

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
November 25, 2024

INDEX

Members joining in person:
Allen Hoffman, Mary Etter

Members joining via Teams:
Judge Henry Cohn, Claudia Jalowka, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Scott Matheson, Sandy Ruoff, Sally Whipple, Sheri Szymanski, Betsy Pittman

Members absent: Jessica de Perio Wittman

Others joining in person:
Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Suzanne Kiss, Lindsay Cawley, Jane Beaudoin (CSL)

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 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 (M. Hickey) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was needed.

BOARD COMMENTS

Melissa Hickey shared that the Dept. of Education has a new group called the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities, and they're working on a campaign with the local boards of education and dyslexia advocates. She complimented Dawn La Valle who was very helpful and brought good ideas to a recent meeting she attended with this group. Dawn has offered her support in this process and Melissa publicly expressed her appreciation.

Sally Whipple commended Jenn Matos on her leadership as the Museum of Connecticut History puts together its exhibit for the 250th anniversary. It's been a pleasure for Sally to work with everyone on this project, and she is confident that the Museum's exhibit will be something we can all be proud of. Sally stated that it's a nice reflection on how the whole State Library works.

Allen stated that unfortunately Alison Clemens is not able to continue on the State Library Board. Allen acknowledged her many contributions to the Board and expressed his appreciation.

He then welcomed new Board member Betsy Pittman who is the University Archivist at UConn. Betsy was welcomed by the Board members.

MINUTES

Motion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BOARD COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah presented a Power Point update on the conservation of the Charter. The State Library anticipates its return on schedule in January. Deborah explained the images which showed what the Charter looked like before the conservation work and what it will look like after the work is completed.

Deborah reported that the Bond Commission approved \$80,000 in funding for a study of a new State Archives facility. The State Archives has long been in a leased facility and is running out of space. The State Library has been moving forward with a proposal to build a new State Archives facility. This study should take about one year and will determine if a currently-vacant facility and its Rocky Hill location will be feasible for use. Deborah will keep the Board posted as things progress.

Budget Update

Deborah gave the budget update at this point in the meeting as it is currently occupying much time in the Office of the State Librarian. All agencies have been asked by the Office of Policy and Management to be careful with expenditures this fiscal year. Fortunately, there are currently no cuts being asked of the State Library. There is still a possibility that cuts will be made later this fiscal year but for now we will continue to be very careful with spending.

The State Library has formally submitted all of its requests for this biennial year based on the instructions from the Office of Policy and Management. We did make requests for increases to expenditure areas that include capital requests, conservation and preservation, staffing, and collections needs. The State Library is hoping to start a museum inventory to ensure we have accurate and complete information with the museum's collections. We also submitted a request for preservation and conservation of some other historic documents including the Fundamental Orders and the two copies of our Constitutions.

We also made several requests for staffing.

Deborah stated that the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) is preparing a separate budget proposal. She reminded the Board members that CLA is a separate entity from the State Library. There is much overlap in between CLA's areas of interest and the work of the Division of Library Development, and we are partners in many areas; however, it is important to remember that CLA's focus is primarily on public libraries whereas the State Library agency has eight other divisions and mandated responsibilities that we must remain mindful of.

Deborah invited questions to her report and answered some related to the State Archives study and building in Rocky Hill as well as a few budget questions.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

There were no reports at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Budget Update

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

OTHER REPORTS

External organizations

No reports from external organizations were received.

Divisions and Units – Reference Services

Deborah introduced Lindsay Cawley who is the Unit Head of Reference Services. Lindsay thanked the Board for the opportunity to present to them. She expressed how proud she is of the Reference Services staff and how dedicated they are to the work of the State Library. The three areas of Reference Services are Government Information Services, Law and Legislative Reference, and History and Genealogy. Lindsay gave an overview of what each unit does in their unique fields and also what their shared challenges and shared skills are. Lindsay answered questions from the Board and received compliments for her presentation. The Board extended their appreciation to her and her staff for the work they do.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Items on the Consent Agenda: It was noted that there was a correction on the fact sheet for agenda item SLB DOC 24-12. There being no objections, the consent agenda was MOVED (M. Etter), seconded (S. Szymanski), and PASSED unanimously.

The items on the consent agenda were:

2025 Meeting Calendar (SLB DOC 24-12 Revised)

Recommended Public Library Construction Grant Award for 2024 (SLB DOC 24-13)

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development Appointment (SLB DOC 24-14)

CT Digital Library Advisory Board Bylaws Revision (SLB DOC 24-15)

Bridgeport Public Library, Lower East Side, Construction Grant Contract Extension (SLB DOC 24-16)

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Update: Deborah gave a brief legislative update. We're heading into the long session which is when the next biennial budget will be approved. We are anticipating that ebook legislation will be reintroduced by the legislative supporters there. We're also expecting to be supportive of actions related to funding for the America 250 Commemoration in support of CT Humanities and other cultural organizations across the state. There may be bills introduced related to literacy or other topics of interest. We continue to work with public library communities and other interest groups including archives, museums, and others and remain mindful of bills raised in those areas. The legislative session starts the first week of January and goes through June.

OTHER REPORTS

External Organizations

Divisions and units Reference Services

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Update

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:30pm it was MOVED (A. Hoffman) THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.
PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion