

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
September 13, 2004
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, William Allen, Alice Barrows, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Peter Deekle, Leslie McDonough, Phyllis Harnick, Cristina Amedeo, Deborah Barchi, Mary Cummings

Members Absent: Joan Ankner, Jay Litman, Tovah Reis, Joshua Teverow, Donald Deignan, Donna Good

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

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Regina Connor, Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library

Reporting: Laurie Scialabba

Materials Distributed:

1. Construction Updates (9/13/04)
2. “TechSoup.org—The Technology Place for Nonprofits” Software Donation
3. Library Commission Members (as appointed by the LibFutures Committee)
4. RI State Government Information Website
5. 2004 RI LIBRARY LEGISLATION FINAL REPORT (September 10, 2004)
6. VA Medical Center Library Receives NCLIS Award
7. Committee on Public Relations Report for 9/20/2004 meeting
8. Statewide Reference Resource Center
 - Questions and Answers
 - Annual Use
 - Contract FY2004: Including Budget and Program of Service (2003-2004)

The meeting convened at 4:20 p.m.

Regina Connor nominated to replace Donald Deignan as representative of Users of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Joan Ress Reeves, nominated to replace Jay Litman as representative of General Library Users, were introduced. Ms. Parent stated that Senate approval is needed for confirmation. Outgoing Library Board members vote on Library Board issues until the Senate confirms the newly nominated members. Ms. Connor and Ms. Reeves have previously served on Library Board and were warmly welcomed.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the May 17, 2004 meeting were approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chair McKenney thanked the Cumberland Public Library for hosting the Library Board meeting in May, and for the tour of the library. Chair McKenney acknowledges and appreciates the time and efforts of Library Board members. Chair McKenney also noted

that he had spoken at the award ceremony at the VA Medical Center Library, but that Ms. Parent would report on that award more fully.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Parent reported that the House of Representatives passed the appropriations bill for FY 2005, recommending funding for LSTA at: \$219.9 million, which is an increase of \$21.7 million higher than recommended by committee. The appropriations bill will now go to the Senate for consideration. ALA Washington Office has issued an alert and recommends that library supporters contact their Senators to support LSTA at the legally authorized level of \$232 million. More information and talking points can be found at ALA's Washington Office website:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/washfunding/funding.htm>

Ms. Perry reported that the Gates Foundation Training Grant designated for training of librarians and the Spanish-speaking population is underway. Workshops for library staff of all public libraries regarding Library Service to Diverse Populations will be held this fall. A bilingual trainer has started teaching trial courses to Spanish-speakers in basic computer and Internet use at the Rochambeau and South Providence branches of the Providence Public Library and the Central Falls Public Library. Outreach was done through flyers and an interview via the Spanish radio station Poder. Ms. Perry added that OLIS Library Services has applied for a \$79,000 three-year grant to the Gates Foundation. This funding would be used to replace older machines, technical support and training for support staff and the public. Notification is anticipated by the end of September.

In light of Providence Public Library's crisis situation and in light of questions she has received in re: OLIS' position on the issues, Ms. Parent stated that the functions of the Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC) as well as the ability of Providence Public Library to meet minimum public library standards are concerns of OLIS. She made reference to the SRRC Questions & Answers prepared by OLIS, which can be found at www.ori.ri.gov. The above-mentioned documents pertaining to the SRRC were distributed. The FY 2005 contract for SRRC services is currently under negotiation. Some elements, such as evening hours, are being discussed in light of the recent cutbacks.

Ms. Parent reported that the Library Futures (LibFutures) Steering Committee has made its appointments to the Legislative Commission to Study the Future of Libraries in Rhode Island. The list of appointments was distributed. The Steering Committee also recommended five names to the Governor for consideration in his selection of two appointments to the Commission. Chair McKenney and Mr. Allen are on the list of candidates for the Governor's appointments. Information on appointments to date can be found at http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/library_futures/legislative.html

The committee to select a consultant for the study has been meeting. It is hoped that the study will be conducted in calendar year 2005, and will yield recommendations for legislation benefiting all types of libraries that could be introduced in the 2006 session of the General Assembly.

Today Senator Elizabeth Roberts who sponsored the Legislative Commission legislation, met with Kathryn Hopkins and Dale Thompson of the Providence Public Library, David Macksam of the Cranston Public Library, and Ms. Parent to discuss legislative appointments to the Commission. Three senators will be appointed, presumably as recommended by Sen. Roberts, and three representatives, presumably as recommended by Rep. Betsy Dennigan. It is hoped that Senator Roberts and Representative Dennigan will be elected co-chairs of this commission at its first official meeting.

Ms. DiMichele reported that the Providence VA Medical Center Library won an award from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) for its services in the area of consumer health. A ceremony was held on August 30, and OLIS presented a special plaque from NCLIS to the Providence VA Medical Center Library. Senator Reed, Representative Langevin and Representative Kennedy sent congratulations. Governor Carcieri sent a letter and citation. Chair McKenney was also in attendance and offered congratulations. The page about the ceremony from the LORI website was distributed.

Construction Updates (9/13/04) was distributed. Ms. Mellor reported that the newly renovated and expanded East Greenwich Free Library opened in July. A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house is scheduled on Saturday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m.. The Governor, a resident of East Greenwich, is expected to attend.

The new Exeter Public Library will open on Saturday, September 25, with a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m.. Exeter is the last of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns to open a full-service library that meets state standards.

The East Providence Public Library will break ground on the new Riverside Branch Library September 21 at 4:00 pm. The new building will be located on Bullock's Point Avenue, and is expected to be completed in May 2005. The cost of the project is \$1,700,000 with state reimbursement of \$792,000. Riverside is currently served by a library less than half the size located in the old Riverside Junior High School. OLIS has signed a construction agreement with the Barrington Public Library in July to reorganize the main floor of the library, which will create a new young adult area and create a more efficient layout for the library. The project, which is expected to be completed in April 2005, will cost \$1.3 million with state reimbursement of \$640,000. The Town of Burrillville has hired Newport Collaborative to design a new library building. A bond referendum for the project will be on the November ballot. Smithfield will also have a bond referendum for a new library building on the November ballot. The Greenville Library has engaged Newport Collaborative to design that building. Both buildings will increase the existing size of library facilities in their respective towns.

Thousands of music compact discs made available to libraries through the Attorney General's office in the national antitrust settlement have been distributed. OLIS is sponsoring two swap sessions for libraries to exchange inappropriate or duplicate copies.

Libraries are not permitted to sell the CDs unless the profits are used to buy other music CDs. Ms. Amedeo will be happy to receive any donations to Crossroads Rhode Island.

Shirley Long, former assistant director of the Providence Public Library has been appointed library director in South Kingstown, replacing Connie Lachowicz, who retired after many years of service.

The fall schedule for Continuing Education programs has been posted at www.ori.ri.gov.

Ms. Parent reported that the legislature approved a bill that grants libraries with endowments the opportunity to receive state aid based on the portion of endowment fund income that is used for library operations. Providence Public Library was granted the same aid in the preceding year by the legislature. OLIS staff has worked to respond to difficulties encountered by libraries in applying for the aid. Ms. Mellor has designed the forms required to document the aid, and has fielded the many questions inherent in the process. In subsequent years, OLIS staff member Ann Piascik will handle endowment aid applications as these will become part of Annual Reports submitted by libraries. Ms. Reeves opined that this was a controversial issue and asked if anyone would track the effect it would have on other libraries (that have no endowments.) Ms. Parent responded that this issue would be discussed at the October 14, 2004, Public Library Director's meeting during the Annual Report agenda item.

Ms. Parent will be on vacation for three weeks, September 20 through October 8. Donna DiMichele and Beth Perry will respond to questions and have administrative authority in her absence.

Ms. Perry reported that the Government Information Website, <http://www.info.ri.gov> maintained by OLIS staff, has undergone significant changes, is now available as a database-driven resource, and includes Spanish resources.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Planning and Budget – None

Committee on Legislation

2004 RI LIBRARY LEGISLATION FINAL REPORT (September 10, 2004) was distributed and reviewed by Ms. Reynolds.

Committee on Public Relations – A written report submitted by Ms. Reis, who was unable to attend the meeting today, was distributed.

Ms. Barrows updated the Board on current activities of the IRMB. DoIT is the new name for Information Technology within the Department of Administration. A draft internet policy can be viewed at <http://www.it.ri.gov>, enter “policy” at the user prompt, and “fiscal” is the password (or go directly to the policies page at draft policies on the DoIT site at <http://www.doit.ri.gov/documents/index.php>

Highlights include an e-payment solution for teacher certification; relocation of the Johnston facility; upcoming RFP for a comprehensive telecommunications study; and renegotiation of the Verizon contract resulting in a 10% savings.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Crossroads Rhode Island (formerly Travelers Aid of Rhode Island) has relocated to 160 Broad Street in Providence and now houses a small library for its clientele. Volunteer librarians are needed. Donations of children's books, popular books and CD's are welcome. Contact Library Board member Cristina Amedeo, 521-2255 ext 331, camedeo@crossroadsri.org An announcement will be posted on the LORI website.

Mr. Deekle announced that the Ministry of Education in Afghanistan has appealed for library support to rebuild library collections decimated by the Taliban.

Ms. Good, who is recuperating from surgery, sends her regrets in not attending the Board meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Library Board meetings scheduled in the fall are as follows: October 25, meeting place to be announced; November 15 (DOA) and December 20, 2004 (DOA.) Ms. Parent will compile and send out a listing of 2005 meeting dates to be scheduled on the third Monday of month except when other meetings interfere.

Ms. Amedeo offered to host a future meeting at Crossroads Rhode Island. Chair McKenney thanked her for the offer, and added that only 1-2 meetings would likely be scheduled at remote locations due to the need to transport staff and materials to these locations.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

draft
LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
October 25, 2004
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Peter Deekle, Tovah Reis, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi

Members Absent: Joan Ankner, Jay Litman, Joshua Teverow, Donald Deignan, William Allen, Alice Barrows, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Leslie McDonough, Phyllis Harnick, Cristina Amedeo, Mary Cummings

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

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library

Reporting: Laurie Scialabba

Materials Distributed:

1. WebJunction pamphlets
2. Facts about Rhode Island Libraries

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

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September 13, 2004 meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney thanked Library Board member, Donna Good, for hosting and providing refreshments for the meeting at Narragansett High School Library. All agreed the facility was attractive and welcoming.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Parent stated that Congress passed a Continuing Resolution on September 29, which included continued LSTA funding for libraries at current FY2004 levels until November 20, 2004.

The American Library Association (ALA) continues to urge its members to contact their Senators in support of the funding levels approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee for LSTA and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program. ALA is also urging increased funding for the Title V education program, the Government Printing Office, the National Agriculture Library, and other library-related programs.

Ms. Parent reported on the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) meeting. There has been a proposal in Congress to deduct \$3 million from the museum side of LSTA in favor of library programs. As the smaller of the two programs, museums would

be ill-served by the deduction. COSLA decided to write a letter of support for the Senate level of increased funding for libraries and support for restoration of the funding level for museums. COSLA is also concerned that the National Library Service is not moving quickly enough to support digital talking books. Content may be available only in digital format during the transition to the new program scheduled to begin in 2008, which could exclude those who have not yet received a digital player. The timetable for full implementation of the Digital Talking Book program is 2008-2012. A presentation by Doug Robinson, Executive Director of NASCIO, centered on how state librarians can get involved with activities of the CIO. A presentation by the National Endowment for the Arts reported on the decline of literary reading in the U.S. State librarians countered that nonfiction reading should be counted and argued that failure to read literary or fiction materials does not mean that literacy is in decline. A Gates Foundation representative cited Rhode Island's plan to train staff on working with Spanish speaking patrons, as an exemplary program. Ms. Perry stated that over 100 individuals have been trained. Rhode Island intends to expand the program, and has applied for another "Staying Connected" grant. A video on WebJunction, an online community where library staff meet to share ideas, solve problems and take online courses, was shown. WebJunction, funded by the Gates Foundation for three years and hosted by OCLC, is now free of charge but may not be so in the future.

Groundbreaking for the new Riverside Branch of the East Providence Public Library took place on Sept. 21. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in June 2005. Library construction referenda are on the ballot in Burrillville and Smithfield. Both communities seek voter approval for municipal bonds for the construction of new library buildings. Both libraries have also submitted construction reimbursement applications to the state. Burrillville plans a 24,000 square foot building at a cost of \$5 million; Greenville Public Library is planning a 37,000 square foot building at a cost of \$11.2 million.

Ms Parent commended OLIS staff members Ann Piascik and Karen Mellor for their hard work with data gathering from the annual reports of the public libraries, and commented that they had received high praise at a recent Public Library Directors meeting. Complicating the situation this year was the need for all libraries that qualify for endowment-based grants to supply documentation on their endowments' values and the amounts used for operating costs. Ms. Mellor deserves special recognition for designing the necessary forms, as well as for performing the actual spreadsheet calculations to determine FY2006 grant requests. OLIS submitted its budget requests for grant-in-aid and construction reimbursement late last Friday. FY 2006 will be the second year of the phase out of "hold harmless," and by FY 2007 "hold harmless" will be phased out completely. In FY2006, only five libraries will be "held harmless." This is an indication that municipalities are increasing local aid, even in smaller communities.

With the creation of the new Division of Information Technology (DoIT) headed by CIO Tom Collins, some have asked where this leaves OLIS. OLIS will continue to be the name by which the Library Services unit has been known to the library community all along. Statewide Planning and the Office of Municipal Affairs are no longer under the

umbrella of OLIS, but report to The Director of Administration and the State Budget Office respectively. Ms. Perry will work with others on making recommendations for library laws that need to be changed accordingly, which will become part of the Department of Administration's legislative agenda.

Ms. DiMichele reported that new members of the LORI Committee include two at-large members -Shirley Long, Director of South Kingstown Public Library and Susan McMullen, Roger Williams University; as well as Elaine Shanley, representing RILINK. The HELIN representative remains vacant. Letters for the second round of certification for the LORI Network Standards will be mailed on November 1. The RI Center for the Book in conjunction with the R.I. Council for the Humanities and the R.I. State Council for the Arts will sponsor Between Now & Then – a Collaboration of Writers/Artists/Designers on October 26. In collaboration with the URI Special Collections Library and the Redwood Library in Newport, the program The Art of the Book/The Three 'R's for the 21st Century – Reading, Rights, and Raising our Voices will be held on October 12 at URI and on October 17 at Redwood Library.

A meeting of the Steering Committee of LibFutures is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon at the Cranston Public Library. The committee to select a consultant for the study will meet following the LibFutures meeting. Efforts to secure additional funding for the consultant have reached a stalemate; no new funding has been forthcoming

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Planning and Budget – None

Committee on Legislation - None

Committee on Public Relations – A draft Facts about Rhode Island Libraries was distributed. Library Board members were encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions to Ms. Reis. Ms. Reis will forward an electronic copy to Ms. Scialabba for distribution to Library Board members.

Ms. Reis stated that future projects include public relations for OLIS, and perhaps a bus tour of Rhode Island libraries with the media. Ms. Reis will develop a budget proposal for upcoming public relations ventures.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chair McKenney reported that in order for the agenda to include action items for consideration, these should be submitted at least two weeks prior to Board meetings. It was suggested that there be a central file of policy decisions that have been approved by the Library Board. Ms. Parent would like to consider electronic approval of the draft minutes in future Bylaws revisions, given that they must be filed with the Secretary of State within 35 days of the meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Library Board meeting is scheduled on November 15 at the Department of Administration. This meeting, and/or the Library Board meeting scheduled on December 20, 2004 may be canceled if there are no pressing issues.

The meeting schedule for the 2005 calendar year was established.

January 24

February 28

March 21

April 25

May 23

June 20

Sept 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
January 31, 2005
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Peter Deekle, Tovah Reis, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Jay Litman, Alice Barrows, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Cristina Amedeo, Mary Cummings

Members Absent: Joan Ankner, Joshua Teverow, Donald Deignan, William Allen, Phyllis Harnick, Leslie McDonough

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

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Regina Connor, Kim Worthington, URI-GSLIS student
Reporting: Laurie Scialabba

Materials Distributed:

1. Proposed State Library Aid, FY 2006
2. Facts about Rhode Island Libraries (rev. 1/18/05)

The meeting was convened at 4:18 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 25, 2004 meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney welcomed Kim Worthington, URI-GSLIS student, working with Donna Good. An article in today's Providence Journal noted that the Governor has appointed Regina Connor to serve on the Library Board. The Governor has also reappointed Alice Barrows, Peter Deekle, Tovah Reis and Mark McKenney to the Library Board. Joan Ress Reeves' name has also been submitted to the Governor's Office for appointment. Chair McKenney also attended the HELIN Conference.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

The federal LSTA grant for FY 2005 for Rhode Island is \$1,020,285. This is a 6% increase (in actual dollars, \$58,146) over the previous year. It was noted that the increase on the Federal side is more than offset by the decline on the State side of support for the agency in recent years. In response to Ms. Connor's inquiry about the percentage of state match and the maintenance of effort required by the IMLS, the Federal funding agency, Ms. Parent will provide the information to Ms. Connor.

State library aid was fully funded at \$8.4 million dollars in the Governor's budget. Library Construction Aid increased \$110,158 over the FY 2005 revised funding level to fully fund projected FY 2006 payments for current commitments. The Proposed State Library Aid, FY 2006 was distributed and the Board will vote on it at its next meeting.

The State Budget Executive Summary includes a statement that Library and Information Services is considered a new program as a result of the reorganization of the former Office of Library and Information Services. The title of the resulting library program is under consideration. Ms. Parent's position has been proposed to move to the classified service, however, the Master's Degree in Library Science will no longer be an educational requirement.

ALA is urging the library community to support H.R. 405, a tax cut for educators, including school librarians. However, COSLA is debating the issue, and whether ALA should support a tax cut. Ms. Parent recommends that the Library Board hold off on expressing support for the legislation. Mr. Litman requested that the bill be sent via email to him. Ms. Parent will email the ALA release about the bill to all LBRI members.

Relocation of office space for library staff is under negotiation. Ms. Perry and Ms. Parent have developed recommendations in response to a request for same from DOA administration; and they are scheduled to meet with DOA representatives on Wednesday. Ms. Parent will inform the Board of relocation discussions after Wednesday.

The LibFutures Steering Committee met in January to discuss implementation of the three most important public service goals identified at the Town Meeting. The three goals are: one catalog for all libraries, statewide databases and lifelong learning. The Steering Committee will meet on Wednesday and one item for discussion is to have a small group meet with a facilitator to discuss the statewide roles for Providence Public Library and the state library agency, the role of the Library Board and the status of school libraries. The projected date of this meeting is February 11, and Ms. Parent will represent OLIS and Chair McKenney will represent the Library Board.

H5170 was introduced and would provide that all libraries that receive state aid shall be subject to the open meetings law. This act would take effect on July 1, 2006.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Planning and Budget – None

Committee on Legislation - None

Committee on Public Relations – Facts about Rhode Island Libraries (rev. 1/18/05) was distributed. Board members were invited to send comments to Tovah Reis. The committee will meet again to finalize the wording. It will be distributed in print and placed on the LORI website. Ms. Reis will send meeting notification for the next committee meeting to Ms. Scialabba for the Office of the Secretary of State. Mr. Litman and Ms. Mellor are invited to the next meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Reporting on her attendance at a recent IRMB meeting, Ms. Barrows reported that “Ask A Librarian” service, featured on ri.gov, had 724 hits for the month of December. Ms. Mellor noted that Providence Public Library answered approximately 250 questions for

“Ask A Librarian.” The discrepancy in number is thought to be that most hits represent people stumbling across and/or glancing at the site. Ms. Reeves asked if there is fair compensation to Providence Public Library as the Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC) for this service. Chair McKenney asked if the service was cost-effective. Ms. Parent noted that the service is included as part of the negotiated services provided under the SRRC contract. She added that while traditional reference service statistics are declining, electronic reference statistics are increasing, although the service is still too new for final conclusions to be drawn on its cost-effectiveness. Mr. Deekle added that the academic libraries also provide a virtual reference service. Ms. Reeves suggested combining the two reference services. Ms. Reis noted that the academic libraries sign licenses and cannot give access to the service to the general public. Mr. Litman suggested exploration of connecting to the service on the Cox homepage.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Proposed State Library Aid, FY 2006 was distributed and discussed. Ms. Parent noted that these amounts are also reflected in the Governor’s proposed budget. The Library Board will take action on the proposal at the next Library Board meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Reynolds reported that the COLA meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at 5:00 p.m., at the State House. Senator Elizabeth Roberts will receive the Sweetheart of the Year Award.

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2005 at the Department of Administration.

Future meetings of the Board are scheduled as follows:

February 28

March 21

April 25

May 23

June 20

Sept 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

February 28, 2005

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Tovah Reis, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Rose Ellen Reynolds, William Allen, Phyllis Harnick, Leslie McDonough

Members Absent: Peter Deekle, Joan Ankner, Joshua Teverow, Donald Deignan, Cristina Amedeo, Jay Litman, Alice Barrows, Mary Cummings,

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

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library

Reporting: Laurie Scialabba

Materials Distributed:

1. Proposed State Library Aid, FY 2006
2. Facts about Rhode Island Libraries
3. The letter dated February 9, 2005 to Mark McKenney, Chair of Library Board of Rhode Island, from Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, requesting that the Library Board of Rhode Island conduct the biennial review of the public library construction caps.
4. The letter dated February 25, 2005 to Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, from Mark McKenney, in response to her letter dated February 9.
5. 2005 Legislative news and Updates
6. Legislation Package containing S-0759, An Act Relating to the Office of library and Information Services; H-5170, An Act Relating to Libraries – State Aid to Libraries; S-0242, An Act Relating to Libraries – State Aid to Libraries;
7. Website of the General Assembly

The meeting was convened at 4:21 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the January 31, 2005 meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that the Governor has appointed Library Board member William Allen to the Legislative Committee to Study Library Services. The Governor has also appointed Bill Simons, Professor of Anthropology at Brown University to serve on that committee.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

The American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day will be held on Wednesday, May 4, with the Training Day on May 3, in Washington, D.C. Ms. Reynolds is unable to attend this year. Ms. Reeves will represent the Library Board. Congress is not in session on Wednesday, and the Senate is on recess for that week. Congressional legislative staff will be available for meetings. Elyse Wasch, aide to Senator Jack Reed was named as "the best 35 staffers under the age of 35", by The Hill newspaper. Congratulations can be sent to her at <http://reed.senate.gov>, or directly at elyse_wasch@reed.senate.gov. Ms. Reeves suggested that the Library Board sent a congratulatory letter to Ms. Wasch.

Legislation has been introduced that would provide that the office of library and information services within the department of administration would be under the direction of a chief of library services. At this morning's RILA Legislative Action Committee meeting a vote was taken to recommend to the full RILA Board to support S-0759/H-5923 and that hearings would be sought. **It was the consensus of the Board to support this legislation.**

An open meeting, sponsored by RILA, on H-5170/S-0242, will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at the William Hall Library. H5170/S-0242 would provide that all libraries that receive state aid shall be subject to the open meetings law, and this act would take effect on July 1, 2006. This legislation would affect libraries whose boards are private corporations as well as non-municipal libraries. It was suggested that an advisory opinion be sought from the Office of the Attorney General.

Legal counsel at the Department of Administration is seeking an interpretation on behalf of a number of agencies as to whether subcommittees of Boards are subject to the Open Meetings law. Past practices are to be continued until further notice. All items for Board consideration are to be put on the agenda at least 48 hours in advance of the meetings.

Relocation of office space for library staff is on hold. Ms. Perry and Ms. Parent have developed recommendations for the relocation of the OLIS library, as well as a variety of staff functions on the ground floor. DOA is investigating possibilities for relocation. The most recent recommendation under consideration is to move the library to a conference room on the fourth floor; however, load-bearing requirements may be an issue. When asked if the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies would like the professional collection, Ms. Parent responded that Mr Christopher Wessells, Interim Library Dean at URI, stated that there is no room or money to support the collection.

The LibFutures meeting was held on February 2, and the next is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9. A small meeting was held on February 11 facilitated by Maureen Sullivan to discuss the two "barrier" issues - a future statewide role for the Providence Public Library, as well as roles for OLIS and the Library Board. OLIS sponsored the half-day facilitation. A discussion on the third "barrier issue," the status of school libraries, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, late afternoon, at the Narragansett High School Library. OLIS will sponsor the facilitation. Notes from the two barrier issue

meetings will be found on the LibFutures website, once the school library meeting has been completed. The Futures website can be reached from www.ori.ri.gov by clicking on “Future of RI Libraries” in the right-hand yellow bar.

The Governor’s appointments to the Legislation Commission have been made, William Allen of the LBRI, and William Simmons, an anthropology professor at Brown. The only remaining appointments are the legislative ones. The target date for the first meeting of the Legislative Commission may be April or May. Ms. Parent will forward a listing of those appointed to the Legislative Commission to Mr. Allen.

Jewel Drickamer, 1917-2005. Jewel Drickamer, who served as Deputy Director and Director of the Department of State Library Services, 1964-1975 and 1975-1980, respectively, recently passed away. The Library Board gratefully acknowledged her tireless efforts on library consolidation and cooperation in Rhode Island.

Ms. Parent will be the recipient of this year’s URI-GSLIS Alumna of the Year Award, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Library & Information Studies on Friday evening, April 8, in Kingston.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Planning and Budget – Ms. Parent noted that Ms. Barrows invites Board members interested to serve on the committee.

Committee on Legislation – The Legislation Package and the Website of the General Assembly was distributed. Ms. Scialabba read the most recent membership listing for this committee, and Ms. Reynolds invited Board members to join the committee.

Committee on Public Relations – Ms. Scialabba read the most recent membership listing for this committee. Facts about Rhode Island Libraries was distributed, and the Library Board will be asked to accept the document and publish it on the LORI website. Library associations and groups will be asked to place a link to the Facts about Rhode Island Libraries on their website. Facts about Rhode Island Libraries will also be promoted during National Library Week in April. The committee discussed the “Ask A Librarian” service and this is a future discussion item.

Chair McKenney thanked the committees for their work.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island accept the Facts About Rhode Island Libraries and publish them on the LORI website.

Chair McKenney noted that revisions can be made without future Library Board approval. The Board welcomes comments and suggestions for inclusion, subject to

approval by the Public Relations Committee. Mr. Allen will contact the Providence Journal and request that Facts About Rhode Island Libraries be published during National Library Week.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island endorse The Proposed State Library Aid, FY 2006, as reflected in the Governor's Budget.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

The letter from the Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library, to Mark McKenney, Chair of the Library Board, dated February 9, 2005, was distributed. Ms. Thompson requests that the Library Board conduct a biennial review to reassess the construction caps of \$150 per square foot for new construction and \$125 per square foot for renovation and remodeling. Chair McKenney will ask the Committee on Planning and Budget will review the caps on construction costs. Ms. Parent suggested a tentative meeting at 3:00 p.m., one hour prior to the Library Board meeting on March 21 to begin discussions. Ms. Thompson suggested that make up of the committee include resource people. It was noted that Library Board member, Jay Litman, served on that committee two years ago. Ms. Parent suggested that Karen Mellor, OLIS staff member, serve as a resource, as well as someone from the state budget office. Ms. Thompson would like to attend the meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Thompson invited those present to attend a meeting at the Washington Park Branch that will be taking place after the Library Board meeting. At the meeting, comments about the branch's services will be solicited.

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2005 at the Department of Administration.

Future meetings of the Board are scheduled as follows:

March 21

April 25

May 23

June 20

Sept 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

March 21, 2005

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Tovah Reis, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Phyllis Harnick, Alice Barrows, Mary Cummings, Cristina Amedeo, Leslie McDonough

Members Absent: William Allen, Peter Deekle, Joan Ankner, Joshua Teverow, Donald Deignan, Jay Litman,

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

Observers: Joan Ress Reeves; Regina Connor; Kathryn Hopkins, Providence Public Library; Tom O'Callaghan, Jamestown; David Macksam, RILA
Elaine Heebner, Kaitlin Morris, Patricia Raub, Linda Kushner, Library Reform Group;

Reporting: Laurie Scialabba

The meeting was convened at 4:21 p.m.

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 28, 2005 meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that the congratulatory letter to Elyse Wasch, newly appointed Legislative Director for Senator Reed's Washington Office, will go out. Chair McKenney introduced newly appointed Chief Information Officer, Tracy Emerton Williams.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

The following will attend the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.: Anne Parent will represent OLIS; David Macksam will represent RILA; Suzanne Costa will represent RIEMA; Joan Ress Reeves will represent the Library Board; William Allen will represent COLA and Kathryn Hopkins will represent Providence Public Library.

Last year OLIS submitted a five-year commitment to funding caps for the Public Library Reimbursement Program to the Director of the Department of Administration. A review of costs for recent and proposed projects will need to be done. Any increase in the caps may affect available funding for projects already in process.

It was the consensus of the Library Board that Library Services staff should be located together, and Chair McKenney will write a letter to the Director of the Department of Administration.

Chair McKenney will draft a letter to the Director of the Department of Administration regarding the vacant librarian position in the Talking Books Plus library. Individual members are also encouraged to write a letter.

CLAN is considering migrating from the DYNIX/Horizon platform for automation to the Innovative Interfaces, Inc. platform utilized by the hospital and academic libraries.

Legislative appointments have not yet been made to the LibFutures Committee. A meeting to discuss the status of school libraries will be held on March 29, with OLIS sponsoring the facilitator.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Planning and Budget – Ms. Barrows would like to schedule the meeting at which caps are to be discussed to accommodate the schedule of Dale Thompson of Providence Public Library. Ms. Barrows will be in contact with Anne Parent to schedule the date.

Committee on Legislation – Due to illness and vacation plans, the last meeting was cancelled. Library Board Committee members include Mary Cummings, Joan Reeves, Donna Good, Peter Deekle, Bill Allen, Mark McKenney, Debbie Barchi and Rose Ellen Reynolds. Three public members include Dale Thompson and Frances Farrell Bergeron. David Macksam has a new email address. Jay Litman has been invited to serve. Ednor Larsen and Anne Crawford resigned from the committee. The next committee meeting is scheduled on April 20 at 4:00 p.m. RILA has not come forth with their view on the Open Meetings Legislation, H-5170 and S- 0242. The committee will postpone a decision until the next meeting.

Committee on Public Relations – Facts About Rhode Island Libraries is published on the LORI website. A letter from the Library Board will be drafted for National Library Week.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island support S-0759, OLIS, Chief of Library Services.

No action was taken on H-5170/S-0242, Open Meetings Law; since the Committee on Legislation was unable to meet. Chair McKenney moved to the Public Comment agenda item.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Parent has copies of testimony presented by Kathryn Hopkins of the Providence Public Library, on behalf of Mary Olenn and by Linda Kushner of the Library Reform Group. Ms. Parent sent email to public library directors (23 municipal libraries and 26 non-municipal libraries) inquiring about compliance under the Open Meeting Law. Results are seven municipal libraries replied that they are in full compliance. (It is assumed that all the municipal libraries are in full compliance.) 16 non-municipal libraries replied; 13 comply in spirit, two do not comply and one library, Providence Public Library, has a problem with the legislation. Ms. Parent will provide comments to the Library Board in advance of the meeting. Discussion followed.

Ms. Kushner stated that when so much public money is given to an entity, its meetings should be open. The open meetings law provides for executive session under certain circumstances. The R.I. Constitution gives the legislature particular interest in libraries, and the legislature should follow its money. Providence Public Library Board has made no movement to openness. Mr. O'Callaghan noted that the Providence Public Library Board should be accountable to public and its users.

Ms. Hopkins pointed out that the legislation refers to public bodies, not private.

Ms McDonough (whose library is non-municipal) stated that it was appalling that any public library be opposed to open meetings law; her Board is in compliance. It was suggested that compliance with the Open Meetings Law be part of the Minimum Standards for Public Libraries.

Chair McKenney asked that Ms. Reynolds take all this information back to the Committee on Legislation for consideration.

There was no other public comment.

VI. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2005 at the Department of Administration.

Future meetings of the Board are tentatively scheduled as follows:

April 25

May 23

June 20

Sept 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

April 25, 2005

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Mark McKenney, Tovah Reis, Donna Good, Deborah Barchi, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Phyllis Harnick, Alice Barrows, Cristina Amedeo, Peter Deekle, Joan Ress Reeves

Members Absent: William Allen, Peter Deekle, Joan Ankner, Joshua Teverow, Donald Deignan, Jay Litman, Mary Cummings, Leslie McDonough

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

Observers: Dale Thompson, Providence Public Library; David Macksam, RILA

Reporting: Laurie Scialabba

The meeting was convened at 4:29 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

S 0242, An Act Relating to Libraries – State Aid to Libraries

H 5170, An Act Relating to Libraries – State Aid to Libraries

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the March 21, 2005 meeting were unavailable for consideration and approval.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair McKenney reported that Anne Parent was awarded the URI/GLS Alumni Award.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island commend Anne Parent on her Award.

III. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

After months of negotiation, OLIS received permission to post the Reader's Advisor position in the Talking Books Plus section. The position is expected to be 100% federally funded. The Dept of Administration has a finite number of FTEs available, and a future vacant position must be returned. The blind and physically handicapped clientele will again be served by a librarian. Ms. Parent thanked Andy Egan and Beth Perry for their service.

Plans to relocate the OLIS Library from the ground floor to the 4th floor have been realized. In addition to the 4th floor library, OLIS will have an office and storage area adjacent to the library. Board members are invited to a tour of the space at the conclusion

of the meeting. The collection has been weeded to fit the space, and the stacks were constructed according to guidelines established by the engineers who built the original Powers building. OLIS staff has been assured that the stacks, erected according to the engineer plans, will not be in load-bearing jeopardy.

Attending next week's American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day will be: Anne Parent representing OLIS; David Macksam representing RILA; Joan Ress Reeves representing the Library Board; William Allen representing COLA and Kathryn Hopkins representing Providence Public Library. ARIHSL, CLAN and RIEMA have decided not to send representatives this year. Congress is not in session next week; Senator Chafee and his education/library aide will also be away.

The Legislative Commission meeting on the future of Rhode Island libraries was scheduled to meet this week, but has been postponed. Three representatives of the LibFutures Committee, Dale Thompson, David Macksam and Anne Parent, met with Senator Roberts last week to plan for the first session. Three working groups established to work on the three priorities identified at the December town meeting plan to conclude their work in early July. The priorities are: 1) one catalog for all; 2) statewide databases; and 3) lifelong learning. It is hoped that the groups can make preliminary reports at the first meeting of the Legislative Commission.

CLAN has put on hold the migration from the Horizon system to the Innovative System. On May 12, CLAN will hold its quarterly membership meeting and a vote will be taken on whether or not to approach The Champlin Foundations for funding.

OLIS Staff member Karen Mellor will serve as a panelist to review applications for Massachusetts' library construction projects. The grant process in Massachusetts is highly competitive. In response to the letter that Chair McKenney received from Dale Thompson, the Committee on Planning & Budget will be reviewing its caps on per square foot construction costs.

Julia Iacono, library director at Central Fall Free Public Library, has announced her resignation.

RILA President Derryl (De) Johnson died on March 26, 2005. De was a strong advocate for all types of libraries and worked tirelessly for the library community. RILA has established a scholarship fund in her memory.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island send a letter of condolence to Rolf Johnson, De's husband.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Planning and Budget – Ms. Barrows announced a meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 23, at 3:00 p.m., one hour prior to the Library Board meeting to discuss the letter and information provided by Mary Olenn of the Providence Public Library Board of Directors.

Committee on Legislation – Ms. Reynolds reported that a committee meeting was held earlier today. Copies of H-5170 and S-0242 were distributed. The effective date is different on the House and Senate versions. There was a hearing the bill. Those testifying were Linda Kushner, a representative of Providence Public Library, Ms. Parent on behalf of OLIS and Mr. Macksam, on behalf of RILA. The RILA Legislative Board had taken a vote and recommended to the RILA Board that the bill be supported. The RILA Board supports H-5170. Kathryn Hopkins will send amendments to Representative Fox for review.

The Committee on Legislation voted (5 to 1) to pass the recommendation that the Library Board of Rhode Island support H-5170 and S-242 with the provision to review the amendments.

It was moved and unanimously approved that the Library Board of Rhode Island support H-5170 and S-242 and will consider additional amendments as proposed.

Committee on Public Relations – Facts About Rhode Island Libraries has been published on the LORI website. Tovah Reis thanked OLIS staff members Debbie Cullerton and Donna DiMichele. A printed version is being considered for distribution. Debbie Cullerton is planning a tri-fold brochure, and is awaiting feedback.

The committee has been asked to promote the Ask a Librarian program. The committee has put this request for consideration on hold.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Hearings were held on S-0759 legislation establishing the Office of Library and Information Services headed by a Chief of Library Services. Chair McKenney and Ms. Parent testified. This legislation is not a partisan bill.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cristina Amedeo announced that the library opened at Crossroads Rhode Island, and thanked Ms. DiMichele for donating the remaining CD's from the library swap. Ms. Amedeo also reported that libraries have received the direct human services update request, and she asked that they be sent back to her. The direct human service database was paid for by the Library Board of Rhode Island in 1994 and will soon be on the web.

VIII. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2005 at the Department of Administration.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.