

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
March 23, 2015

INDEX

Members present: John N. Barry, Bob Harris, Judge Michael Sheldon, Judge Peter Zarella, Allen Hoffman, Ellen Cohn, Jay Johnston

Members absent: None

Others present: Kendall Wiggin, Jane Beaudoin, Dawn La Valle, Mark Smith, Diane Pizzo, Carol Trinchitella, LeAnn Power, Lizette Pelletier, Robert Kinney (State Library), Betsy McIlvaine (ACLB), Paul McIlvaine (FOCL)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John N. Barry at 1:15 p.m.

MINUTES

It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE November 24, 2014, BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Harris recently attended a book signing of "*Doughboys on the Great War*" by Author Edward Gutierrez. This book gives the story of World War I soldiers', nicknamed "doughboys", personal accounts of the war through questionnaires they were asked to complete. Bob was pleased to report that the State Library was acknowledged in the back of the book as a venue from which the author conducted his research.

John Barry informed the Board that, earlier in the month, at one of its regularly scheduled meetings, the Connecticut Heritage Foundation Board, which includes John and also Jay Johnston, toured the vacant building at 129 Lafayette Street, which is immediately next door to the State Library. Ken gave background information about 129 Lafayette Street. The building was purchased during Governor Rell's administration. At that time, the State Library proposed to the governor's office, that the State Archives and the History & Genealogy Unit be relocated there with the idea of creating a Connecticut Heritage Center. It would also be a great venue for exhibits and public events. Governor Rell's idea was instead to split the use of the building between the Hartford Symphony, using the top floor, and the State Library, using the lower level for museum storage. Although some work was done on the building, nothing has come of Governor Rell's proposal. The Connecticut Heritage Foundation feels it's worthwhile to again make efforts to make the building available for the State Library's use. The Connecticut Heritage Foundation would like to gain support to move forward with this endeavor.

Judge Sheldon asked for the status of the State Library merging with the Secretary of the State's office. Ken replied that the discussion on that matter has stopped. Judge Sheldon advised that any discussion regarding acquiring this building be done separately from the Secretary of the State's office as they may also become interested in it. Ken will keep the State Library Board updated on this matter.

John stated that he read an article in *Hartford Magazine*, on public libraries and how they are becoming vibrant community centers. The Hartford Public Library

MINUTES

**BOARD
COMMENT/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

was spotlighted for their programs and community involvement. The article spoke positively on the future of libraries but also talked about how local municipalities are cutting their funding to library. Ellen commented that she also read the article and found it very interesting. Ellen suggested that in order to raise the State Library's visibility, the Board may want to consider holding its meetings in different libraries throughout Connecticut. John asked Ken to look into this for the next meeting on June 8, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Ken invited questions on his written report. Bob asked about the State Library's new logo. Ken stated that the idea of having a new logo has been under consideration for quite some time. When funding became available, the State Library met with three different companies to determine the best branding idea and also the best price. Ken is very pleased with the vendor that was chosen and is receiving positive feedback from the library community.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Judge Sheldon asked about the Digital Newspaper Project and whether there is now technology that can be shared to ensure real time preservation of newspapers. He noted that it would make sense to do whatever possible to acquire this technology as it would make the process easier, cheaper and more efficient. Ken will speak to his staff about this.

OTHER REPORTS

Connecticut Library Association (CLA): President Dawn La Valle reported that CLA is holding its 124th Annual conference. This year's conference is themed the Magic in Mystic: Delight and Amaze Your Users! The conference is scheduled for April 27 - 28, 2015, and will be held at the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa in Groton, CT.

OTHER REPORTS

CLA

Public librarians will gather at the Legislative Office Building, at noon, on April 15th, to rally for legislators in support of CT Library funding. Everyone is welcome to come and support this cause. The greater library community is energized to participate in this true grass effort.

Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD): Division of Library Development Director Dawn La Valle reported that Roz Rubenstein, Director of the Waterford Public Library, is the new Chair of ACLPD and Carl DiMilia, Executive Director of Bibliomation, is the new Co-chair.

ACLPD

Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC): Executive Director Jennifer Keohane was unable to attend the meeting. Ken Wiggin distributed copies of Jennifer's March 3, 2015, testimony before the Appropriations Committee, along with supporting documents.

CLC

Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB): Betsy McIlvaine, President of ACLB, reported that the Annual Leadership Conference is already in the planning stages. It will be held on November 6, 2015, at the University of Hartford. ACLB and the Friends make joint efforts to explain to individual library boards, what their roles are. It's important that an officer of a library board not be an officer on their Friends board. It allows for an imbalance of control. It is however, important for a trustee to also be a member of their Friends group.

ACLB

Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL): Paul McIlvaine, President of FOCL, spoke on the Friends role in a library's budget. John Barry questioned whether it is becoming a problem that Friends are contributing funds towards the normal operations of their respective libraries. Paul explained that the Friends should not be contributing towards the expenses that each municipality is responsible for. The Friends should only assist with the expenses that are not part of a library's normal day-to-day operations of the library. This has been an ongoing problem that the Friends may eventually bring before the State Library Board for assistance. Paul complimented Ken's testimony on the current budget proposal and how it would impact libraries throughout the state should it pass.

FOCL

Judge Sheldon asked how one becomes a Friend of Connecticut Libraries and whether it is by virtue of a donation. Paul replied that, yes, if you donate money than you are considered a Friend. Some individuals only donate money and others only donate their time. Paul stated that it is not a never ending struggle but instead a never ending challenge.

OLD BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Ken updated the board on the budget and how there is a great deal of focus on the State Library's need to meet its maintenance of effort requirements in order to not lose federal funds. He discussed the CCARD program and how it is a true reimbursement for public library services rendered. Members of the Appropriations Committee represent towns that receive funding and questioned whether the formula determining the allotted funding could be changed and also asked what the minimum the legislature could do to retain federal funds. Ken indicated that a minimum of \$1.2 million of the proposed cut needs to be restored to prevent the loss of \$540,000 in federal funds. Questions and answers followed regarding the impact of library services facing cuts. State Library programs are up against many other programs in different agencies.

Budget Update

Legislative Update: Ken reported that he testified on the capital budget. At this time the State Library is in good shape. The Committee commended the information that was submitted, which was prepared by Tom Neman. Ken complimented Tom, saying that he does an excellent job keeping track of where the money is spent.

Legislative Update

Bob questioned whether the board, as a body, should send a letter to the legislature expressing concerns. Allen felt that this would be an appropriate response to the situation. Ken suggested authorizing John, as the Chair, to represent the State Library Board with legislators. Judge Sheldon reminded the Board that lobbying would eliminate he and Justice Zarella's involvement. Justice Zarella feels that it would be more helpful if the public libraries contacted their local representatives directly. Ken responded that this has been an ongoing effort. CLA offers an advocacy training session for library directors, on how to approach legislators on library matters.

After some discussion It was MOVED (R. Sheldon) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD SEND A LETTER THAT IS SUPPORTIVE OF KEN'S EFFORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE. PASSED unanimously.

Motion

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Appointments to the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board:

There are currently three vacancies in the categories of Public Librarian, School Librarian and Professional Librarian (not specific as to library type), needed to be filled for a first term of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 3, 2014, the CDLAB approved the appointments of Barbara Johnson (Jack Jackter Intermediate School, Colchester), Michael Murphy (Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill), and VivianLea Solek (Easton Public Library), in the categories of School Librarian, Public Librarian and Professional Librarian, respectively. It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES THE APPOINTMENTS OF BARBARA JOHNSON, MICHAEL MURPHY, AND VIVIANLEA SOLEK IN THE CATEGORIES OF SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, PUBLIC LIBRARIAN AND PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN, RESPECTFULLY, FOR A TERM OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 30, 2016 TO THE CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD. PASSED unanimously.

Policies and Practices Regarding Public Display of Art in Public Libraries

(Discussion Only): In March Trumbull town officials temporarily removed artwork displayed at the public library over concerns that the use of Mother Teresa's image in the painting infringes on copyright. First Selectman Tim Herbst said that the town opted to remove the painting because the library lacks a written agreement with the artist to protect the town against "any potential liability" from the copyright violation allegation.

Ken stated that the State Library was not asked for assistance or for an opinion on this matter and that the State Library does not get involved in local issues unless asked to by library or town officials. Ken provided the Board with a document that Dawn La Valle had prepared entitled "Statement on the Display of Art in Public Libraries."

Approval of State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable & Guidelines:

The State Library Board approves all policy changes to the State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable and Guidelines. The guidelines are reviewed yearly to determine whether any substantive changes should be recommended to the State Library Board. The Proposed changes for the 2015-2016 version of the *State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable and Guidelines* make the application process more fair for libraries and make the program easier to manage. It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE CHANGING THE STATE GRANT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION TIMETABLE AND GUIDELINES FOR 2015-2016 SO THAT:

- Category 2 grant applications are now limited to projects with a total project cost under \$500,000 and to projects that alter less than one-half of the library's existing space,
- Eligible construction grant projects are now limited to projects with at least \$50,000 in total project costs.

PASSED unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ken will arrange for the Public Records Administrator LeAnn Power to present at

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Appointments to the CDLAB

Motion

Public Display of Art in Public Libraries

Approval of State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable & Guidelines

Motion

OTHER BUSINESS

the next Board meeting on what is done to preserve digital information. The State Library needs to deal with this issue as state government moves to a digital records environment. We need to feel comfortable that there is a digital preservation solution before approving the destruction of long term records. LeAnn will address the issue in her presentation. Judge Sheldon suggested that at some point, maybe at the board's Fall meeting, a representative, from another organization, that handles the security of digital records environment, would be willing to present to the Board. Ellen agreed with this suggestion since not everyone understands this subject

At 2:15 p.m., it was MOVED, TO ADJOURN. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2015, in the State Library's reading room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendall F. Wiggin, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder