

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
STATE LIBRARY BOARD  
Held via Teams  
January 24, 2022

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Members joining via Teams:

Judge Henry Cohn, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Mary Etter, Bob Harris, Maureen Sullivan, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Alison Clemens, Justice Steven Ecker, Allen Hoffman

Members absent: Sandy Ruoff

Others joining via Teams:

Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Jane Beaudoin, Lizette Pelletier, Robert Kinney, LeAnn Burbank (State Library), Colleen Bailie (CLA), Ellen Paul (CLC), Pam Monahan (Friends), Elaine Braithwaite (Bridgeport Public Library)

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**MINUTES**

It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE November 22, 2021, BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED with three abstentions (S. Ecker, A. Clemens, A. Hoffman).

**MINUTES**

Motion

**BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was no Board Comment.

**BOARD  
COMMENTS/  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Deborah referred to her full written report that was included in the Board's packets. She reported that there was a very successful launch of the All CT Reads program. Kudos were given to Division of Library Development staff Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar and partner organizations that include Connecticut Center for the Book at Connecticut Humanities, Connecticut Association for School Librarians (CASL) and the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC).

**STATE  
LIBRARIAN'S  
REPORT**

Deborah went over her 6 key goals for 2022 which are listed in her written report. They are:

- Develop and improve communications between the State Library and the legislature, agencies, and other governmental organizations
- See opportunity in upcoming retirements to assess and adjust unit/division and library-wide operations as needed
- Implement Leadership Team meetings to regularly bring together all unit/division heads
- Engage in a strategic planning process with the Board, staff, and other stakeholders
- Assess space usage and needs of our facilities and develop a plan to address
- Refresh the Museum of Connecticut History.

Bob Harris commented that he was glad to see that Deborah has been interacting with Walt Woodward. Bob suggested that Walt may be able to provide some advice or ideas about refreshing the Museum of Connecticut History. Deborah agreed that Walt has a rich understanding of Connecticut history and added that she has met with him regarding state publications.

Judge Cohn asked for an update on the Royal Charter. Deborah informed the Board that State Archivist Lizette Pelletier has been working on this matter. It was decided to not move the Charter during the winter and instead wait until Spring.

**OTHER REPORTS**

Maureen stated that she and Deborah will look at how other organizations report to their Boards and consider what other CT library organizations should report to this Board. The reports may be transitioned to a written report submitted to the Board that will be included in their packets and, based on those reports, she and Deborah will select which organizations may be invited to give a verbal report at each meeting. The representatives of each organization may also request to provide an oral report. This is something that will be done on a trial basis and will be reviewed after a period of time to see how it's working. She asked if there were any questions or input from the reporting group. Colleen Bailie stated that she felt this was a good idea, as it is how other organizations she's familiar with operate. Pam Monahan asked if there could be a way for the reporting groups to see what the others have submitted. Maureen stated that this was a good suggestion and she would follow up.

Connecticut Library Association (CLA): Colleen Bailie, President, highlighted a program they have scheduled for January 26 on Intellectual Freedom. CLA's Vice President/President-Elect had to step down and Doug Lord from the CH Booth Library has agreed to fill the position effective immediately. 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 along with Author Jean Baur. CLA will be putting out a statement regarding the importance of Intellectual Freedom.

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): Dawn La Valle reported that on January 18 ACLPD's Digital Inclusion Task Force launched "Connecticut Partners for Digital Equity". This provides a collective vision to assist with digital equity. An implementation plan is being developed to address broadband affordability, digital navigation, affordable devices, skills and technical support and asset mapping to see what Digital Equity services are already being offered to the public.

Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC): Ellen Paul, Executive Director of CLC, stated that CLC received 19 responses to their Request for Response from book vendors and publishers which resulted in 15 contracts being executed. A vendor fair will be held in the spring to introduce libraries to the contracted vendors.

Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB): Dawn La Valle reported that ACLB had a successful fall webinar series. ACLB will be developing a purpose and direction for itself with regard to Covid.

**OTHER REPORTS**

**CLA**

**ACLPD**

**CLC**

**ACLB**

Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL): Friends Vice-President Pam Monahan reported that FOCL's annual meeting will be held in June with the actual date to be determined. The annual meeting will include the awards program and information about the projects that will be honored will be sent to library directors and Friends groups soon. The By-Laws have been revised and will go out to the membership and the handbook is in its final stages of revision.

**Friends**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Budget Update: Deborah stated that the State Library continues to be on track with its budget and they are being very careful with spending. Retirements will impact things as the payouts come out of the budget line where salaries are paid. The Governor's budget is due to be presented on February 9. Deborah will send a letter to the State Library Board with budget impact information after the proposed budget is released.

Budget Update

Legislative Update: Deborah reported that the State Library is monitoring the budget which is a large part of the legislative session. They are working on a couple of technical issues with a few bills. Deborah added that it may not come up during the legislative session but there has been talk about the rising cost of e-books. She has been talking with the CLA Legislative Committee, other State Librarians, and other groups to see what would be a successful solution if necessary.

Legislative Update

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution for Stephen C. Rice: Maureen Sullivan stated that it's her privilege and honor to bring this resolution forward. The State Library's staff has suffered a devastating loss with the passing of Stephen Rice. Stephen was very highly regarded among his peers and in the library community, and he is very missed. Maureen read the following two sections of the resolution aloud:

Resolution for Stephen C. Rice

Whereas, Steve specialized in the Connecticut state agency documents collection, expertly locating print documents and preserving electronic versions of state publications, allowing the State Library to fulfill its mission of preserving the past to inform the future; and,

Whereas, using his warm heart, his smile, his humor, and his willingness to understand people every day, Steve enriched the lives of his colleagues, patrons, and everyone who crossed his path.

It was MOVED (A. Hoffman) seconded (B. Harris) THAT ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2022 THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD HONOR THE MEMORY OF STEPHEN C. RICE, RECOGNIZING HIS DEDICATION IN PRESERVING AND MAKING ACCESSIBLE TO ALL THE VITAL RECORDS OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, AND EXTEND THEIR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES.

**Motion**

PASSED unanimously.

Appointment to the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development: Nominations were sought for the appointment of seven positions on ACLPD. One inquiry was received to fill the representative for academic libraries opening.

Appointment to ACLPD

The Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development is recommending the appointment of Patrick Carr from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Library Consortium. Maureen stated that she has had the privilege of working with Patrick and knows that he contributes to the academic libraries, is smart, and moves matters forward. It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK CARR FOR A TERM BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JANUARY 31, 2024. PASSED unanimously.

**Motion**

One-Year Contract Extension for the City of Bridgeport, Bridgeport Public Library, Upper East Side Branch Library: The State Library received a letter from the City Librarian that the progress on this project was delayed due to numerous extenuating circumstances. The city signed a contract with a construction company and construction of the building is in progress. There is concern that the project may not be completed by the original contract deadline of May 17, 2022 and so an extension is being requested. The library and city are aware that this is the last extension they can receive for this grant and they are confident the project will be completed within the new timeframe. It was MOVED (M. Hickey) seconded (S. Ecker) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES EXTENDING THE GRANT CONTRACT DEADLINE TO MAY 17, 2023, FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY, UPPER EAST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROJECT. PASSED unanimously.

One-Year Contract Extension for the City of Bridgeport, Bridgeport Public Library, Upper East Side Branch Library

**Motion**

At 2:45 It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Ecker) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. PASSED unanimously.

At 3:13 p.m. the Board came out of Executive Session. No action was taken in Executive Session.

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With no other matters to come before the Board, at 3:13 p.m. it was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (M. Etter) TO ADJOURN.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. and will be held via Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah Schander, Secretary

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Jane Beaudoin, Recorder