

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
May 24, 2021

INDEX

Members joining via Teams:

Mary Etter, Bob Harris, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, John N. Barry, Judge Henry Cohn, Allen Hoffman, Justice Steven Ecker, Maureen Sullivan, Sandy Ruoff, Alison Clemens

Members absent: None

Others joining via Teams:

Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Jane Beaudoin, Lizette Pelletier (State Library), Tom Piezzo (CLA)

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Mary Etter. Jane Beaudoin took roll call attendance of board members. No attendance of the members of the public attending the meeting was taken.

MINUTES

It was MOVED (S. Ruoff) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2021 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED with one abstention (A. Clemens).

MINUTES

Motion

BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary reported that there have been two Connecticut Heritage Foundation meetings since the State Library Board met last. The Foundation Board meetings have a lot of enthusiasm to continue supporting the good work of the State Library. Kendall Wiggin is a newly elected member of the Foundation and has been appointed as Treasurer.

**BOARD
COMMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah stated that on May 17 the State Library has officially opened to the public by appointment. We will open to public completely on June 1 as per the governor's directive. Memorial Hall will also be opened on June 1 with the two adjoining galleries opening later in the summer, after a few display case locks have been replaced. Deborah has met with the Marshals and has had a conversation with Judicial administrative counterparts regarding reopening plans.

**STATE
LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT**

Connecticut received \$2.775 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds for pandemic relief efforts. Connecticut principal public libraries were eligible to receive grant funds. The State Library is establishing a Digital Navigator Pilot in partnership with the Connecticut Education Network and Connecticut Office of Broadband Policy. Workforce development database offerings will be expanded.

Deborah is pleased about the 2021 Award of Merit for Digging into History: WWI Trench Restoration in Seicheprey, France presented by the Connecticut League of History Organization. State Library staff member Christine Pittsley has worked very hard on this project.

Deborah is looking into a tour program over the summer where the State Library and Museum can collaborate on a project with the State Capitol and also with the Old State House. We will be a venue for the Make Music Hartford event which is a live, free musical celebration on June 21 being held across the city and coordinated by the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

Deborah reported that she had a very good meeting with Judge Cohn and Justice Ecker regarding ways to collaborate within the law libraries. Judge Cohn arranged for a follow-up meeting which included a Judicial law librarian for a more in-depth look.

Alison Clemens thanked Deborah and the State Library staff for their work during the Covid pandemic and for the efforts to get back to some normalcy.

OTHER REPORTS

Connecticut Library Association (CLA): CLA President Tom Piezzo reported that the Annual CLA Conference held May 10-14 via Zoom exceeded both attendance and budget expectations with 400 registrants and over \$17,000 in income. There has been concern communicated to CLA from library employees regarding expired Covid guidelines especially regarding mask usage. CLA started the fiscal year with \$14,000 and ended it with about \$60,000. This is Tom's last State Library Board meeting as President of CLA. The new President will be Colleen Bailie, Executive Director of the West Haven Library. Tom thanked Deborah for her receptiveness and professionalism. There was some conversation about how CLA ended the fiscal year. Tom explained that the outlay was low. There weren't a lot of expenses given the annual conference was virtual. With this increased revenue some consideration will be given to restoring some cutbacks.

**OTHER
REPORTS**
CLA

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): Division of Library Development Director Dawn La Valle reported that the ACLPD Resource Sharing Committee presented the 1st of 3 sessions for "Lead Your Library: The Importance of Foresight and Vision to Library Success" which will prepare library directors both academic and public to understand the CT Vision for Resource Sharing; the Resource Sharing Toolkit; understand how the CT Best Practice for Libraries Self-Assessment can be used along with the CT Vision; understand the importance of Strategic Foresight and vision to the future of libraries and to their own effective leadership; and have a greater understanding of their leadership role and responsibilities to "train future leaders, for the future." They are also recruiting libraries for the CT Vision for Resource Sharing to learn how to implement it into practice.

ACLPD

Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC): No report at this time.

CLC

Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB): Dawn La Valle reported that

ACLB

ACLB has been receiving positive feedback on the tools they are developing for Connecticut library trustees including the Library Board Self-Assessment Tool; the Director Evaluation Tool; the ACLB Hand Book and as always the Being a Library Board: Board Basics which covers Ethics, Legal Responsibilities; Effective Board Practice and much more. ACLB will present a virtual session highlighting the tools. Dawn and Gail Richmond have been busy conducting Board Basics trainings around the state and have several more scheduled for the coming weeks. ACLB will consider holding the popular ACLB Leadership Conference this fall.

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

FOCL

OLD BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Deborah referred to the financial report that was included in the Board's meeting packets. The report shows that we will end the fiscal year with a negative of over \$31,000. The majority of our spending has already been taken into account. The Department of Administrative Services and Office of Policy and Management budget analysts assigned to the State Library are working to balance our account, including use of the \$200,000 holdback from earlier in the year.

Budget Update

Legislative Update: Deborah reported that the borrowIT funding has been restored in the Legislature's proposed budget. She thanked everyone who testified in support of the State Library's budget.

Legislative Update

The State Library is moving forward with moving the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) to the Middletown Library Service Center as LBPH no longer needs the space in their current building. LBPH will become part of the Division of Library Development, and the staff will report to Dawn La Valle. We hope to use that space for Archives or Public Records. There is no timeline on the move yet.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): Nominations were sought for the appointment of seven position on ACLPD. They are library users from regions 1,2,3,4 and 6; a representative for persons with disabilities and for large public libraries. An application from Twana Johnson of the Bridgeport Public Library was received as a representative for persons with disabilities and from Diane Brown of the New Haven Free Public Library's Stetson Branch as a representative for large public libraries. It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS OF TWANA JOHNSON AND DIANE BROWN FOR A TERM BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2021 AND ENDING MAY 31, 2023. PASSED unanimously.

Appointments to the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development

Motion

Fiber to the Library Grants-in-Aid: This supplemental grant funding helps libraries with unanticipated expenses necessary to complete the circuits within their buildings and to put the fiber into operation. It was immediately MOVED (J. Barry) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE A SIXTEENTH ROUND OF GRANTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT.

Fiber to the Library Grants-in-Aid

Motion

\$46,345 to the North Haven Memorial Library

\$24,530.05 to the Voluntown Public Library

\$18,340 to the Bunker Hill Branch Library in Waterbury

\$47,280 to the Westbrook Public Library

PASSED unanimously.

Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants: There is close to \$75,000 available for LSTA competitive grants for FY 2021-2022. Applications were sought in two categories: Literacy Grants and Planning Grants. One Planning Grant application was received, reviewed and recommended for funding. The dates of the grant period will run from July 1, 2021 to December 30, 2022. It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (M. Hickey) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE ALLOCATION OF \$5,000 IN LSTA FUNDS FOR THE GRANTS AS SPECIFIED IN THE DETAILED BREAKDOWN -

Library Service and Technology Act Grants

Motion

PLANNING GRANTS- Hamden Public Library, Hamden (\$5,000.00).

PASSED with one abstention (M. Sullivan).

There was some discussion regarding the next meeting and returning to in-person meetings. Deborah replied that she is happy to accommodate whatever the Board decides. Some board members expressed a desire to return to in-person meetings.

Mary stated that with Covid restrictions relaxing it is finally time to officially welcome Deborah as the new State Librarian. It was suggested that the July meeting be scheduled for later in the afternoon and that a reception could follow the meeting. The idea is for the State Library Board to take Deborah to a restaurant to officially welcome her. Mary stated that this expense will be handled by the Board. It was decided that the July State Library Board meeting would begin at 3pm with the Board members taking Deborah out to welcome her immediately following the meeting.

At 1:50 pm, it was MOVED (B. Harris), seconded (M. Hickey) TO ADJOURN. The next meeting will be held in person and is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder