

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
July 22, 2024

INDEX

Members joining in person:
Allen Hoffman, Mary Etter, Sheri Szymanski

Members joining via Teams:
Judge Henry Cohn, Claudia Jalowka, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Scott Matheson, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Sandy Ruoff, Sally Whipple

Members absent: Alison Clemens

Others joining in person:
Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Matt Geeza, Jane Beaudoin, Jennifer Matos (CSL)

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 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 (M. Etter) seconded (S. Szymanski) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2024 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED with one abstention (S. Whipple).

MINUTES

Motion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Deborah stated that the Charter will be discussed during this meeting and if Board members would like security details regarding the move or the location it was taken to then Executive Session will be necessary. Executive session was not necessary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BOARD COMMENTS

Melissa Hickey complimented the letter that went to the State's leadership regarding the conservation measures for the Charter. She stated that it was well written and very informative. Allen agreed and thanked everyone involved for all the precautions that were taken in this big project.

**BOARD COMMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sheri Szymanski acknowledged Dawn La Valle and Deborah for their work on the Strategic Framework document which she found impressive.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah thanked Melissa for her acknowledgement of the Charter letter and credited State Archivist Lizette Pelletier and the archives staff for drafting it.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah highlighted a few items from her written report. Kevin Johnson has completed 684 Private William Webb presentations and has now retired the character. He has developed this presentation through the research he conducted using the State Library's resources. Kevin is a great representative of the State Library across the state and will be continuing to present his two other historical characters, Jordan Freeman and his new character Professor Jim.

The Historic Documents program has recently issued Cycle 1 of FY25 grants. This grant allows 102 municipalities to receive funds to work on their own municipal records, vaults, and items related to historic preservation in their towns. Deborah noted Nicole Besseghir's work on this program.

Deborah also noted the work of the References Services team, in particular she thanked Wafaa Razeq, who recently updated the state agency profiles which provide information about each agency including history, leadership, and also provides links to agency annual reports.

Deborah gave some background on the work involved with the Connecticut Charter which has now been transported to the conservation center. Deborah presented a brief slide show covering the events of getting the Charter secured and out of the building. This involved many people including the State Archives and Museum staff, Judicial Marshals, State Police, and coordination with other agencies. Deborah thanked everyone involved for a thorough and professional job and acknowledged their important roles in the process.

Judge Cohn stated that he worked with Deborah to write an article about the history of the Charter which was published in the Journal of Supreme Court Historical Society. He verified that the original charter will not be on display any longer but instead a copy will be available for viewing. Deborah confirmed that a high resolution reproduction of the Charter will be on display in the Museum, a decision in keeping with peer institutions' policies and practices regarding their own similar historic documents. The State Library will also be creating educational content for display related to the Charter and its role in history and also information about the process of conservation.

Allen pointed out how extensive and information-filled Deborah's written State Librarian's report continues to be. He is very impressed with the amount of staff that are working with other organizations and also the scope and range of all of the cooperative projects.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

Allen stated that he has been the sole member of the Board's Nominating Committee for many years. As Chair of the State Library Board, he can no longer continue in this role and reported that Scott Matheson has agreed to Chair the committee this year. It was MOVED (A. Hoffman) seconded (H. Cohn) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTS SCOTT MATHESON AS THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR. PASSED unanimously.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

OTHER REPORTS

External organizations

A report from Connecticut Humanities (CTH) was received and included in the Board meeting packets. CTH staff member Scott Wands answered a question which was related to the written report.

Divisions and units – Museum of Connecticut History

Deborah reminded the Board that it expressed interest in hearing more detailed information about each division and unit, and space has been made on Board meeting agendas to spotlight one at each meeting, beginning with the Museum of Connecticut History. Deborah introduced Museum Administrator Jennifer Matos. Jenn gave a detailed overview, complete with background information and photos of the museum galleries and some of the collections. She gave specific information and history of many items in the museum which are rich in military, political, and industrial history. She highlighted some notable items of the Connecticut Collections gallery and also the Colt gallery which is being renamed to Colt Legacy. Jenn explained that currently her staff are not taking in any new collections in order to manage what the Museum currently has. She shared images of the current renovations happening in the museum and talked about the outreach, workshops, and events they have been involved in. There were questions and comments following the presentation and the Board thanked Jenn and complimented the progress that is happening and her vision for the Museum’s future.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Items on the Consent Agenda: There being no objections, the consent agenda was MOVED (S. Szymanski), seconded (M. Etter) and PASSED unanimously.

The items that were on the consent agenda are:

Appointments to the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (SLB DOC 24-9)

One year extension for obtaining matching funds for the West Haven Library Village Improvement Association, Allington Branch construction grant project (SLB DOC 24-10)

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Framework (SLB DOC 24-11):

It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Matheson) THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD AFFIRMS THE CT STATE LIBRARY’S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2024 AND ITS THREE GOALS OF RAISING AWARENESS, EXPANDING ACCESSIBILITY, AND DEEPENING COLLABORATION. PASSED unanimously.

Budget & Legislative Update: Deborah combined the Budget and Legislative Update. We’re in the process of closing out the FY2024 budget. Deborah referred the Board to the Financial Report included in their packets and explained the remaining balances will change because we are still in the process of closing out the budget. She explained the transfer of funds from the Personal

OTHER REPORTS

External Organizations

Divisions and units
Museum of CT
History

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Framework

Motion

Budget & Legislative Update

Services line to Other Expenses. This transfer of \$139,000 is what is allowing the State Library to complete the Museum renovations. Deborah thanked Jenn Matos and Jay Yasensky for working quickly on this process. Deborah explained that we are using non-lapsing funds to pay for the transport and conservation of the Charter. These funds came from previous sales of items from the Museum, Library, or Archives' collections that were not in the scope of the State Library's mission. Deborah emphasized the importance of communicating the agency's need to secure new and additional funding for special projects such as the museum renovation and charter conservation in future rather than relying solely on existing funds.

We are gearing up for the next biennial budget and waiting on instructions from the Office of Policy and Management which are expected in the next few weeks.

Deborah thanked the Board for their kind comments about the Strategic Framework report and commended Dawn La Valle, Ashley Sklar, and the team in the Division of Library Development that worked on it with the staff and stakeholders to create this agency level framework. For next steps, divisions and units who will be able to have further conversations internally and with their specific stakeholders and use this document to develop their own plans for their respective departments.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:30pm it was MOVED (S. Szymanski) seconded (M. Etter) THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion