

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
Held via Teams
July 25, 2022

INDEX

Members joining via Teams:

Judge Henry Cohn, Mary Etter, Bob Harris, Maureen Sullivan,
Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Sheri Szymanski, Sandy Ruoff,
Justice Steven Ecker, Alison Clemens, Allen Hoffman

Members absent: Jessica de Perio Wittman

Others joining via Teams:

Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Jane Beaudoin, Lizette
Pelletier. Other members of the public joining via Teams were
not identified.

MINUTES

It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (M. Hickey) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE
May 23, 2022 BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED
with four abstentions (Sandy Ruoff, Justice Steven Ecker, Alison Clemens, Allen
Hoffman)

MINUTES

Motion

BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Harris stated he is sorry to report that he will be submitting his resignation
from the State Library Board due to his deteriorating health. On behalf of the
board members Maureen stated that she is very sorry to hear this and for him to
be in a situation where he has to make that decision. Bob said that he will be
sending his resignation letter to the Governor with a copy to Maureen and
Deborah. Board members expressed their individual gratitude to Bob and
expressed their concern for his health.

**BOARD
COMMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah referred to her full written report for a robust look at the State Library's
activities over the last couple of months. She highlighted a couple of them. On
July 1 the Governor signed Executive Order No. 22-2, establishing the
Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission which is to celebrate America's
250th Anniversary in 2026. This will require a significant amount of forethought
and planning going into this celebration not only here in Connecticut but across
the nation. Former Secretary of the State Denise Merrill is the Chair of the
Commission and Jason Mancini, Executive Director of the Connecticut
Humanities, is the Vice Chair. They are eager for this to be a statewide initiative
and include all the towns if possible. We're hoping this will be an opportunity to
highlight our historical organizations and cultural institutions across the state.
The State Library, CT Library Association, Town Clerks Association, the Old
State House, and CT League of History Organization are some of the groups that
will be involved with the Commission.

**STATE
LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT**

Deborah also highlighted the CT Libraries & Partners for Digital Equity which is a statewide coalition that was put together by the Division of Library Development (DLD) staff. One thing that was highlighted by the pandemic is how big the digital divide is. The coalition's goal is to help bridge that gap through various initiatives. For example, DLD used some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to create a digital navigator pilot program with public libraries across the state. This program not only gets a device in the hands of people who need them but also connects them with someone who can teach them how to use these devices and make them aware of services available to them. We've had some wonderful partners across the state as we move in this direction. There was significant press coverage around Juneteenth celebrations in CT, which also highlighted the digital divide as a social equity issue. Dawn was able to represent the State Library with an interview on FOX61 and there were a number of other ways that we were able to share information to raise awareness on this as well.

Deborah credited Mel Smith of the History and Genealogy division for continuing the work of former Unit Head Carolyn Picciano. Mel has been working with FamilySearch to make a lot of the resources the State Library has about Connecticut history accessible to those who are remote. In the past you had to physically be in the State Library and use our equipment in order to access many of those resources as part of the licensing agreement requirement. Because of the pandemic we've been able to make the information more accessible.

Justice Ecker complimented Deborah on her report and is amazed at how much the State Library is doing. He hopes that his appreciation for their work will be conveyed to the staff. Deborah stated that she will pass this message along at the staff meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning.

OTHER REPORTS

Maureen stated that updates were received from 4 external organizations and were included in the Board's meeting packets. Maureen and Deborah did not feel that in-person updates were necessary and invited any questions. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Deborah went over the financial report in detail and explained the fiscal year-end balances. We have started the new fiscal year in good standing. Now that Deborah has experienced a full budget year she has a clearer understanding of where we have struggles and where we have some leeway and will be able to apply this knowledge in this next fiscal year.

Legislative Update: There is no legislative update at this time.

Strategic Plan: Maureen stated that she put the Strategic Plan proposed process document together as a result of many conversations with Deborah. Maureen gave the Board members the opportunity to ask questions, comment, or have discussion before a timeline is put together to implement the plan. Allen Hoffman asked what the motivation was for initiating a Strategic Plan. Maureen thought it would be important to undertake this work so that the State Library Board can have the opportunity to think together about the future of the State Library and have the opportunity through its discussion to indicate some of the larger

OTHER REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS
Budget Update

Legislative Update

Strategic Plan

strategic areas where they might want to focus their attention. This plan will also provide Deborah with a tool in her work, and the process itself will become a means to engage the staff in thinking about the future. The plan helps in clarifying what the various ways are in which the State Library is making a difference for the people in the state. Deborah added that there are so many opportunities that come our way for projects and partnerships, and this can sometimes lead to mission drift. This plan will help assess what the State Library can and can't take on and will help focus on what the strategic goals are that we want to accomplish together through careful decisions. Maureen said that she will keep the Board informed as they move forward with the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): Nominations were sought for the appointment of eight positions on ACLPD. They are library users from regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; a representative for Medium Public Libraries and a representative for the Connecticut Library Association. An inquiry for a representative, Madhu Gupta, Executive Director, Public Library of New London, for Medium Public Libraries and Alyssa Bussard, Assistant Director, Hamden Public Library, for the Connecticut Library Association, were received. It was MOVED (A. Hoffman) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS OF Madhu Gupta and Alyssa Bussard FOR A TERM BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2022 AND ENDING JULY 31, 2024. PASSED unanimously.

Library Service and Technology Act Grants: There is close to \$75,000 available for LSTA competitive grants for FY22-FY23. Applications were sought in two categories: Literacy Grants and Planning Grants. One Literacy Grant application was received and no Planning Grants. The Literacy Grant was reviewed and recommended for funding. The dates of the Literacy Grant period will run from August 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. It was MOVED (S. Szymanski) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE ALLOCATION OF \$7,500 IN LSTA FUNDS FOR THE GRANTS AS SPECIFIED IN THE DETAILED BREAKDOWN -

LITERACY GRANT- Seymour Public Library (\$7,500).

PASSED unanimously.

Approval of recommended Appointments to the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Advisory Committee: Maureen referred the Board to the fact sheet on this matter which shows the roster of those who are being appointed and shows the staggered terms of the appointments. It was Moved (M. ETTER) SECONDED (B. HARRIS) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT OF ANNE FORTUNATO, KATIE WISEMAN, STEVE FAMIGLIETTI AND MARY SILVERBERG FOR A TERM BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2022 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023; PETER WILLIAMS FOR A TERM BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2022 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024; AND FRED CHIDESTER, EILEEN KELLY, KEVIN MCNALLY, JOHN

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to ACLPD

Motion

LSTA Grants

Motion

Appointments to LBPH Advisory Committee

Motion

CARRONA, AND SANDRA STREETER FOR A TERM BEGINNING
AUGUST 1, 2022 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025.

After brief discussion, PASSED unanimously.

Sandy asked when in-person meetings will resume. Maureen replied that a poll was taken prior to determining the next meeting's venue. Until the entire Board is comfortable meeting in person the Board will meet remotely. We will be checking with the Board again before the next meeting.

With no other matters to come before the Board, at 1:36 it was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (S. Ecker) TO ADJOURN. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder