

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
Held via Teams
March 28, 2022

INDEX

Members joining via Teams:

Judge Henry Cohn, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Mary Etter, Bob Harris, Maureen Sullivan, Alison Clemens, Allen Hoffman, Sandy Ruoff

Members absent: Justice Steven Ecker, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey

Others joining via Teams:

Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Jane Beaudoin, Lizette Pelletier, LeAnn Burbank (State Library), Ellen Paul (CLC), Pam Monahan (Friends),

MINUTES

It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2022 BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED with one abstention (S. Ruoff).

MINUTES

Motion

BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maureen reported that she and Deborah are working on a proposed Strategic Planning document. The Board should be receiving it in the next few weeks. Special importance will be placed on including the voices of the people in the community that is served.

**BOARD
COMMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah invited questions to her written report which was included in the Board's meeting packets. She highlighted kudos to staff. Sarah Morin and Lizette Pelletier received compliments from the Executive Director of the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC) for their work on The New Haven County Court Records-NHPRC Grant Project. They were also complimented by John de Jong, North America Partners Strategic Relations Manager for the FamilySearch Records Division on their recorded session for FamilySearch's virtual Roots Tech 2022 Conference

**STATE
LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT**

Kevin Johnson received two awards from the Ha Rambee African American Historical Society of Hartford and the City of Hartford for his presentations of William Webb and Jordan Freeman

Thanks to the Archives team, their request via Senators Blumenthal and Murphy for a Federal earmark was approved with an amount just shy of one million dollars for planning a secured digital repository.

The Executive and Judicial branches have recently changed their mask policies. The State Library has been cautiously implementing these changes.

A few more staff members are retiring effective April 1. It appears that we will be able to refill these positions but the process is slow. Because most of the retiring staff are from the Access Services unit, we will temporarily need to reduce our public hours to 10am – 2pm. The Museum hours will remain 10am – 4pm.

The State Library received the published Public Records of the State of Connecticut – Vol. XXIII which was funded by the Historic Documents Preservation Fund. One copy of the volume is available free of charge to every Connecticut public library as well as other eligible institutions. State Archivist Lizette Pelletier is the contact for requesting a free copy.

OTHER REPORTS

New Reports Process:

Maureen stated that she and Deborah are finalizing the procedure to open the reports to the State Library Board to more organizations. Written reports will be received and included in the Board’s packets and based on those reports, organizations may be invited to give a verbal report at each meeting. All of the written reports that are received will be made available to anyone interested. The goal is to expand and share the information we receive from different library organizations around Connecticut.

Connecticut Library Association (CLA): No report at this time.

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): As the Division of Library Development (DLD) staff draft the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) 5 Year Plan 2022-2027, ACLPD members participated in a facilitated conversation using EXCITE Transformation and Strategic Foresight tools to gather informed feedback of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Digital Inclusion; and Collaborative Partnership activities that will be included in the new 5-year plan.

Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC): Ellen Paul, Executive Director of CLC, stated that CLC is out to bid for digital resources which covers advanced distributed learning, digital applications and downloadable and streaming media. CLC held a vendor training webinar to help with completing bids. CLC is working on a new programming catalog that will replace the current one which has limitations. The new catalog is expected to be completed by late Spring and will be used by all library types.

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

Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL): Friends Vice-President Pam Monahan reported that FOCL’s annual meeting will be held on June 11 at the Avon Library from 9am – 1pm. Their revised By-Laws will be voted on at this meeting and the new handbook will be released. Speakers for the annual meeting will be Marc Longenecker from Wesleyan University and Connecticut State Librarian Deborah Schander.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Deborah reported that the State Library continues to be careful with its spending and anticipates meeting its budget without issue.

**OTHER
REPORTS
New Reports
Process**

CLA

ACLPD

CLC

ACLB

Friends

**OLD BUSINESS
Budget Update**

Legislative Update: Deborah reported that this is a busy legislative session. To date Deborah has testified before the Appropriations Committee on February 17 in support of proposals impacting the State Library. She testified on February 25 before the Planning and Development Committee on SB 131 “An Act Concerning Electronic Book Licensing”. State Library staff, along with representatives from the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC), Connecticut Library Association (CLA), and others from the library community also testified at this hearing. She also testified before the Planning and Development Committee on March 14 on HB 5428 “An Act Concerning Building Officials, Resources Relating to the Administration of the State Building Code and the Promotion of Careers in Related Fields”; and on March 15 before the Commerce Committee on HB Raised Bill 5374 “An Act Establishing a Commission to Commemorate the United States of America Semiquincentennial”. On March 25, Deborah testified before the Appropriations Committee strongly opposing SB 397 “An Act Concerning Library Service for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Have Other Disabilities”. Under this bill the Department on Aging would run the services currently provided by the State Library’s Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. There is a great deal of misunderstanding related to how this library service operates and is funded. Members of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Advisory Committee testified at this hearing both for and in opposition to the bill.

Deborah shared that using a staff line in the budget, she is planning to hire a Legislative Liaison. This position will be invaluable in providing assistance especially during the legislative sessions. Mary Etter asked if there is a federal law governing the State Library’s operation of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Deborah explained the CT statutes state that the State Library has the authority to operate the service; federal law governs our long-standing partnership with the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled which provides all materials and resources free to CT and CT residents. If SB 397 succeeds then the State Library’s authority to operate the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped would end after June 30 and a new partnership would need to be negotiated between the National Library Service and the Department on Aging. Maureen complimented Deborah’s work on this matter so far. She also acknowledged the support from Dawn La Valle and Matt Geeza.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for Glynis Georgie: It was immediately MOVED (M.Etter) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT ON THIS 28TH DAY OF MARCH 2022, THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD HEREBY UNANIMOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES GLYNIS GEORGIE’S 34 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY, EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION FOR HER LOYALTY AND LONGEVITY, AND EXTENDS ITS SINCERE WISHES FOR MANY FULFILLING AND PLEASURABLE RETIREMENT YEARS. PASSED unanimously.

State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Grant Timetable and Guidelines: Every year Dawn La Valle, along with Division of Library Development staff and the State Librarian, review the Timetable and Guidelines to determine whether any substantive policy changes should be recommended to the State Library Board. The recommendations streamline management of the

Legislative Update

NEW BUSINESS
Resolution

Motion

Construction Grant
Timetable and
Guidelines

program and address issues not currently covered in the Timetable and Guidelines. Mary stated that she appreciates this year's refinements to the document and finds them creative and helpful. It was Moved (M. Etter) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE CHANGING THE STATE GRANT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION TIMETABLE AND GUIDELINES FOR 2022-2023 TO:

- Add outdoor spaces or structures that are physically attached to the library building, such as a deck or roofed patio, as eligible Category 1 projects that create additional usable library space.
- Allow the use of Connecticut High Performance Buildings Standards (HPBS) or a Two-Globe rating from the Green Globe system self-certification program as equivalent alternatives to LEED silver level certification.
- Add a requirement that the grantee must own and have clear title to all the land necessary for the project and may be asked to provide documentation to that effect before the State Library will submit the project to the State Bond Commission for funding.

PASSED unanimously.

Fiber to the Library Grants-in-Aid, Internal Connections: These are competitive grants to principal public libraries to help them complete their high-speed connections to the Connecticut Education Network (CEN). It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE AN EIGHTEENTH ROUND OF GRANTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT.

- \$4,571.00 to Beacon Falls Public Library
- \$4,571.00 to Chester Public Library
- \$4,571.00 to Treasurer, Town of Canterbury
- \$4,571.00 to The Kent Library Association
- \$4,571.00 to Hotchkiss Library of Sharon
- \$4,571.00 to Stonington Free Library
- \$4,571.00 to Burnham Library Association
- \$4,571.00 to Chaplin Public Library
- \$4,571.00 to Scotland Public Library
- \$4,571.00 to Prospect Public Library
- \$4,571.00 to Killingworth Library Association
- \$4,571.00 to Minor Memorial Library
- \$4,571.00 to Bethany Library Association
- \$5,713.75 to Thomaston Public Library
- \$5,713.75 to Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library
- \$4,571.00 to Norfolk Library
- \$5,713.75 to Sherman Library
- \$5,713.75 to Library Association of Warehouse Point
- \$5,713.75 to Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
- \$5,713.75 to Elisa Mitchell, Director of Finance, Burlington Town Hall
- \$5,713.75 to Town of Willington
- \$5,713.75 to Wolcott Public Library
- \$5,713.75 to Derby Public Library
- \$5,713.75 to Town of Portland

Motion

Fiber to the Library Grants-in-Aid, Internal Connections

Motion

\$5,713.75 to Town of Stafford
\$5,713.75 to Howard Whittemore Memorial Library
\$6,839.00 to Town of Colchester
\$6,839.00 to Town of Enfield
\$6,839.00 to Town of Middlebury
\$6,839.00 to Town of Berlin
\$6,839.00 to Public Library of New London
\$6,839.00 to Hall Memorial Library
\$6,839.00 to Bethel Public Library
\$11,410.00 to East Hartford Public Library
\$14,231.88 to Ridgefield Library Association
\$14,231.88 to Russell Library
\$17,088.75 to The Westport Library
\$10,267.25 to Village Improvement Association of West Haven
\$19,928.13 to Wallingford Public Library
\$39,838.75 to The Ferguson Library
\$45,535.00 to NHFPL Foundation

PASSED unanimously.

Maureen mentioned that resuming in-person meetings is now being considered. She asked any board member with concerns about meeting in person to let Jane know. Maureen wants to make sure that everyone is comfortable.

With no other matters to come before the Board, at 1:45 p.m. it was MOVED (J. de Perio-Wittman) seconded (B. Harris) TO ADJOURN.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Meeting format will be determined based on Board input.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder