighter than it has been.

### **LSTA**

Donna DiMichele reported that the 2 major focuses for LSTA are the 5 year evaluation and the LORI grants. Ms. DiMichele distributed a projected timeline on the 5-year evaluation plan. The new 5-year strategic plan is due at IMLS by June 30, 2007. An outside consultant will be helping with the evaluation process. LSTA grant information is available on the website. The purpose of the LORI grant program is to fund projects that contribute to resource sharing among LORI libraries. Projects that benefit the multi-type library community will be given the highest priority.

## **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Planning & Budget Committee**

None.

### **Public Relations Committee**

None.

### **Legislation Committee**

Rose Ellen Reynolds mentioned that Rep. Eileen Naughton would be good to go to for a funding source for this bill. Mark McKenney noted that the House Committee perked up when they learned that local libraries are spending a great deal of money on individual databases, and that money could be saved if we joined together. Most other states are

ahead of us. RI is lagging behind. Testifying for the bill were Toby Rossner, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates, Elizabeth H. Sinwell, Dean of Students of the Chariho Regional School District, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Vice-Chair of the Library Board of RI, Legislative Committee Chair, Peter Deekle, Rhode Island University Administrator, Tom Evans, State House Librarian, Alice Barrows, Library Board Member, Beth Bailey, South Kingstown Library Board of Trustees, Alice Juda, South Kingstown, President of the Board of Trustees, Cynthia Weisbord, Trustee of the South Kingstown Library, Anne Parent, Chief of Library Services, Office of Library & Information Services, Suzanne Costa, Library Media Specialist, Barrington High School, Mark McKenney, Esq., Library Board Chair, Joan Ress Reeves, Library Board Member, and Colin Brody, student of Barrington High School. Ms. Reynolds reported that H 7219 was held for further consideration.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Anne Parent, Chief of Library Services announced to the Board her resignation. This marks the end of thirty-eight years of service to libraries and library users. Effective with Ms. Parent's resignation will be her retirement from RI state service.

Ms. Parent assured the Library Board that she was not leaving for negative reasons. She is leaving on a positive note to explore new possibilities for service and personal fulfillment.

Discussion followed on the importance of this position. Joan Ress Reeves stated that the Board should let the Department of Administration know the particular criteria the Board would like to be taken under consideration in filling her position.

Ms. Reeves read a Resolution of Appreciation for Anne Parent from the Library Board. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Library Board involvement in the replacement of Ms. Parent's position to be a topic of discussion at the June meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.