

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
March 27, 2017

INDEX

Members present: John N. Barry, Bob Harris, Allen Hoffman, Judge Michael Sheldon, Alison Clemens, Justice Andrew McDonald, Mary Etter, Matt Poland

Members absent: Dianna Wentzell, Jay Johnston

Others present: Kendall Wiggin, Jane Beaudoin, Dawn La Valle, Lizette Pelletier, Bonnie Gallagher, Carol Trinchitella, Diane Pizzo, Mark Smith (State Library), Melissa Canham-Clyne (Clark Memorial Library, Bethany), Chris Hemingway (Hagaman Memorial Library, East Haven), Carl DeMilia (ACLPD), Libby Post, Martha Church (West Hartford Public Library), Kate Byroade (Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester), Jane Fisher (Wallingford Public Library), Jeanette Francini (deliverIT Task Force), Pat Rutkowski (New Britain Public Library), Jennifer Keohane (CLC), Glenn Grube (Avon Free Public Library), Barbara Cangiano (Wallingford Public Library)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson John N. Barry.

MINUTES

MINUTES

It was MOVED (M. Sheldon) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2017 BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED unanimously.

Motion

It was MOVED (M. Etter), seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED unanimously.

Motion

John Barry stated that, with the Board's agreement, he would like to change the order of the agenda to next hear the report and recommendations of the deliverIT CT Task Force at this point in the meeting instead of under Old Business. It was agreed.

Recommendations from the deliverIT CT Task Force

deliverIT CT Task Force

Melissa Canham-Clyne and Jeanette Francini, Co-Chairs of the *deliverIT* Sustainability Task Force presented the recommendations of the Task Force in a slide presentation. The report is the result of months of work by concerned librarians all over Connecticut that are currently using the deliverIT service. The presentation detailed how this situation came to be and gave the Task Force's recommendations towards alleviating the situation. Using the report of the delivery service consultant that the State Library hired to look into this matter,

the Task Force came up with the following recommendations for a sustainable delivery service.

- Contingent upon state and federal funding, the Connecticut State Library will make base line deliverIT deliveries, which includes all items that must be transported, to all participating Connecticut libraries of up to 3 bins per stop, up to five days a week.
- Individual libraries will receive delivery as long as they comply with the limits, restrictions, and guidelines put forth by the Connecticut State Library.
- Libraries that desire delivery services above the base line may adopt their own delivery service. The task force recommends reviewing the consultant's report for options.

Melissa and Jeanette answered questions from the Board. Mary Etter stated that she feels the implementation is the more important part of this. She would like to see the routes completely publicized and would feel more comfortable if there was more examination of this in six months instead of a year. Judge Sheldon stated that he appreciates the deliverIT service as his town library is small and benefits from it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marian Amodeo, Director of the Hamden Public Library and President of the LION Consortium commended the deliverIT Task Force members for their work to create a plan that is fair and equitable. She went over what her understanding of the plan is and stated that she has concerns that the patrons' needs will not be met. She stated that she and many of her colleagues know it's time to look into a supplemental plan. They may work with CLC to convene a task force to assess what might be required.

Kate Byroade thanked the Task Force for the time and work put into their recommendations. Kate doesn't feel that the 3 bins per stop recommendation is realistic and doubts a solution can be achieved that way.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Ken invited questions to his written report. He announced that on April 6th there will be an event at the State Library commemorating the US entry into World War I. Ken will be sending invitations to the Board as soon as possible. This event will kick off the State Library's longer-term commemoration plans.

OTHER REPORTS

Connecticut Library Association (CLA): President-Elect Glenn Grube stated that registration is open for the CLA Annual Conference that is scheduled to be held on May 4 - 5, at the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa. He also stated that CLA will be embarking on a letter-writing campaign to legislators. Mary Etter added that this campaign to send hand-written letters to legislators is to support library funding.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

STATE
LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT

OTHER REPORTS
CLA

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): Chairman Carl DeMilia stated that there is no formal report at this time.

ACLPD

Cooperating Library Service Units (CLC): Jennifer Keohane stated that CLC is very supportive of the State Library's budget constraints as CLC is a line item. They are continuing with their staff reorganization. On Wednesday, March 29, at the State Capitol, CLC will be part of the CT Places Coalition's Advocacy Day. There will be an advocacy workshop, legislative briefing, exhibits including a pop-up tour of 8 libraries, and more.

CLC

Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB): Dawn La Valle reported that ACLB is redesigning their web site. They are planning their Annual Meeting which will be held at the University of Hartford. ACLB is working to hold regional meetings around the state.

ACLB

Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL): Dawn La Valle reported that the FOCL is also looking into holding meetings around the state. They are planning their annual meeting and conference.

FOCL

OLD BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS
 Budget

Budget: Ken thanked CLA for their efforts through the letter writing campaign. All efforts go a long way. Ken, as well as the library community, testified before the Appropriations Committee and followed up with more information requested of him. There is serious concern about the federal budget and meeting the Maintenance of Effort requirements. He distributed a document he prepared in response to President Trump's proposed budget for discretionary spending in federal Fiscal Year 2018. The proposed budget calls for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Ken informed everyone that the loss of this money would be catastrophic. Seventeen State Library employees could lose their jobs and we would be hard pressed to keep providing certain services. Ken reminded everyone that the State Library receives funding from the IMLS and benefits from NEH and IMLS grants which in turn, benefit the library community.

Ken stated that National Library Legislative Day is May 2nd. Connecticut library delegation visits will take place in Washington again this year.

Legislative Update:

Legislative Update

Ken reported that he is watching several bills. He expected, and received, some opposition to Raised H.B. 7188 "An Act Concerning the Preservation of Historical Records and Access to Restricted Records in the State Archives", because of the issue over patient privacy. Ken and members of the Archives staff met with the Department of Mental Health Commissioner and her staff. It was a good meeting but no minds were changed. Ken will continue to follow this bill closely.

Ken testified on the Bonding package on behalf of the Public Library

Construction Grants. John Barry stated that the State Library Board has been consistent in approving construction grant extension requests. He asked whether the Board should consider not doing that anymore as these extensions could hold up funding that another library is ready to use. Ken feels that's a good point and will speak with Tom Newman, Public Library Construction Grant Administrator, about this to see if it's in everyone's best interest to use the available funding instead of holding it up for multiple extensions. Ken will report back to the Board at the May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board (CDLAB): John referred the Board to the fact sheet that was included in their packets. It was MOVED (M. Sheldon) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE APPOINTMENTS OF CHRISTOPHER HEMINGWAY (HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY, EAST HAVEN) AND FRANK SKORNIA (FERGUSON LIBRARY, STAMFORD) IN THE CATEGORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIAN, AND MATTHEW PUHLICK (JACK JACKTER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, COLCHESTER AND EASTERN CT STATE UNIVERSITY) IN THE CATEGORY OF TEACHER, SCHOOL OR COLLEGE. THE CDLAB ALSO RECOMMENDS THE APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA JOHNSON TO A SECOND TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017, IN THE CATEGORY OF SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, AND RECOMMENDS THE APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA JOHNSON AND JENNIFER SMOLNIK TO FILL THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON ROLES, RESPECTIVELY, FOR ONE YEAR TERMS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017. PASSED unanimously.

Appointment to the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): It was immediately MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (M. Poland) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT OF BRIDGET QUINN-CAREY FOR A TERM BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2017 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2019. PASSED unanimously.

Proposal to Move the State Library Under the Secretary of the State: Ken stated that he was approached back in 2013, by Secretary of the State Denise Merrill about the possibility of consolidating agencies, but nothing came of it. The subject has come up again this year and Ken has met with the Secretary of the State's office for preliminary conversations. Ken has also met with his own staff and asked them to provide information showing the pros and cons of a possible merger. John Barry introduced Deputy Secretary Scott Bates who distributed a Draft Plan Regarding the Connecticut State Library and the Office of the Secretary of the State. Scott stated that Secretary of the State Denise Merrill is sorry that, because of scheduling conflicts, she could not come to this meeting herself. Scott went over the draft plan. The office of the Secretary of the State has a shared mission with the State Library as the keeper of the records. Both agencies have a history of keeping state records by law, and keeping official records of the General Assembly, and both have ongoing filing and archival functions. Together, two small individual agencies would form one mid-size agency.

NEW BUSINESS
CDLAB
Motion

ACLPD
Motion

State Library/Sec.
of the State
Proposal

Ken stated that currently the State Library is administratively attached to the Department of Education. If a merger with the Office of the Secretary of the State is decided, a first step could be to move under them administratively, instead of the Department of Education. At this time, Ken feels it's important to keep in mind that this conversation is not about the budget or a cost savings. The State Library is budgeted separately. There are other states that have their State Library under the Office of the Secretary of the State. Some also have the State Archives under them. Ken has received good feedback from other State Libraries that are under the Secretary of the State.

Judge Sheldon raised questions on how the managing of funds could change. For instance if a citizen was to give money to the library would it definitely be used for the library. Judge Sheldon questioned if the agencies combined and then faced a crisis requiring a vote, would the result lean in favor of the Secretary of the State's office? In the event that cost cutting gets very close to the line, the State Library could come in second. Judge Sheldon stated that these are questions that he has, not a position, but feels everything should be looked at carefully. Ken thanked Judge Sheldon and replied that the ideal would be to keep current funding structure in place. His staff have raised these points with him as well.

Allen Hoffman stated that this is always the case with government when consolidating in an effort to streamline operations. He used the example of the State Library and Supreme Court sharing the building and how at times things can get edgy.

John stated that more discussion on the merger with SOTS will take place at the May 22, 2017 State Library Board meeting. He also stated that with the DeliverIT CT Task Force recommendations being heard today, he would like the matter finalized at the May 22, 2017 meeting. Ken will work with the Task Force to receive feedback to report and craft a response for the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in the State Library's Reading Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendall F. Wiggin, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder

