

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
July 26, 2021

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Members present: Mary Etter, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, John N. Barry, Judge Henry Cohn, Allen Hoffman, Maureen Sullivan, Sandy Ruoff, Alison Clemens

Members absent: Justice Steven Ecker, Bob Harris

Others present: Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Jane Beaudoin, Lizette Pelletier, Stephen Slovasky, Carol Trinchitella (State Library), Colleen Bailie (CLA), Jennifer Keohane (CLC)

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Mary Etter. Mary welcomed everyone back to an in-person meeting format. Board members met Deborah Schander in-person for the first time.

MINUTES

It was MOVED (S. Ruoff) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 24, 2021 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED unanimously.

MINUTES

Motion

BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Allen Hoffman gave a 'heads up' to Jennifer Keohane of the Connecticut Library Consortium that he heard on the radio of an incident that involved them regarding a request to remove a book from the Norwalk Library.

BOARD

**COMMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

John Barry stated that he was in Memorial Hall earlier and noticed the order of the governor portraits have the more recent ones in the back. He feels it would be easier for patrons to understand the order if the more recent governors were displayed in the front and suggested there be some conversation about rearranging the order. Deborah responded that she will mention this to the Museum Curator and get his input.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC

COMMENT

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah expressed she was glad to meet everyone in person. She reported that the State Library has reopened with a mask wearing requirement per the Department of Administrative Services' directive for Executive Branch agencies. She clarified that the State Library's hours have been changed but have not been reduced. The State Library is now open to the public Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm. John Barry inquired about statistics for Saturday hours. Deborah explained that she would like to return to Saturday hours but that the reason they were stopped before the pandemic was the expense for security coverage.

STATE

**LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT**

The State Library is now ready to move forward in getting the Royal Charter conserved. The Charter is an incredibly important part of our collection and was appraised, with the frame, for over \$10 million. We will get a recommendation on the best way to display it in the future.

Now that Covid-19 restrictions are relaxing, Deborah would like to make visits to Historical Societies and libraries. She invited the Board members to join her on these visits in their respective towns and invited their suggestions on where to visit.

Board members complimented Deborah for the new format of the State Librarian's Report. Maureen added that she especially appreciates how the report credits the State Library staff and highlights the engagement with partners in other organizations.

OTHER REPORTS

Connecticut Library Association (CLA): Colleen Bailee introduced herself as the new CLA President. CLA transitioned to new leadership on June 17 and are still looking to fill some vacancies. The CLA Annual Conference Committee is looking into how to handle next year's conference and should have dates soon. There was a question about CLA now being more financially stable. Colleen replied that this is true but that the Annual Conference Committee will still look into having a conservative look next year and because they want to increase that stability they will not be hiring a lobbyist this year.

**OTHER
REPORTS**
CLA

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): Dawn La Valle reported that ACLPD welcomed two new board members, Diane Brown, Manager, Stetson Branch of the New Haven Free Public Library and Twana Johnson of the Bridgeport Public Library. Diane Brown will be partnering with DLD staff member Ashley Sklar to plan programming for libraries around Diane's award-winning work with New Haven's Arts and Ideas Festival. Dawn reported that 12 libraries and representatives from all types of libraries are participating in the CT Vision for Resource Sharing, Lead Your Library Pilot. Pilot libraries are engaging in a deep dive into the CT Vision for Resource Sharing document and accompanying Scenarios for Resource Sharing providing feedback and additional strategic and tactical actions to be included in the Vision. A comprehensive report will be submitted in the fall.

ACLPD

Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC): Jennifer Keohane, Executive Director, reported that CLC is wrapping up FY20-21. Covid-19 has impacted non-grant income and vendors are seeing a 30-70% decrease in sales. CLC has managed to bridge the gap and is no longer as reliant on the state funding they receive from the State Library. Jennifer announced that she is leaving her position at CLC at the end of the calendar year. The job description will be posted soon and with the hope that whoever is hired will have some overlap time with her. The State Library Board thanked Jennifer for her support and wished her well in her next chapter.

CLC

Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB): Dawn La Valle reported that ACLB has postponed all trainings for the month of July. However, Dawn and Gail Richmond have been busy conducting Board Basics trainings around the state. In lieu of the Annual Leadership Conference, ACLB will be offering a series

ACLB

of workshops including the Library Trustee Self Assessment Tool, the Library Director Evaluation Tool, and Library Board Basics.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Deborah reported that the State Library came close to zeroing out its budget. We did not have to request the holdback and are now moving into the new fiscal year. The State Library was successful in retaining the proposed cuts to borrowIT.

Legislative Update: Deborah expressed her appreciation to everyone who testified at the legislature in support of the State Library's budget. The State Library is moving the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) to the Middletown Library Service Center as LBPH no longer needs the space in its current building. LBPH has become part of the Division of Library Development, and the staff are reporting to Dawn La Valle. The National Library Service has expanded the list of professionals who can certify people to receive services from LBPH and its counterparts across the country. Staff are working on outreach and advocacy about this. Staff from the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Administrative Services are cognizant of the State Library's needs for space, and our intention is to renovate the LBPH facility for future use. We are planning to move LBPH to Middletown in the early Fall and are in the process of looking for Unit Head candidates. The deadline to apply for the position closes on August 2.

NEW BUSINESS

Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants: There is close to \$75,000 available for LSTA competitive grants for FY21-FY22. Applications were sought in two categories: Literacy Grants and Planning Grants. One Literacy Grant application was received, reviewed and recommended for funding. The dates of the grant period will run from August 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. It was MOVED (M. Sullivan) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE ALLOCATION OF \$1,925.00 IN LSTA FUNDS FOR THE GRANTS AS SPECIFIED IN THE DETAILED BREAKDOWN -

LITERACY GRANT- East Lyme Public Library, East Lyme (\$1,925.00).

PASSED unanimously.

At 4:05 pm, it was MOVED (A. Hoffman), seconded (M. Hickey) TO ADJOURN. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

FOCL

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update

Legislative Update

NEW BUSINESS

Library Service and Technology Act Grants

Motion

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder
