

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
Held via Teams
November 22, 2021

INDEX

Members joining via Teams:

Judge Henry Cohn, Jessica de Perio Wittman,
Mary Etter, Bob Harris, Sandy Ruoff, Maureen Sullivan,
Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey

Members absent: Alison Clemens, Justice Steven Ecker, Allen Hoffman

Others joining via Teams:

Deborah Schander, Jane Beaudoin, (State Library), Colleen
Bailie (CLA), Jennifer Keohane (CLC), Astoria Ridley, Carl
DeMilia, Judy Kelmelis, Karen Tatarka, Melissa Canham-
Clyne (ACLPD Resource Sharing Committee)

Board Chair Maureen Sullivan stated that, per the Board's suggestion at the September meeting to bring forward the name of a member to serve as Vice Chair, she reached out to Alison Clemens to gauge interest in serving. Alison agreed to be nominated. Maureen is bringing the nomination before the Board for approval. It was MOVED (S. Ruoff) seconded (B. Harris) THAT ALISON CLEMENS BE ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 2022. PASSED unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICER

MINUTES

It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE September 27, 2021, BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED unanimously.

MINUTES
Motion

BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Harris shared that the November issue of Smithsonian Magazine has an extensive story about the library system in Memphis, Tennessee. He recommended it to everyone. Bob also recommended a book titled "The Library: A Fragile History" which was written by two men who live in Scotland. Bob informed the board members that the New York Public Library is going to have a virtual discussion with these two authors on December 8 at 1pm. Maureen stated that she appreciates Bob's recommendations as understanding how other libraries operate is part of strategic planning.

BOARD COMMENTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maureen then took the opportunity to say that the decision to not hold the Board development training earlier today was due to low attendance. Maureen stated that this is a very important time with trainer Jerry Nichols' guidance, and the goal is to maximize the assistance the Board can provide Deborah. She hopes that everyone will make attending a priority. If the meeting calendar that is up for approval later on the agenda is passed, the training will be rescheduled for January 24 at 1pm and the State Library Board meeting will follow at 2pm.

Melissa stated that the State Department of Education along with the State Board of Education will be moving forward on discussion of the approval of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Standards in a meeting on December 1. She thanked all the librarians who assisted with developing these Standards.

Maureen welcomed new State Library Board member Jessica de Perio Wittman. The entire Board is looking forward to working with her.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Lane, Library Director of the Bloomfield Public Library, publicly thanked Maria Bernier for her hard work and support given to the Bloomfield Public Library in the State Public Library Construction grant process.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah stated that she would like to highlight a few things in her written report. She is very happy to welcome Maureen Sullivan as the new Chair. She and Maureen had a meeting to lay out goals. Deborah welcomed Jessica to the State Library Board and informed everyone that she and Maureen had an orientation meeting with her. Jessica was also sent a newly created orientation packet which will be given to all new board members going forward.

The State Library welcomed Matt Geeza on November 1, as the new Director for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Also on November 1 was the retirement of Museum Administrator Dean Nelson. Deborah has started the process to refill Dean's position and thanked Patrick Smith for his help in filling in the gaps meanwhile.

Elise Marzik and LeAnn Burbank from the Office of the Public Records Administrator are conducting a new Webinar Training series for Records Management Liaison Officers to ensure agencies are properly managing their records. They have had very good attendance so far.

Deborah, along with staff from Public Records and Archives, toured the Scan-Optics facility in Manchester and learned more about their operations and how we can support each other as public agencies take on new digital transformation initiatives in keeping with Governor Lamont's digital government initiative.

In keeping with digital initiatives, Deborah asked the board members to consider receiving their meeting packets electronically. Jane will follow-up with Board members about this later.

The State Library has received a fifth grant award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project. This will allow the State Library to continue digitizing historical Connecticut newspapers.

OTHER REPORTS

Connecticut Library Association (CLA): Colleen Bailie, President, reported that the 2022 CLA Annual Conference will be held in person on May 3-4 at the Hartford Convention Center. Tracie Hall, American Library Association Executive Director, will be the keynote speaker. Sam Lee, Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, has been busy assisting some Connecticut

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

**STATE
LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT**

**OTHER
REPORTS
CLA**

libraries receiving requests to remove items from their collections. All types of libraries are being encouraged to reach out to Sam if they are getting requests to remove materials. In November, CLA voted to change their organization status from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3). This will help CLA to move forward with more funding opportunities, specifically with grants and fundraising.

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): No report at this time.

ACLPD

Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC): Jennifer Keohane stated that this will be her final meeting in her role as Executive Director of CLC, and that she will be leaving her position at the end of December. Ellen Paul, Director of the East Hampton Library, has been selected as CLC's new Executive Director. CLC is currently handling membership renewals. On November 30 there will be a Community Collaborative to discuss equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives and matters. CLC's book bid is being reviewed and the contract is expected to be awarded in the next couple of weeks. Jennifer thanked the State Library Board for all of the support she has received during her time at CLC. Maureen commended Jennifer for her service and leadership. The entire Board thanked Jennifer.

CLC

Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB): No report at this time.

ACLB

Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL): No report at this time.

Friends

OLD BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Deborah stated that we continue to be careful with spending and the State Library anticipates meeting its budget. We are especially mindful of the cost of utilities as they are now being billed to the State Library directly.

Budget Update

Legislative Update: There was no report given.

Legislative Update

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of 2022 Meeting Calendar: It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (M. Etter) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN THE YEAR 2022: JANUARY 24, MARCH 28, MAY 23, JULY 25, SEPTEMBER 19, NOVEMBER 28. PASSED unanimously

2022 Meeting
Calendar
Motion

State Public Library Construction Grant Recommendations: There are two grant categories. Category 1 grants are for projects that create additional usable library space, such as new buildings, additions, and major alterations. Category 2 grants are projects that make buildings accessible in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), correct fire or building code violations, prepare for emergencies, remodel to accommodate new technologies or improve use of space, and energy conservation projects. Distressed municipalities are eligible for building maintenance projects.

State Public
Library
Construction
Grants

It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (M. Etter) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD AWARDS THE FOLLOWING STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANTS:

Motion

- \$1,000,000 to the Town of Bloomfield for Prosser Library
- \$73,293 to the Essex Library Association
- \$232,666 to the Town of Hebron for Douglas Library
- \$250,000 to the New Britain Public Library
- \$1,000,000 to the Town of Southington for Southington Public Library
- \$1,000,000 to the Village Improvement Association of West Haven for Allingtown Branch Library
- \$250,000 to the City of Waterbury for Silas Bronson Library
- \$1,000,000 to the Wheeler School & Library of North Stonington

PASSED unanimously.

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD) Resource Sharing Committee’s Connecticut Vision for Resource Sharing as a Best Practice for Connecticut Libraries: Maureen welcomed Carl DeMilia, Astoria Ridley, Karen Tatarka, Melissa Canham-Clyne, and Judy Kelmelis to the meeting to give their presentation. The history on how the Resource Sharing Committee was formed was given, and it was explained that all library types are represented on the Committee. The Committee was formed by the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development to review, research, and recommend actions for the Division of Library Development to implement and ensure future sustainability of resource sharing. Co-Chairs Carl DeMilia and Astoria Ridley explained the Connecticut Resource Sharing Philosophy and the three possible scenarios, Transformative (What could be), Market (What is), and Fortress (What is worst case). An overview of the Lead Your Library pilot project was also given. This pilot project included 12 libraries representing all types. There was an opportunity for questions and discussion. Bob Harris stated that he can see that a lot of work went into this based on the amount of information provided to the Board in their packets. Maureen stated that adopting this vision as a best practice allows library leaders to engage their staff. She endorses this because it’s the type of approach that helps capture resources that will be there for us. Mary Etter stated that the first time this matter was brought to the Board there was concern in some libraries, but the revised version shifts the interest of the resource sharing in response to those concerns. She stated that public libraries will be watchful that this doesn’t mean giving up delivery or borrowIT in the future. It was MOVED (S. Ruoff) seconded (M. Wlodarczyk-Hickey) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD ENDORSES THE CONNECTICUT VISION FOR RESOURCE SHARING AS A VOLUNTARY BEST PRACTICE FOR CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES AND ENCOURAGES THE WIDESPREAD USE OF THE VISION FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. PASSED unanimously.

Maureen thanked the Resource Sharing Committee for their presentation and stated that this is good work and a source of pride for Connecticut.

Appointments to the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board (CDLAB): CDLAB had two vacancies in the School Librarian category. In October a solicitation for nominations was sent out. The Nominations Committee reviewed the applications and is recommending Lori Cerra of New Milford High School and Elizabeth Wright of Connecticut IB Academy in East Hartford to fill the positions. It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE APPOINTMENTS OF LORI CERRA OF NEW

ACLPD Resource Sharing Committee’s CT Vision for Resource Sharing as a Best Practice for CT Libraries

Motion

Appointments to CDLAB

Motion

MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL AND ELIZABETH WRIGHT OF CONNECTICUT IB ACADEMY IN EAST HARTFORD TO FILL THE TWO VACANT POSITIONS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN CATEGORY FOR TERMS RUNNING FROM DECEMBER 1, 2021 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2023. PASSED unanimously.

Resolution for Dean Nelson: It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (B. Harris) THAT ON THIS 22ND DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021, THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD HEREBY UNANIMOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES DEAN NELSON'S 33 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY, EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION FOR HIS LOYALTY AND LONGEVITY, AND EXTENDS ITS SINCERE WISHES FOR MANY FULFILLING AND PLEASURABLE RETIREMENT YEARS. PASSED unanimously.

Resolution for Dean Nelson Motion

Resolution for John N. Barry: It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT ON THIS 22ND DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021, THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD HEREBY UNANIMOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY EXTEND THEIR HEARTFELT THANKS AND DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO JOHN N. BARRY FOR HIS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY AND THEIR APPRECIATION FOR HIS EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES FOR THE CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT. PASSED unanimously.

Resolution for John N. Barry Motion

With no other matters to come before the Board, at 3:00 pm it was MOVED (B. Harris) and seconded (M. Wlodarczyk-Hickey) TO ADJOURN.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, JANUARY 24, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. and will be held via Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder