

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, September 15, 2008

"Draft" MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, Ed Garcia, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ruth Sullivan, and Thomas Viall

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Bart Hollingsworth, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, and Joshua Teverow

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

Observers: Kathy Ellen Bullard, Providence Public Library, Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of June 16, 2008 meeting
3. Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2008-2009
4. Draft report of the Karla Harry Commission
5. Protecting the Past Webshot
6. AskRI printout of Powerpoint Presentation

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark McKenney welcomed Board Members and observers.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mary Ann Slocomb made a motion to amend the minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting.

Under New Business

From: 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 Butler Health Library.

To: 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 of Health Library.

The minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting were approved with the above clarification.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

The Chair reported on Providence Public Library. Efforts are ongoing. There certainly is an effort being made by the LPAC (Library Partnership Advisory Counsel) to look at potential co-locations, with business developers, as well as potential situations with the school department and also other possibilities. It is difficult to conceive of that happening in the short

term but there is hope that in long range planning, we will be able to come up with something. The difficulty is that the LPAC is operating under a tight time concern. By the end of the year there has to be a plan in place. Mr. McKenney is hopeful and guardedly optimistic.

We also had the opportunity to meet recently with Terri Brown from LSTA. From the Chair's discussion with Ms. Brown, she was very pleased with the way we are operating OLIS. Donna DiMichele from OLIS will be reporting on the IMLS Site visit later in the agenda.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

UPDATE ON RETIREMENTS/OLIS STAFF

The situation is really serious. We have lost a lot of people. Beth Perry has left our ranks. Karen Mellor is the acting Library Program Manager until such time as we have permission to fill that position. Howard brought this position up first as an illustration of the fact that things really are as difficult as you read about in the newspaper because of the horrible fiscal condition of state government. We did have permission to advertise that position and fill it; however everything has been put on hold. It is taking a lot of time to get permission to actually act on these.

Ken Marold has left. Mr. Marold was our machine expert in Talking Books Plus.

Hope Houston has left us for a position at Bentley College. She will be heading up the Reference Department. Her acquisition budget just for reference is larger than our entire state appropriation for the Office of Library & Information Services.

At the end of month on September 26th, Joe McGovern who has been our media specialist the man behind the camera at L-TV, and one of the major participants in our field services effort, will be leaving us as well for retirement. And on September 29th, Melody Allen will be leaving. We are going to be beyond decimated. We have lost a third of staff. It is going to be difficult, especially because things are taking a while.

Mr. Boksenbaum said he had some good news. We do have one new staff member. Neshmayda Calderon started working for us today, half in Talking Books Plus where she will be training for a couple of weeks and half working for Direct Services. She will be an all around paraprofessional person.

Last May, Alicia Waters completed her studies at URI and was awarded her MLIS. We are proud to have another MLIS on the staff and can't wait to see if we will be able to offer her some opportunities.

SIX SIGMA

The administration has adopted Six Sigma, as a management process for investigating personnel matters. This is basically a strategy used in how positions are going to be filled. The succession plan for OLIS that was reported to the Board two meetings ago is now being rewritten in Six Sigma format and Mr. Boksenbaum will be meeting with the Director tomorrow.

We do have another position that is an Information Services Technician I. We have permission to fill the position and all the committees have vetted it. We are going to be able to post it; however it may end up like the Library Program Manager where we advertise and

don't get to fill the position right away. The almost good news is that with all these people leaving staff, the new people make less money than the old people. It loosens up the trauma of the cuts to the overall budget. We will be able to finish off this fiscal year meeting our expenditures. We will be working hard in the near future on the question of what business we are still in, and what functions are going to be done by whom.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Because of the hiring freeze and because we are about to lose Melody Allen who is one of our primary public faces especially during the summer, the planning has to start for next summer's children activities and the Summer Reading Program. The transition committee that Howard reported to you at the last meeting was moving along well. Hope Houston was chairing the committee and they were writing down everything that needed to be done over the next year.

The committee is now proceeding without Ms. Houston. We have delegated up and Donna DiMichele has agreed to take up the slack and chair the committee. A lot of children's librarians in the field are stepping up. There are 6 people on the committee and they have gotten permission from their directors to spend time on this committee for the good of all, in hopes that we will be able to operate that way for a year and then will have somebody new in the position and be able to return to the way things used to be.

LEGISLATION ACTION

In the last legislative session a bill was introduced that would eliminate the maintenance of effort required of state municipalities in order to get their state grant-in-aid and also to loosen up the 25% as an anchor for the amount of state grant-in-aid to municipalities from public libraries and let it float free. There is a clause in the legislation that says that if there isn't enough money, then OLIS should take whatever the legislature can afford to give us and distribute it as though it were all of it, at the same proportions.

Fortunately, we were able, instead of eliminating the maintenance of effort to reduce it to a requirement of 80% of the previous year rather than 100%. That clause was put into the legislation so that it would expire at the end of the fiscal year. When the legislature goes back in session, this will undoubtedly come back up again. We continue to have friends in the house in the Library Commission and they are keeping an eye in the senate for us too.

KARLA HARRY COMMISSION

Library Board members were given a condensed draft report of the Karla Harry Commission. The Karla Harry Commission officially expired at the end of June. AThe Commission will be meeting at the State House on Thursday, September 18th to consider voting on its final report. Peter Lewiss who is not running for office again and consequently will not be chairing the Commission when the Commission reconvenes, will be chairing this meeting. If any Board member would like to make comments you can email Mr. Lewiss or email Mr. Boksenbaum and he will forward the comments to the Chair. The full report is 26 pages long and if any Board member would like to see the full version they can email Howard Boksenbaum with their request.

The report is not available on the OLIS website as the Commission did not want to post it until it had been voted on.

V. UPDATES AND REPORTS

IMLS SITE VISIT – Donna DiMichele

The Institute of Museum & Library Services officially does site visits every two years. The last at OLIS was 5 years ago. Terri Brown from IMLS spent 3 days with us here in Rhode Island. On the first day of the site visit Terri Brown spent the morning with Howard Boksenbaum and Cathy McMahon discussing fiscal management. She spent the afternoon with OLIS staff about LSTA funded programs, which included Children's Programs, L-TV, OLIS Library and Young Adult Services, Adult Literacy, OLIS Web and Webjunction, Resource Sharing, and Talking Books Plus. Later that evening the group had dinner with Mark McKenney, Chair of the Library Board.

The next 2 days were on the road. Day one the group visited Bay View and discussed the RILINK project. We toured the Providence Athenaeum. The afternoon was spent at Providence Public Library. The Getting Ready for Kindergarten calendar was discussed with Cheryl Space, who did a lot of the implementation work on that project. The group also met with Dale Thompson, Director of PPL, and Kathy Ellen Bullard, Associate Director at PPL. We then went to McCoy Stadium and participated in the Summer Reading @ the PawSox Game.

Day two, Howard Boksenbaum and Terri Brown went to Central Falls Public Library. Terri Brown and Ms. DiMichele went to the Redwood Library and Athenaeum and the Newport Public Library in the afternoon. Ms. Brown got a geographic spectrum and spectrum of libraries that are struggling and of libraries that are really flourishing.

Out of this site visit, three (3) recommendations were made.

1. For OLIS to incorporate certifications and assurances into subgrant awards.
2. Establish a complaint process
3. Assemble a "how to" manual for the LSTA Program at OLIS

CONNECTING TO COLLECTIONS GRANT – Donna DiMichele

"PROTECTING THE PAST – RI"

The Steering Committee is now final. The Project manager is Eileen Warburton; hired as of September 1st. Ms. Warburton is setting up the milestones which will be finalized at this week's meeting of the Steering Committee. Ms Warburton will be giving a presentation about the project at the Civic Tourism Conference II in RI during October "Streaming Disaster Planning for the Cultural Community.

ASKRI – Karen Mellor

We have a grant with the Providence Public Library for the Statewide Reference Resource Center. The Statewide Reference Resource Center traditionally provides reference services to libraries. They also provide services to the public in terms of online reference through email & chat. They also do phone reference for libraries and for anybody in RI who wants help with reference questions. They have been very helpful with us in terms of running continuing education sessions for RI librarians. The staff at Providence Public Library are also available for consulting services such as their marketing or PR director. If any library needs assistance in any area, librarians can turn to Providence.

The RI Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS), Ocean State Libraries (OSL), Higher Education Library Information Network (HELIN), and RI Library Information Network for Kids (RILINK) have been working all summer with the Statewide Reference Resource Center at the Providence Public Library (SRRC) to take a first step toward fulfilling the

promise of SurfRI. As a result, a core collection of electronic resources will be available beginning this fall to all Rhode Islanders from their favorite library or wherever they connect to the Internet. These core resources include Tutor.com, World Book and World Book Discover, and a selection of EBSCO databases including Academic Search Premier, MasterFile Premier, History Reference Center and more.

A powerpoint presentation followed and Ms. Mellor provided hard copies to the Library Board. Discussion followed. Once it is all up and working a statewide campaign is being planned for marketing. Mark McKenney asked Kathy Ellen Bullard from the Providence Public Library to carry back to PPL how impressed the Library Board is and in particular with the cooperation that was given. Kudos to all who helped in making this happen.

WEBJUNCTION – Karen Mellor

This is WebJunction RI. Ms. Mellor was referring to a screen shot from her presentation to the Library Board. It was launched at the beginning of August. This is our own resource for librarians throughout the state. This is a brand new platform and is having a few glitches with speed but they are working on it. It has great resources. WebJunction is where you can find information and is a social network for librarians. This site is not just about technology; It is about customer service. Large selections of continuing education courses are available. If you go to the OLIS website you will find the link to Webjunction.

CONSTRUCTION – Karen Mellor

The Bristol Public Library will be having its Grand Opening on Sunday, October 19th. Library Board Members are invited to attend. It is a great new library. It started out at 6,000 square feet and has added on 22,000 square feet. It looks terrific and is right in downtown Bristol.

Westerly Public Library is looking to do a renovation project and they are looking for a construction manager. Ms. Mellor will keep the Library Board informed with updates when they finish their application

VI. ORIENTATION CONTINUED – “RI LIBRARY NETWORKS, A CONSORTIUM OF CONSORTIA”

Mark McKenney suggested that this be held over to the next meeting because of time.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None. Mark McKenney wanted to mention that he received a very nice card from Alice Barrows, (a former Library Board Member) in which she gave her thanks and appreciation to the Library Board for receiving her Certificate of Appreciation.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

A handout of the Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2008-2009 was given to the Board. The next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for October 27, 2008 in the DOA building.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, October 27, 2008
MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on October 27, 2008 at 4:15 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, presiding, Regina Connor, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, and Thomas Viall

Members Absent: William Allen, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Shirley Long, Ruth Sullivan, and Joshua Teverow

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

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of September 15, 2008 meeting
3. Providence Journal article written by Christopher LaRoux
4. Organization Chart of Office of Library & Information Services (September 2008)
5. OLIS Staff Positions and Descriptions (October 2008)
6. OLIS Activity Report
7. OLIS: How We Make It Work
8. AskRI Update and Statistics Report
9. RI Library Network Standards
10. COSLA Legislative Action Plan 2008-2009
11. Comparison of Wording - RI Rules and Regulations for Licensing for Hospitals
12. MBLC Takes a Stand on Question 1 Article
13. Printout of Powerpoint Presentation on "RI Library Networks; a consortium of consortia" and "LBRI reporting requirements"

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark McKenney welcomed Board Members and observers.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Joan Ress Reeves challenged several elements of the way the minutes are reported. Ms Reeves questioned the need for William Allen to continuously be marked as an absent member when he officially has resigned as a member of the Library Board. Mark McKenney reminded the Board that members serve until replaced via a Gubernatorial appointment approved by the Senate; hence Mr. Allen, despite his resignation, is still a member of the Library Board. She also suggested that the minutes might be more a simple summary of highlights of issues; that there is no need for as thorough rendering of issues taken up by the board as have been presented; especially vis a vis sensitive comments.

The minutes of the September 15, 2008 meeting were amended and approved.
Motion made by Joan Ress Reeves – Seconded by Bart Hollingsworth
Unanimously approved

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

The Chair reported on the progress of seeking new appointees to complete the Board. He also expressed a hope of revitalizing committees and liaisons to partner agencies as the Board neared a full complement.

Mark McKenney passed around copies of letters received from Joan Retsinas of COLA that were directed to the Department of Health and the Department of Corrections expressing COLA's concern that libraries in the Department of Health, Eleanor Slater Hospital and the Newport Naval Hospital have closed, endangering access to information for and in those agencies.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENING

The Grand Opening took place on Sunday, October 19th. Mr. Boksenbaum and Karen Mellor spoke on behalf of the state.

OLIS BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

Mr. Boksenbaum summarized new materials prepared for the Department of Administration that he also presented as handouts:

- Organization Chart of Office of Library & Information Services (September 2008)
- OLIS Staff Positions and Descriptions (October 2008)

Mr. Boksenbaum reported that of the five current vacant positions, he has permission to fill only the Library Program Manager I position. By the end of this fiscal year or early in the next, however, he is confident that OLIS will be able to fill all of the vacancies. Mr. Boksenbaum also reported on budget restrictions and the difficulties we will have in FY2010 meeting the federal LSTA maintenance of effort. OLIS' budget will be cut. So far grants-in-aid for public library services, including the construction and renovation reimbursement program seem to be level funded again in FY2010.

KARLA HARRY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Karla Harry Commission subcommittee on the structure and funding of public libraries, which Mr. Boksenbaum chairs, has made some recommendations about consolidation of library services to the Library Directors' Meeting on October 15th. Focus groups for library directors will be meeting in November to discuss these recommendations.

V. UPDATES AND REPORTS

ASKRI – Karen Mellor

Ms Mellor distributed information packets to Board Members containing news, updates, and statistics about AskRI. Ms. Mellor gave an overview of the progress that has been made. The new aspects of the service, including tutor.com, world book and a selection of EBSCO databases are up and working. Responses have been very favorable. A launch event is being planned for mid November with plans to invite the Governor. The Board will be notified when plans are finalized.

RI RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LICENSING FOR HOSPITALS – Donna DiMichele and Mary Ann Slocomb

Ms Slocomb reported that the RI Department of Health has proposed new wording of hospital regulations with important ramifications for hospital libraries. She then explained the differences between the original wording and the new version and an alternative version that ARISHL (the Association of RI Health Sciences Libraries) is proposing. She then provided an explanatory handout. Donna DiMichele recounted her testimony to a “community review” by the Health Department supporting ARIHSL’s position.

PROTECTING THE PAST – Donna DiMichele

Ms. DiMichele’s played a video presentation by IMLS that explained the importance of the project. In the interest of time, Howard Boksenbaum recommended that the overview of the DPLAN originally scheduled to follow the presentation be held over till the next Library Board meeting so other agenda items could be addressed by the Board. The chair subsequently moved the agenda.

VI. A CHALLENGE – COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

The Chair proposed two resolutions:

- Resolution: The chair may, at his discretion, designate or appoint such liaisons as might be appropriate from the Board to other library or library advocacy organizations such as the Karla Harry Commission, ARIHSL, CRIARL, COLA, RILA, RIEMA, etc.

Mark McKenney moved approval of the resolution – Seconded by Bart Hollingsworth
Unanimously approved

- Resolution: There will be an ad hoc committee of the Board that will investigate the logistics of interlibrary loan and interlibrary delivery and report to the Board in six months regarding the current state of the art with

recommendations for improvement. The committee will comprise both members of the Board and non-members. Tom Viall will chair the ad hoc committee

Mark McKenney moved approval of the resolution – Seconded by Mary Ann Slocomb
Unanimously approved

Mark McKenney then discussed the need for Committees to be renewed. Standing committees are, Public Relations, Planning & Budget and Legislation. He asked Library Board members to let the Chair know of their particular interest. He also explained that non-board members could also be on committees if interested.

VII. ORIENTATION CONTINUED – “RI LIBRARY NETWORKS, A CONSORTIUM OF CONSORTIA” and “LBRI REPORTING REQUIREMENTS”

In the interest of time, The Chair suggested this item be held over to the next meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for November 27, 2008

X. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, December 15, 2008
Draft MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on December 15, 2008 at 4:15 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

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

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, and Joshua Teverow

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

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech, Janet Kosinski, Essex Public Library –Tiverton, Dorothea Baerenthaler, Essex Public Library – Tiverton, Cheryl Abdullah Abouelaziz, Essex Public Library – Tiverton, Carol Brouwer, North Smithfield Library, Kris Chin, Libraries of Foster, Paula DiBiase, Hope Library, Lynn Blanchette, Coventry Library, Karen Taylor, East Greenwich Free Library, Patricia Redfearn, George W. Hail Library – Warren, Mary Ellen Hardiman, Salvatore Mancini Library – North Providence

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of October 27, 2008 meeting
3. OLIS Activity Report
4. Draft report of the Karla Harry Commission – Better Together
5. Providence Journal article – Libraries Provide For Those In Need
6. AskRI Flyer

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark McKenney welcomed Board Members and observers. Introductions of all Library Board Members, as well as observers were made.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 27, 2008 meeting were amended and approved. Motion made by Rose Ellen Reynolds – Seconded by Mary Ann Slocomb Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

The Chair noted the newly formed Committees of the Library Board and their Chairs:

- Rose Ellen Reynolds – Legislation Committee
- Joan Ress Reeves – Planning and Budget Committee
- Ed Garcia – Public Relations
- Tom Viall – Adhoc Committee on Interlibrary Loan and Interlibrary Delivery

Chair Mark McKenney reported on the AskRI launch at the Providence Public Library that he had attended along with Howard Boksenbaum, Dale Thompson, and Karen Mellor. Governor Carcieri was in attendance, as well as a number of other people including the CEO of Tutor.com and representatives of the other vendors World Book, EBSCO and ProQuest. It was a very successful event. It was positive publicity for AskRI.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

NEWS FROM OLIS

Karen Mellor has now been appointed to the position of Library Program Manager I.

CHAMPLIN FOUNDATION

The grants awarded by the Champlin Foundation were announced this morning. Ocean State Libraries was the recipient of \$712,850. Most of that will go toward technology needs of the Consortium and the individual libraries.

LSTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Howard Boksenbaum and Donna DiMichele went to Washington, D.C. to attend the Annual IMLS Workshop on the Library Services and Technology Act. This is required in order for OLIS to receive their federal grant. This year IMLS employed Management Concepts to provide two nonstop days of training in allowable expenses and the Codes of Federal Regulations.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STATE DATA COORDINATORS

Knowing that he was going to be in Washington D.C. as RI's State Data Coordinator for IMLS, Mr. Boksenbaum agreed to represent the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) to the newly formed IMLS steering committee on library statistics. Public libraries will see the results of that when they go to do the annual report next year. More important they will see the results of that when they need to know something about libraries. All of this years' annual reports are in and a spreadsheet of the 2008 Annual Report Data will be made available at the OLIS website by the end of the week.

OLIS BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

There have been no changes. The governor still has as his target for the grants-in-aid for 2010 level funding from 2009. Mr. Boksenbaum is expecting that to hold through the presentation of the budget to the legislation.

OLIS will suffer from more decreases. When all is said and done, OLIS will be likely to have incurred a 12% decrease from 2007 by the time we reach 2010.

OLIS will only have 10 people on staff and four vacancies, probably till the end of the fiscal year.

That means that the committees of the Library Board will be more important to OLIS than ever. OLIS typically gets extremely busy during the legislative session trying to keep up with all legislation that might potentially have an impact on libraries of any kind. The Legislative Committee will be absolutely essential. The important thing for us to do this year, while the legislature is in session, is to keep libraries in front of the legislators and make sure they are thinking about libraries.

ASKRI

The launch at Providence Public Library was magnificent. It was an excellent way to get going with a new service. Karen Mellor showed video of the debut put together by PPL staffer, Stephanie Chausse.

V. UPDATES AND REPORTS

OLIS Statistical Reports

An OLIS Activity Report was distributed to the Board as a beginning to showing the Board more clearly what OLIS does for a living. OLIS has only recently begun collecting activity data in a conscientious way. Mr. Boksenbaum asked the Library Board to take a look at the report and to come back to the next meeting with questions that will help make the report's numbers more valuable.

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee

Chair Ed Garcia asked anyone interested in serving on the PR Committee to let him know. Mr. Garcia is in the process of trying to recruit people for his committee. A high priority for the PR Committee will be to focus on the legislature. Letting them know everything the libraries in the state do. Not just statistics, but important services and programs as well as stories from patrons on how libraries have impacted their lives.

Legislation Committee

Chair Rose Ellen Reynolds invited anyone interested in serving on the Legislation Committee to please come forward and volunteer. A vital part of the committee will be working with the Public Relations Committee in reaching out to the new legislation. Ms. Reynolds also made reference to an article appearing in the Providence Journal on the value of libraries which was distributed to the Board.

VI. BETTER TOGETHER: KARLA HARRY FOCUS GROUPS ON PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSOLIDATION: REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION

The draft report of the Karla Harry Commission – Better Together was distributed. Howard Boksenbaum gave an overview to the Board of what has transpired up to this point. This information can also be found on the OLIS Web site. Discussion and comments from the Library Board followed.

VII. ORIENTATION CONTINUED – “RI LIBRARY NETWORKS, A CONSORTIUM OF CONSORTIA” and “LBRI REPORTING REQUIREMENTS”

In the interest of time and wanting to give everyone ample opportunity to speak during Public Comment, the Chair suggested this item be held over to the next meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

An overwhelming majority of the observers present addressed the board with their comments and concerns in regards to consolidation and the issues outlined in the Draft report of the Karla Harry Commission – Better Together. For the most part, comments lobbied against administrative consolidation of public libraries and spoke favorably of libraries’ history of cooperation and collaboration.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting of the Board had been scheduled for January 26, 2009; however, because of a conflict the next meeting will be held on February 2, 2009

X. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, February 2, 2009

Draft MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on February 2, 2009 at 4:15 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, presiding, Ed Garcia, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ruth Sullivan, and Thomas Viall

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Bart Hollingsworth, and Joshua Teverow

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):

Howard Boksenbaum, Debbie Cullerton, Donna DiMichele, and Karen Mellor

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of December 15, 2008 meeting
3. OLIS Statistic Report
4. Talking Books Plus Brochure
5. PR Packet

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark McKenney welcomed Board Members and observers.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the December 15, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

Motion made by Joan Ress Reeves – Seconded by Rose Ellen Reynolds Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

An update on The Providence Public Library was reported by the Chair.

The Providence Public Library Board made a determination as to what the library needs to be a sustainable system going forward. PPLB voted to close 5 library branches. A community organization has established itself as the Providence Community Library and is making a pitch to unify the nine branches and make it a separate entity.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

OLIS BUDGET

The budget for FY2010 is not known yet. The Governor has asked for an extension and the deadline has been moved by the legislature to February 10th. What OLIS has heard from the Budget Office so far is that we will be looking at a target of level funding grant-in-aid to cities and towns again.

OLIS budget will likely have incurred a 12% decrease from 2007 by the time we reach 2010. OLIS still has 4 vacancies. Mr. Boksenbaum is still optimistic; when there is another round of positions allowed to be filled, we will probably be allowed 2 of them.

OLIS has been coping by everyone on staff doing multiple jobs. Mr. Boksenbaum acknowledged two staff people in attendance, Donna DiMichele and Karen Mellor who have been doing a marvelous job. Mr. Boksenbaum thanked Ms. DiMichele for being the Youth Services Librarian in addition to her other duties. Most of what the Youth Services Transition Committee and the Advisory Council want to have happen is happening, even though OLIS hasn't been able to fill the position of Youth Services Librarian as of yet.

LEGISLATION

The governor submitted his supplemental budget for FY2009 – H5019. Board members should keep up by monitoring the OLIS website, where staff is posting legislation of interest to libraries. Another bill of interest is H5148, relating to broadband.

ALA DENVER – JOAN RESS REEVES

Joan Ress Reeves gave a report on her trip to the ALA Conference in Denver. There is concern over new federal restrictions on lead that could require that librarians take lead containing books out of their libraries to keep them out of the hands of children. The Consumer Product Safety Commission Improvement Act requires all products (including books) intended for children to meet new standards. Librarians worry about cost and practicality of testing all books. Ed Garcia provided a handout of a recent article that appeared on CNN, which outlined those concerns.

BETTER TOGETHER COMMITTEE

The sub committee of the Karla Harry Commission determined that based on the focus groups and the general discussions pursuing merger or consolidation of libraries, wasn't going to be very fruitful at this juncture in time. Consequently, the Committee decided to disband and not to be a committee anymore. Some library directors that were part of that deliberation have continued to meet to see what kind of consolidation of services could incur.

WEBJUNCTION – KAREN MELLOR

WebJunction is back on track and making strides. Ms. Mellor has been making presentations to REIMA. It has been well received. More features have been brought over to WebJunction. The Continuing Education section is quite extensive and has numerous online courses available in many areas.

PROTECTING THE PAST – DONNA DIMICHELE

The members of the Steering Committee have submitted a draft of d-Plan ad emended for RI. The committee has been out promoting the d-Plan for RI and disaster planning in

general. There have been presentations at various organizations where it has been very well received. OLIS will be planning a series of Continuing Education sessions for LORI libraries and other stakeholders through the OLIS CE process.

Talking Books Plus Contract

OLIS has just opened the bids on a new contract for delivery for Talking Books Plus. We had one bidder from the vendor that we are now using, Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA. There were some additional services added to the new contract. It is a 5 year contract with approximately a 2.5% increase each year.

PROSPECTIVE NEW LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Resumes, applications and ethics forms for 6 prospective board members have been taken to the Governor's Office. They will be processed and forwarded to the Senate Committee for a vote. By June we should have a full board.

OLIS STATISTICS REPORT

An OLIS Activity Report was sent to the Board. Mr. Boksenbaum encouraged the Library Board to take a look at the report and send him any questions. It is his intention to address questions and have a presentation and discussion at a future meeting.

V. COMMITTEES

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Ed Garcia stated that he is still in the process of recruiting committee members. He is hoping to hold the first meeting later in February. Mr. Garcia referred to several articles that were handed out to the Board relating to how libraries are serving a vital role during these difficult economic times. Mr. Garcia would like to create a PR piece of stories that could go to the legislators letting them know how much the libraries are doing for job searching and resume building for job seekers.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in serving on the Legislation Committee is more than welcome to join. Chairwoman Rose Ellen Reynolds stated that the Legislation Committee would like to work with ALA in combining their legislative efforts. Also Ms. Reynolds would like the committee to reach out to the new legislation.

AD HOC LOGISTICS COMMITTEE

The first meeting was held. Chair, Tom Viall reported on the issues addressed. Howard Boksenbaum gave a background on the history of the delivery system. The committee discussed their overall goals

- Document the process of the structure of the system
- Discuss the overall value of the system
- Identifying issues with the system
- Variance in other states
- Best Practices
- Develop an action plan on long term recommendations

Next meeting will be held on February 13th.

VI. ORIENTATION CONTINUED – “RI LIBRARY NETWORKS, A CONSORTIUM OF CONSORTIA” and “LBRI REPORTING REQUIREMENTS”

In the interest of time the Chair suggested this item again be held over to the next meeting. Howard Boksenbaum stated that this could be moved off the agenda, as the Board has the handout of the presentation, and it also could be placed on the website for viewing.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Joan Ress Reeves mentioned the economic stimulus money coming to Rhode Island and the need to ask for a piece of the economic money for libraries. Discussion followed.

A motion was made for the Legislation Committee, working with the Public Relations Committee, and with other Rhode Island Library Organizations to explore the best means of advocating for Rhode Island Libraries to benefit from the federal stimulus package and in turn to use whatever funding to be obtained back to the people of Rhode Island.

The recommendation was moved, seconded and unanimously approved by the Library Board.

Motion made by Rose Ellen Reynolds– Seconded by Joan Ress Reeves Unanimously approved.

Rose Ellen Reynolds asked the Board for library stories that would help the cause. Discussion followed on digital recorders traveling around to public libraries so patrons could record their library story. Digital files could be used in several media formats. The Library Board instructed the Chief Library Officer to acquire and manage the distribution of digital recorders to public libraries.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting of the Board will be held on March 16, 2009. The February 23rd was canceled. Items to be placed on agenda at next meeting

- Memorial resolution in memory of Senator Claiborne Pell
- Resolution to send letter or set up appointment with the Governor regarding the economic stimulus money for libraries.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Monday, March 16, 2009

Draft MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on March 16, 2009 at 4:15 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, presiding, Peter Deekle, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Mary Ann Slocomb, and Ruth Sullivan

Members Absent: William Allen, Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Joshua Teverow, and Thomas Viall

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

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Alfred Arsenault, Johnston, R.I., New England Tech, Member of Friends Group from Johnston

Reporting: Debbie Cullerton

Materials Distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of February 2, 2009 meeting
3. Karla Harry Commission Final Report
4. Protecting the Past Brochure
5. Copy of Letter to Senator Bates from concerned Library Directors

In the absence of the Chair, Mark McKenney, Howard Boksenbaum convened the informational meeting at 4:20 p.m. Upon the arrival of the Chair, Mark McKenney the official meeting convened at 5:00 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Howard Boksenbaum welcomed Board Members and observers.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Motion made by Leslie McDonough

Seconded by Ed Garcia, Mary Ann Slocomb, and Bart Hollingsworth.

Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

The Chair attended the COLA meeting and brought greetings from the Board, Mr. McKenney sang the praises of Melody Allen for all she has done for the Rhode Island library.

Just after the Library Board Meeting in February, letters went out to Senators Reed and Whitehouse asking them to please remember us in their deliberations on the stimulus package.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Personnel

OLIS was able to post the vacancy for the position of Library Program Specialist I who will be the one to run our professional library. Interviews are in process and by the end of this week a selection will be made.

Olis also has completed the posting for a Library Program Specialist III, who will be the youth services consultant. Details and information can be found on the OLIS website under Job Line. Posting will be from 3.9.2009 through 3.30.2009 with a national search.

OLIS Budget and Grant-in-Aid

Grant-in-Aid has been level funded. That means our public libraries, institutional libraries and the statewide reference resource center will have again this year \$8,733,398 dollars to divide among the libraries and other institutions. Some of the individual municipalities will have more than they did last year, some will have less because it's based on the formula that involved the contribution of the municipality two years ago.

The construction reimbursement program is funded at the level of obligation, which is \$2,989,289 dollars. All budget information is available on the OLIS website.

Our state funding, as recommended by the Governor in the fy2010 budget, however, does not look quite as rosy. The state appropriation for OLIS is down to \$884,607 for next year. That has some ramifications. We are down 20% in our funding of the agency. Given our current level of funding, continuing of a number of projects that we have done in the past will not be possible.

Stimulus

Mr. Boksenbaum went through the report and only found two references to libraries.

1. broadband
2. services to elderly people who are blind

There are some areas that might show some promise in the Labor and Broadband Technology Opportunities Section. Looking for any way it relates to libraries, however libraries shouldn't expect very much from the stimulus funds.

Legislation

Mr. Boksenbaum reminded Board members to keep informed by monitoring the OLIS website for posting of legislation of interest to libraries. Current articles of interest are H5272 – refers to the Karla Harry Commission continuing to the year 2011 and adding 2 members

H5356 – updates the language in Title 29

S0699 – regarding Article 12 of the Constitution – changes the operations of the Board of Regents -

H5983 – governor’s budget for FY2010 – OLIS is severely underfunded in that budget proposal

Better Together - Karla Harry Commission

The final report of the subcommittee was presented at the March 11th Karla Harry Commission meeting by Howard Boksenbaum. The commission did not accept the final report yet because they wanted some time to look it over first. It was put forward to the following meeting. The main recommendations of the committee was that all the work that the committee did which included taking a look at the way consolidation occurs in other states, included taking input from 4 focus groups of library directors and some other deliberations including what was spoken at the last Library Board of RI meeting. Take all concerns and move forward with other recommendations to the Karla Harry Commission. Recommendation is that either a new committee be established by the commission or that the commission asks the Library Board of RI to appoint a committee.

Leslie McDonough spoke about the report of the Karla Harry Commission and stated that public library directors to not want this report to be accepted. What library directors would like is a new committee. Discussion followed. Ms. McDonough provided a copy of a letter to Senator Bates from concerned Library Directors.

The Chair, Mark McKenney wanted it reflected in the minutes that the Library Board of Rhode Island received the letter issued by the concerned Library Directors. At the next meeting, once the final report and outcome has been made, as a board can take a stand on it.

V. OLIS ACTIVITIES

Webjunction – Karen Mellor

The Children’s Sigs and the Young Adult Round Table have been launched and has been getting much use. WebJunction has asked RI to tell its success story in how we got all these people involved. The Children’s discussion group has always been very active. Webjunction sees it as a model for other states to follow.

Continuing Education is another section where OLIS is really making great use of. Wimba, which is an online classroom and virtual meeting space, is one that OLIS is very excited about. People seem to be very excited about the online classes.

AskRI is moving along very well. Several of our vendors are rolling out new products and giving access to us for no additional cost. Ebsco is adding an image search. Tutor.com is rolling out this summer the adult learning center. Focus will be on resumes, networking tips and job searching.

Protecting the Past – Donna DiMichele

Ms. DiMichele passed out a brochure on Protecting the Past. Unlike Webjunction, getting people to climb on board has been difficult. OLIS has planned a series of Continuing Education sessions for LORI libraries and other stakeholders through the OLIS CE process. There have been several sessions scheduled, and responses have not been what was hoped for. On May 1st OLIS will be launching the D-Plan. Karen Mellor and Chaichin Chen from the Office of Library & Information Services will work with us to do an online presentation explaining why there is a need for disaster plans.

OLIS Statistics Report

The Statistics Report has been sent electronically to Library Board Members.

VI. COMMITTEES

Public Relations Committee – Ed Garcia

The February meeting had to be canceled due to illness. Ed Garcia stated that he has been working on a survey to send to Library Directors relating to how libraries are serving a vital role during these difficult economic times.. He will have more to report at the next LBRI meeting.

Legislation Committee – Rose Ellen Reynolds

No Report - Chairwoman Rose Ellen Reynolds was unable to attend LBRI meeting.

Ad Hoc Logistics Committee – Tom Viall

No Report – Tom Viall was unable to attend LBRI meeting.

VII. DISCUSSION OF UNOFFICIAL FINAL REPORT OF THE KARLA HARRY COMMISSION

Discussion was already taken up during the Chief Library Officer's Report.

VIII. ORIENTATION – HOW RI LIBRARIES CONNECT TO THE INTERNET AND EACH OTHER

In the interest of time the Chair suggested this item be held over to the next meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna DiMichele called everyone's attention to Rhode Island Center for the Book for the upcoming May breakfast for the Reading Across Rhode Island Book. Meet Ron Carlson, the author of Five Skies. This book is the 2009 selection of Reading Across RI.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting of the Board will be held on April 20, 2009.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
Monday, May 18, 2009
MINUTES

Members Present: Edward Garcia, Mary Ann Slocomb, Phyllis Humphrey, Ruth Sullivan, Bart Hollingsworth, and Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds.

Members Absent: Regina Connor, Mary Cummings, Peter Deekle, Shirley Long, Leslie McDonough, Mark McKenney, Joshua Teverow, Thomas Viall

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services: Howard Boksenbaum, Karen Mellor, and Donna DiMichele.

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library and Al Arsenault, New England Technical Institute.

Reporting: Donna Longo DiMichele

Materials Distributed:

Agenda

Minutes of the March 16, 2009 meeting.

Meeting convened at 4:23 P.M. by Vice-Chair Rose Ellen Reynolds.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Incoming Board Member Allison Pierce, was introduced and welcomed by Howard Boksenbaum.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the March 16, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Motion made by Bart Hollingsworth.

Seconded by Mary Ann Slocomb.

Unanimously approved.

III. VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - ROSE ELLEN REYNOLDS.

The National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) meetings went extremely well. The Rhode Island contingent had representatives from the Association of Rhode Island Health Science Libraries in the person of Mary Ann Slocomb; from the Rhode Island Library Association in the person of Chris LaRoux; Coalition of Library Advocates in the person of Rose Ellen Reynolds. LBRI was represented by Joan Ress Reeves and Mark McKenney and OLIS by Chief Information Officer Howard Boksenbaum. Phyllis Humphrey sent a letter on behalf of RIEMA that Rose Ellen was able to present to legislators.

NLLD is an especially wonderful experience for Rhode Islanders because our congressmen and Senators are very welcoming and fully support libraries. Being from Jack Reed's state is a source of pride since Senator Reed and his chief aide Elyse Wasch have such standing in their support of LSTA. Library supporters from other state's admire the affinity RI delegates have with their Congressmen and Senators.

The RI delegation presented Funding for LSTA, SKILLS, Improving Literacy through School Libraries, Medical / consumer health information and the National Library of Medicine to our representatives as items of particular interest to Rhode Islanders and their libraries. The Library Services and Technology Act is up for renewal, so RI representatives were asked to support both acts.

In 2010, there will be no May NLLD. Since the American Library Association (ALA) meets in Washington, D.C. in June of 2010, a day of the conference will be designated as NLLD. The ALA will help customize legislative materials for each state that can then be used during legislative visits folded into the ALA conference time frame.

NLLD dealt with federal legislative matters. The OLIS website is a source for state legislative updates. The major piece of library legislation this year is H5356, which update the language of the Library Chapter of the General Laws, Title 29, to bring it up to date. For example, it would change to make the Chief Library Officer the head of OLIS rather than the CIO, and reference the IMLS rather than USDOE as OLIS' source of federal funding.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

OLIS's LSTA and State Library Agency reports have been formally approved and accepted by IMLS.

LSTA in 2009 has for the first time been fully funded at the level at the level initially intended in 2003. At that level, the base rate will be able to rise to its maximum resulting in a larger increase for small states like RI than had there been only enough increase to raise the population-based funding. The president's recommendation for 2010 includes a small raise. Senator Reed is leading an effort to double that proposed increase.

OLIS has received permission to fill two of its many vacant positions, and is consequently in the process of interviewing for a Library Program Specialist III to be the new Youth Services Librarian. Sharon Brettschnieder, Head of Library Development in the Connecticut State Library is helping with the interviews.

Previously, OLIS hired Alicia Waters was as Library Program Specialist I with primary responsibilities in LORI and the OLIS library. Alicia, a long-term paraprofessional employee at OLIS earned an MLS degree from URI GSLIS one year ago.

The second position OLIS may now fill is the one Alicia vacated, Information Services Technician. OLIS has received 117 applications.

Budget: Nothing will be certain in the state budget arena until the General Assembly votes a budget and the governor signs it. There has been no further discussion of change in the prospects for the FY2009 or FY2010 state library budgets; things are tight. OLIS' FY2010 budget is slated to decrease approx. 12% from FY2008. Grant-in-aid are slated to be level funded and the construction reimbursement program is slated to be funded at the requested level.

V. OLIS ACTIVITIES

WebJunction: Karen Mellor reported that RI has 400 WebJunction members. For the first six months of WebJunction membership, the product performed below expectations. Karen negotiated a six month extension on OLIS's current contract for no additional cost to OLIS. OLIS is successfully using the WebJunction electronic class room, WIMBA, for training and producing effective webinars with it.

AskRI: OSL voted to continue its subscription to EBSCO. Consequently, Karen reported, the AskRI EBSCO contract will be able to continue. In the upcoming year there will be a somewhat different suite of databases to use, the new selection is based on past usage of the current databases. An ad hoc advisory group of librarians has been formed to help select the resources.

Protecting the Past: Donna DiMichele reported that the dPlan training is going very well, and attendees leave the class highly pleased with the product. The first day of training was set for May 1, since MAYDAY is designated as national preservation day. OLIS also entered a contest for its MAYDAY activity. A press release about dPlan RI and the training was sent out to promote OLIS's work in this area.

VI. COMMITTEES

Public Relations: Ed Garcia described a survey the committee produced on library usage for job help. Survey asks for specific examples. Results of the survey are not summarized at this time. **Motion:** The chair of the Public Relations Committee shall issue a press release to publicize the results of the survey in as many places as possible after approval by the chair of LBRI. Bart Hollingsworth. Motion seconded by Mary Ann Slocomb. The motion was passed by acclamation.

Legislative Committee: David Macksam and Rose Ellen Reynolds have an appointment with Lieutenant Governor Roberts on Monday, May 25. They plan to ask her to write a blog post about libraries.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mary Ann Slocomb noted that the regulations regarding hospital libraries have been returned to their original state with the addition of “and computerized resources.” ARIHSL is satisfied with this form of the regulations.

LSTA as put forward for reauthorization includes chapters supporting the “21st Century Librarian” program and a proposal to make libraries “first responders” in emergencies.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Consider legislation for greater flexibility for the OLIS contract on the SRRC. Item was postponed since it is the Chair’s agenda item.

Ruth Sullivan addressed the fact that she has been Jack Warner’s designee to the Board. However, since Mr. Warner is no longer the Commissioner of Higher Education, her role needs to be reviewed.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

X. FUTURE MEETING

June 15, 2009.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2009

Wm. F. Powers Building - Conference Room B
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02903

Draft MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, presiding, Kristin Chin, Ken Findlay, Ed Garcia, Shirley Long, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ruth Sullivan, Carol Terry and Thomas Viall.

Members Absent: Regina Connor, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Peirce and Joan Retsinas.

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):

Howard Boksenbaum, Neshmayda Calderone and Alicia Waters.

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, Cheryl Space, soon-to-be-OLIS

Reporting: Alicia Waters/Howard Boksenbaum

Materials Distributed:

Agenda

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM by Chair, Mark McKenney.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark McKenney welcomed Board Members and observers and asked each one to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the May 18, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Motion made by Tom Viall

Seconded by Edward Garcia

Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

The chair welcomed new members of the Board, Kristin Chin, Ken Findlay, Alison Peirce, Joan Retsinas and Carol Terry.

The chair reminded the Board that the annual report would be due in September and, with the consent of the Board, instructed Howard Boksenbaum to prepare a draft for the next Board meeting.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Personnel

Howard introduced two new members of the OLIS staff. Neshmayda Calderon joined the staff of Talking Books Plus as an Information Services Technician and is taking calls from clients and has translated TBP brochures and website materials into Spanish.

Cheryl Space comes to OLIS from Providence Public Library where she was in charge of services to children. Beginning July 7, she will be OLIS Library Program Specialist III with responsibility for Youth Services.

He also introduced Alicia Waters, long-term OLIS Information Services Technician, who recently earned an MLS at URI and has been promoted to Library Program Specialist with primary responsibilities in the OLIS library.

Debbie Cullerton is still recovering from her surgery. Her new date for returning to work is July 20.

OLIS Website

Howard reported that work is being done on the OLIS website to incorporate new social technologies. www.olis.ri.gov

OLIS Budget and Grant-in-Aid

Howard Boksenbaum reported that there wasn't much to discuss about the state budget yet, as the legislature is still deliberating. Howard expects OLIS' budget to be reduced again, but the Grants-in-Aid to Municipalities (G-i-A) to be level funded and the construction grants to be funded at the requisite level.

At the municipal level, he is expecting a number of requests for waivers from the maintenance of effort requirement for G-I-A. He expects the legislature to pass the governor's recommendation that a municipality's 2010 appropriation has to be no less than 80% of the 2008 expenditures in order to be eligible for a 2010 G-I-A award. Howard reported that libraries that are cut may meet the eligibility criteria but still find it hard to meet standards.

Stimulus

Howard has convened a meeting of Ocean State Libraries (OSL - Joan Gillespie), CCRI (Ruth Sullivan and CIO Steve Viera) and Ocean State Higher Education and Administrative Network (OSHEAN – George Loftus) to begin work on a proposal for funding library connectivity and community computing centers as a part of a larger OSHEAN proposal for fiber statewide under the stimulus funds program ARRA.

V. OLIS ACTIVITIES

Mary Ann Slocomb discussed an initiative wherein OLIS is taking on the leadership of a new project designed to interconnect the National Library of Medicine's authoritative Medline Plus database with local information of the sort maintained by RI 2-1-1. This is the second RI attempt to create this "GoLocal" for RI. Many other states already have implemented this service. Some funding is available through the Eastern Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) to get started and to do outreach. OLIS convened a meeting of representatives of the RI Department of Health RI Public Health Institute, RI 2-1-1, United Way, Association of RI Health Sciences Libraries (ARIHSL), East Providence Public Library, East Providence Senior Center and NN/LM early in June to begin the project.

D-Plan - Howard reported on behalf of Donna DiMichele. D-Plan has received a very positive reception. There has been an enthusiastic response to the program sponsored by the NEDCC and OLIS. Sessions info will be compiled.

Summer Reading Program - Howard reported that the Summer Reading program is well underway and that it takes a collaborative effort to make the program successful and praised the collaborative efforts of RI Libraries and Donna's coordination.

VI. COMMITTEES

Public Relations Committee – Ed Garcia

Ed Garcia reported that his committee conducted a survey of Library Directors relating to how libraries are serving jobseekers during these difficult economic times. Ed distributed to the Board the press release the committee sent out under Mark McKenney's name. He hopes to see some press coverage soon. 70% of the libraries have done job searches and had given employment assistance to patrons.

Legislation Committee – Rose Ellen Reynolds

Rose Ellen reported on the progress of H5356, the Housekeeping bill to change the language on libraries to make it more consistent and H5272, the bill to continue the Karla Harry Commission. Howard Boksenbaum had testified for H5356 before the House Finance Committee. Both Bills passed in the House and have gone to committees in the senate.

Rose Ellen also reported on her visit to Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts with Howard Boksenbaum and David Macksam to talk about how important it is to include libraries in the coming campaign.

Ad Hoc Logistics Committee – Tom Viall

The Ad-Hoc Committee is planning to have a report to the LBRI Committee by October 09. The "time spent survey" will be incorporated into the OLIS delivery survey to help with projections of growth over time for the delivery system. It will also help in finding out where gaps in service are. Tom reviewed the reasons for the committee and its

charge. He spoke of the current economic situation and how budgets will adjust to handle services that grow over time. The Ad-Hoc Committee is looking at the TCO (Total Cost of Operation) and examining best practices in other states.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS:

Will be posted on the OLIS website. Next meeting of the Board will be held on September 21, 2009, subject to confirmation.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.