

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
May 20, 2024

INDEX

Members joining in person:

Allen Hoffman, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Mary Etter, Sheri Szymanski

Members joining via Teams:

Judge Henry Cohn, Claudia Jalowka, Alison Clemens, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Scott Matheson

Members absent: Sandy Ruoff, Sally Whipple

Others joining in person:

Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Suzanne Kiss, Jane Beaudoin, Ashley Sklar, Gail Hurley, Barbara Ghilardi (CSL), Susan Muro (CT Humanities)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Allen Hoffman. 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 (J. de Perio Wittman) seconded (M. Etter) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2024 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED with two abstentions (M. Hickey, A. Clemens).

MINUTES

Motion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no matters requiring Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BOARD COMMENTS

Melissa Hickey stated that she appreciates the State Librarian's Report and complimented the thoroughness and enthusiasm in how it's written. It's very clear that the staff are busy with their work and with building relationships with other organizations.

**BOARD COMMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Allen Hoffman agreed and shared that he sees innovative collaborations happening throughout the report, and he is very appreciative of all of the staff's work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Allen Hoffman reminded all present that any public comments must be related to a specific item on the meeting agenda. There was no public comment at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah stated that the theme of collaboration inside the agency and also outside of the agency with other organizations has been apparent in the last few months and many examples were highlighted in her written report.

The State Library participated in Take your Child to Work Day with about 150 participants from the different constitutional offices from across the state visiting the agency. This was a collaboration between the museum and reference staff with several tours of the museum and library throughout the event. We are looking forward to participating in this program again as it was a great opportunity to connect with state of Connecticut employees and their families. Deborah gave kudos to the museum and reference staff for their successful efforts in this program.

Deborah stated that she is part of the Supreme Court Historical Society's Board. She is interested in the State Library creating a formal internship program at the State Library to provide hands-on training for students studying archives, library, or museum work. The State Library has had informal opportunities for internships in the past and would like to be a place for students to come and get valuable hands-on experience during their education. One of the things Deborah has been talking about with the Supreme Court Historical Society is the possibility of an intern working on their collections and they are wanting to continue that conversation. The hope is to begin reaching out to other opportunities as well.

We've seen many organizations across museum, library, and archives communities embrace the State Library's outreach van which was launched last fall. The van has already been present at many events and there are plans in place for more in the future.

Deborah participated in the Early Childhood Literacy Roundtable which was an opportunity to highlight the work of the Division of Library Development. This allowed an opportunity to work with legislators and with non-profits across the state who are in places that libraries are not. The partnerships that are being built will create different opportunities to connect with families with young children and help them to understand the importance of early literacy and how it shapes their future success. We will continue to work with the three organizations involved: Reach out And Read, Read to Grow, and the United Way in partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. These organizations received funding from the legislature through the State Library.

Deborah and staff recently had a meeting with the Judicial Branch to discuss how the building space is shared, the historic significance of the building, and how it can be it be preserved for the future. Deborah will be meeting with Justice Alexander soon about ways to further collaborate with the Supreme Court, Justices, their clerks and staff, and the State Library.

Work continues on the move for the Connecticut Charter project. Deborah will be sharing more with the Board as appropriate. The move and conservation are anticipated to happen this summer.

**STATE
LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT**

The recent Connecticut Library Statistical Profile was released. Members of the Division of Library Development collaborated to create ways for public libraries to use the information and create their own reports using their own data, allowing them to tell the important stories and data which highlight the vital work of libraries in their communities.

The Public Records unit has continued to offer a series of trainings for other members of the state and municipal government. This unit is often the way that other governmental organizations work with the State Library. The Public Records unit will continue to do webinars and trainings to help educate on the importance of maintaining public records.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

No reports at this time.

OTHER REPORTS

The updates that were received from the Connecticut Library Consortium, Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Association of Connecticut Library Boards were included in the Board’s meeting packets. There were no questions on the submissions.

Deborah announced that starting with the July Board meeting Deborah will be inviting staff from the different units of the agency to present to the Board. This will give the Board an opportunity to meet some of the staff and hear in more detail about some of the projects talked about in the State Librarian’s Report. An internal schedule has been set up and the first to present will be the Museum of Connecticut History. Deborah will be letting the Board know the schedule so the Board can submit any questions to her ahead of time if they like.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Items on the Consent Agenda: There being no objections, the consent agenda was moved (J. de Perio Wittman), seconded (M. Etter) and PASSED unanimously.

The items that were on the consent agenda are:

Retirement Resolution of Barbara Austen (SLB DOC 24-6)

Best Practices for Connecticut Public Libraries Update (SLB DOC 24-7)

A one-year contract extension deadline to obtain local match funding for the Connecticut State Library Public Library Construction Grant fo Wheeler Library, Noth Stonington (SLB DOC 24-8)

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: The legislature did not reopen the budget for this biennium so the State Library’s request for a ledger transfer did not go forward. The matter will be raised again in the next legislative session which will be the start of the new biennial budget. Deborah had many productive conversations with the Appropriations Committee and the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. Deborah is looking forward to continuing those conversations and anticipates

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

OTHER REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion

OLD BUSINESS
Budget Update

making more significant requests in the new biennium related to funding for the Division of Library Development, staffing, and others. Deborah explained a couple line items in the financial report which was included in the Board's meeting packet.

Legislative Update: Deborah reported that the major item this session was the eBook legislation which was related to the cost that libraries are paying for e-materials. The version of the bill that was passed out of the Government Administration and Elections Committee was debated in the House for 3 hours but unfortunately didn't move forward. The advocates that worked with the State Library on this bill are interested in reintroducing it again next year so it is expected that the conversation will continue.

There were also a few bills related to funding for the America 250 Commission on which Deborah sits. There is a bonding bill that passed but is dependent on the approval of the bond money going through. Because the State Library is a part of the America 250 Commission, we are keeping an eye on the funding in that area.

Strategic Framework: Dawn introduced Gail Hurley, Ashley Sklar, and Barbara Ghilardi of her staff who are assisting in the Strategic Framework process. Dawn updated the Board on where we are with the process and shared a power point presentation of the draft Strategic Framework Planning.

The next step will be to present a similar presentation to the State Library staff to show them the results of the conversations they've been having. A final draft of the plan will be submitted to the State Library Board in early July so it can be reviewed and approved at the July meeting. The intention is to prepare the implementation plan and all the documents to go with it with a formal launch at the Board's annual meeting in September. Today's power point presentation will be sent to the Board members.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:10pm it was MOVED (S. Szymanski) THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder

Legislative Update

Strategic Framework

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT
Motion

