

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT
JUNE 12, 2007
SCI- FOREST
MARIENVILLE, PA

MINUTES-APPROVED

Present: Kathryn Stephanoff, Vice Chair
Sara Jane Cate
Robert Gallivan
Dr. Patricia Grey
David Mitchell
Dr. Larry Nesbit
Raymond Sobina

Ex-Officio: Barbara Cole for M. Clare Zales, Deputy Secretary for Libraries & Commissioner for Libraries

Office of Caryn Carr, Director, Bureau of State Library
Commonwealth Barbara W. Cole, Director, Bureau of Library Development
Libraries: James Hollinger, Chief, Division of Library Improvement, Bureau of Library Development
Kersia Shemory, Clerk Typist 3, Bureau of Library Development
BJ Urling, Supervisor, Outreach Services, Bureau of Library Development
Bonnie Young, Head, Public Libraries and Professional Development, Bureau of Library Development

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chair Stephanoff convened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development at 10:00 a.m., June 12, 2006 in the Superintendent's conference room, at SCI-Forest in Marienville, PA.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2007 MEETING

Stephanoff moved to approve the minutes of the March 2007 meeting as submitted. Gallivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Stephanoff reported on the Open Forum at the 2007 Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) Conference in Hershey. Members who attended the forum were seeking GAC support for mandatory school library services. Stephanoff spoke to State Board of Education member Dr. James Fogarty concerning the issue and he was not hopeful. Mitchell concurred that he has been working on this same issue for over 40 years. Stephanoff added that as a request of a PDE reorganization School Library Services were moved from The Office of Commonwealth Libraries to the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Stephanoff was asked to describe how the Allentown Public Library is working with schools and communities, especially to enhance Summer Reading. In conjunction with the schools, the Allentown Park System is running a summer playground program for all center city children. Using a grant from *Sneaker Villa*, which will provide each child with a new pair of sneakers as long as they achieve "something" through the summer, Stephanoff proposed that each child agree to read ten books. This goal has been accepted and the Summer Reading program is taking place at the playground since most children could not otherwise get to the library. Stephanoff will follow up on this program at a future meeting.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION/COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Substituting for Zales, Cole mentioned the current budget negotiations. She advised that Zales has been involved in a number of conversations concerning standards and their link to categories of state aid to public libraries, i.e.; District Center aid carries with it District Center standards, and County Coordination aid, carries with it certain standards that include a countywide plan. When aid is paid by percent increase, a question arises as to whether those standards are in effect. Cole hopes this will not be a roadblock to revision of the Library Code that will be needed in order to distribute state aid. The Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) continues to advocate for a 3.5% aid increase, which will allow a modified run of the State Aid formula; a 3.5% increase is equal to the school subsidy increase.

Cole reported that LSTA is assisting with the Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (RLBPH) appropriation as the Libraries go through a transition from obsolete analogue tapes to digital talking books. As efforts are made to increase the appropriation at the state level, there are efforts to maintain responsibility at the federal level. During the U. S. House of Representatives budget negotiations, the funding request from National Library Service, which is part of the Library of Congress, was slashed by two thirds. The American Library Association and the Federation for the Blind are working to return to the previous level of funding; otherwise, transition to digital format will take ten instead of four years. In ten years, talking book on cassette machines will not be available and a gap in service will occur if adequate funding is not provided. A letter was sent to the Advocacy committee and Cole noted that Congressman John Peterson is on the subcommittee considering this appropriation.

Stephanoff added the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and the Free Library of Philadelphia both received national commendations. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh received the ASCLA Francis Joseph Campbell Award and the Free Library of Philadelphia received the 2006 Network Library of the Year Award. Stephanoff feels their recognition is worth promoting.

Cole reported the PA Senate has shown quite an interest in the Rare Books collection with a number of Senators touring the Rare Books Room before the collection is moved to the vault.

Legislation - Barbara Cole

Senator James Rhoades is proposing in Senate Bill 834 to increase the composition of the Government Advisory Council by adding two elected officials. Mitchell advised he would talk to the Senator's aide, Dave Broderic, concerning this issue.

House Bill 1297 requests that electric meters be made available in public libraries for distribution to patrons. The electric meters would be used to indicate how much electricity used in your house at any certain time.

In response to the PSLA Conference GAC open forum, Zales, Cole, Hollinger and Patterson will meet with PSLA leadership to discuss issues related to the Praxis Test and certified school librarians.

Council Vacancies- Barbara Cole

The Governor's office reported to Zales last week, the process is on schedule and appointee names are forthcoming.

Secretary's Award for Excellence- Barbara Cole

Cole announced that both winners of the 1st annual Secretary's Award for Excellence were from Commonwealth Libraries. Susan Pannebaker was acknowledged for the One Book, Every Young Child Program, and Clare Zales for the Rare Books Collection Library. Stephanoff and Nesbit sent supporting letters for the nominations

Acting Director for Bureau of Library Development - Barbara Cole

Cole announced for Zales that Jim Hollinger was appointed Acting Director for the Bureau of Library Development effective July 1, 2007. Cole is retiring June 30, 2007 and was recognized for her professionalism and dedication to libraries. Stephanoff presented her with a retirement gift from the Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ALA Legislative Day, Washington DC- Dave Mitchell

Mitchell reported on the successful ALA Legislative Days in Washington, DC. Debbie Malone did a fantastic job in organizing the Pennsylvania group, which included Mitchell, Gallivan, Cole and Carr. ALA Day on the Hill is to take place as part of the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC in late June. Mitchell emphasized the importance of talking with congressmen and keeping them focused on the issues at hand. Congressmen English is currently working to secure a preservation program to complete the conservation of the Assembly Collection.

Knowledge Initiative May 21, 2007 Meeting- Barbara Cole

Mitchell reported on the process to get the Knowledge Initiative project underway and advised this is a core program. Because of involvement from economic development, education, libraries, etc., it appeals to many levels of government. There is a need to show what services can be provided and how this program can generate growth and pay dividends to Pennsylvania residents. The present challenge is to identify these items and put them into a strong format.

The PaLA Board indicated their strong support for the Knowledge Initiative. A group of academic librarians from PaLA is working hard to gather valuable information. Cole and Hollinger then met with Jeanine Martilla and Department of Community and Economic Development staff who are equally interested in the Initiative and will move forward with a survey to gain additional results from entrepreneurs. It was agreed to blend this program into the Keystone Innovation Zones, set up by the Governor to specifically stimulate High Tech/Bio Tech business in partnership with academic institutions.

Rare Books Renovation Expenditures- Larry Nesbit

Referring to the project budget report, Nesbit stated that a bill from Department of General Services (DGS) was received for all the letters of commitment. A check was received a few days ago for \$675,000. Nesbit noted only one expenditure from 4/1/07 to 6/30/07, which was for Neal Rusnov to attend a conference in Richmond regarding rare materials and, while there, to meet with experts regarding our IMLS grant. Nesbit reported on four additional items: First, at the March meeting, GAC members authorized security upgrades, that required sole source justification. With that approval, \$30,000 for those upgrades will be expended next week. Second, \$2700 was used for emergency call boxes. Third, approximately \$27,000 will be spent on new shelves to increase the capacity of the vault for newspapers. Last, \$10,000 was used for oxygen and carbon monoxide sensors. Nesbit advised the handout reports budget revenue of 1.1 million. It will really have \$338,000 left in this account. Of that amount, \$250,000 is obligated for Save American Treasures. That will leave \$110,000 remaining in this account as of July 1, 2007.

Gallivan moved that to accept the expenditures. Cate seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rare Collections Library Project- Larry Nesbit

The Rare Books Committee is reorganizing. Senator Scarnati would like to continue to represent the Senate President Pro Tempore's office on the committee. Zales and Nesbit will meet with Senator Connie Williams and with Jean Schmedlin, representing Speaker O'Brien on June 13, 2007. Nesbit requested that the GAC send letters of appointment to new members when appointments are finalized.

Stephanoff updated members regarding the \$5 million for the Rare Books sponsored by Senator Specter. She had an opportunity to discuss this with the Senator, and also received some support from his major fundraiser in eastern Pennsylvania. An application for a Pennsylvania set aside of \$500,000 to continue preservation efforts was submitted and is moving through the usual process. Nesbit was encouraged that Specter's office had inquired as to whom to make the earmark check payable. If awarded, Mansfield University will handle the funds.

Nesbit reported that the Department of Labor and Industry is in the process of issuing an occupancy permit for the Rare Collections Library; afterward, the space will be turned over to the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Nesbit advised of issues not yet attended to, including the memorial plaque, ceiling lighting, plaster that isn't quite right, and carpet. The unused carpet could be installed in the Office of Commonwealth Libraries Administration area and Ruthann Kemper agreed to make matching drapes for those offices. The vault is being professionally cleaned and the books are scheduled for transfer on June 13, 2007.

House Bill 1166- Barbara Cole

Former Representative Zug sponsored a \$10 million appropriation in last year's state budget, but this money has not been released. Cole advised this is now the second year and if those funds are not released by next year, it will be lost. Legislative support is needed for the release of the \$10 million.

District Library Center Designations- Jim Hollinger

Hollinger reported that one of the roles of the Council is to approve the designation of the District Library Centers. District Center libraries function as a resource library and provide library development activities, continuing education and professional development for library staff, and support for the libraries within their designated district. The Himmel and Wilson District Center Study found that, depending upon the district, these roles are accomplished with a mixed amount of success. There are some strong district library centers, and there are some that are not doing quite as well.

Hollinger recommended that the Council appoint a subcommittee to look at the Oil Creek District (Venango, Jefferson and Clarion counties) and Monessen District (West Moreland, Fayette counties) and make recommendations in both districts. Cole commented that district center programs work best where you have a library that is already strong on its own without getting district aid. District aid then enables that library to strengthen their resource library role. Without an already strong library, the district center concept is not as successful.

Mitchell commented that he would like to volunteer his time to work with the communities, not necessarily as a member of the GAC.

Mitchell made a motion to approve the subcommittee. Gallivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

District Library Center Designations- Jim Hollinger

Hollinger recommended for Council's consideration the District Library Center designation in Central PA district be changed from (Centre, Clearfield, Mifflin, Juniata counties) the Centre County Library & Historical Museum in Bellefonte to Schlow Library in State College effective January 1, 2008.

In addition to meeting standards, the Schlow Library has provided leadership, modeled professional librarianship and practices and holds extensive resources. With the presence of such a strong library in the district, it is really a disservice not to appoint Schlow as the District Center Library. Hollinger has spoken with both libraries and their staff and boards; each recognizes that this change will take place.

Originally, Hollinger felt a subcommittee would be formed, but the Centre County Library is working on a strategic plan for their library and, although in the recruiting process, is presently without a library director. Hollinger reported that Schlow Library currently meets or exceeds all the District Center standards on its own budget without any District Center aid; therefore, Schlow can devote the lion's share of that money towards District activities and services. A number lot of District Centers are not able to so. A plan for distribution of district aid would be divided with Bellefonte receiving half from now to January 2008 and Schlow the other half from January to June 2008. Commonwealth Libraries will commit some LSTA funds to help the Centre County Library in their planning and be off to a successful start following their service as a District Center.

Cate made a motion to approve the District Library center destination change. Gallivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Reports

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant- Jim Hollinger

Hollinger reported on the strong response ten Rural Libraries workshops. The grant money was used as an initiative to strengthen Rural Libraries and to provide training for Pennsylvania's Rural Libraries. Commonwealth Libraries had a target goal of reaching 80% and with 350 attendees, surpassed it. The workshop provided opportunities for libraries to share successes, discuss common issues with each other, begin to develop networks among them, and to develop an action plan for down the road. They used Web Junction, a website that has been funded by Gates and implemented by OCL, which consists of available resources, discussions groups, training; etc. Commonwealth libraries expects to offer this training again next year, and possibly expand it to any small rural or urban library.

23rd Trustee & Friends Institute- Bonnie Young

Young reported attendance of 600 for the annual Trustee & Friends Institute. The program, with the *Working Together for a Vision for the Future* theme was very well received. Michael Kuman and Karen Hyman in particular received fantastic reviews. A group of trustees, friends and PCBL members suggested the theme during a planning meeting. Hollinger mentioned that an online evaluation is underway to assess if attendees are applying the information they learned from the Institute.

Mid-Atlantic Library Futures Conference- Barbara Cole

Cole reported on the May 7-8, 2007 conference titled *Imagination to Transformation*, in Atlantic City. This is something that Pennsylvania collaborated on with PALINET, a five state network, with New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia. Cole noted only one in person conference organization meeting was used; all remaining issues were handled by conference calls. The speakers were visionaries from different fields, not from libraries, who could give ideas of what may be happening in the future. Librarians can then apply these concepts to libraries and library services.

Ray Kurzweil, inventor of the original Kurzweil reading machine, recently developed a new reading machine that is the size of a digital camera and costs \$2500. He demonstrated this handheld machine and informed people it could be used for a blind person who needs to read the restroom signs, food labels, or a menu in a restaurant. Janice Trapp ordered one at the meeting and has already received this device for the Williamsport District Center. Kurzweil has a very optimistic view of the future and how technology will make our lives easier.

Cultural anthropologist Kathryn Bates focused on generations teaching each other and touched base on a proven fact that infants have a longer life-span when their grandparents are still alive to influence and teach them.

LSTA Program Evaluation-Barbara Cole

Commonwealth Libraries is in the process of evaluating and writing a new LSTA plan. Cole referred to three evaluations. Penn State Evaluation on the Summer Reading Program; Temple University Pilot evaluation on the One Book, Every Young Child Program with a more in depth evaluation next year; and a general evaluation on the outcomes of LSTA funded projects. Cole provided copies of the Commonwealth Libraries brochure for caregivers and parents as part of the One Book, Every Young Child Program.

School Library Services –Barbara Cole

Cole reminded members that the School Library Services is now in the Bureau of Teaching and Learning Support in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. On May 11, 2007 Cole and Zales met with Bureau Director Dr. Ed Volbrecht regarding an agreement between the two bureaus because LSTA money still supports two School Library Development Advisors (Lynn Moses and Crystal Patterson) and pays for some operational expenses including travel and professional development for school librarians. Volbrecht took all the material and agreed to meet with Cole and Zales again on June 13, 2007. Cole is hopeful that at that time they can sign an agreement. Cole advised the necessity of this action because according to the Library Code and federal legislation, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries and the State Librarian are responsible for LSTA. There is a need to retain some control over funds and to be sure that School Library Development Advisors are working on School Libraries projects. In the meantime, Volbrecht met with Patterson and Moses on June 8, 2007. Cole reported that Patterson has been promoted as Acting Manager of School Library Services.

Volbrecht discussed the School Librarian Praxis certification process. He feels that the Praxis is not going to go away but it may be possible to have the certification bureau not certify people who only took the Praxis test. Essentially, it would be the school district's responsibility. They could hire a teacher who passed the Praxis Test to function as a school librarian or they could hire a certified school librarian with credentials to be a highly qualified teacher under No Child Left Behind. Patterson is following up on this issue with the Bureau of Certification.

Implementing the State Library Mission- Caryn Carr

Carr proposed that within the next ten years, the State Library would become the premier research library for Pennsylvania resources. Since the mission changed, the State Library has hired new staff, and with Nesbit's assistance regarding the building plan, received administration support. Morale is better, productivity is up, and there is a ten-year goal to become the premier Pennsylvania research library.

Carr reported with the new collection management policy, the State Library has been able to change the focus of the collection practices. Carr reported spending \$50,000 for 1500 items Pennsylvania related. Librarians are given responsibility to find materials published by county or regional historical societies with focus on genealogy, Pennsylvania Law and Pennsylvania religion. In addition, the State Library purchased historical newspapers in memory of the late Richard Hill.

Carr reported the State Library has started the methodology whereby they are searching the general collections using OCLC information or age and condition for those materials that should be moved into the rare collection vaults. The genealogy collection is almost completely processed and items are identified that need binding. Those holdings found to be for by and about Pennsylvania and all new purchases will be catalogued in the Library of Congress classification System. Such items will not circulate, with the exception of state employees and by interlibrary loan.

Carr reported that the time out management system that was implemented late April/early May to control public access to the internet is working extremely well. Internal circulation started in June and all patrons must now have a State Library card to use non-circulating materials.

Carr reported the Outreach and Marketing staff is expanding the State Library's educational offerings to Public Libraries, Historical Societies, and Commonwealth employees. An invitation will go out to all

Historical Societies to come to the State Library for a conference in order to show the attendees what is available in our collection to support Genealogy. Carr announced the State Library would celebrate their 75th year as a Federal Government Depository.

Mitchell suggested that Carr network with the Schwenkenfelders because they might have some Genealogy duplications that can go into our depository. He advised that the Schwenkenfelders are strong in Genealogy and are only located in Pennsylvania.

2007 Council Meetings

October 14 – 17 Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference, State College
Sunday, October 14 3:30 – 4:45 GAC meets with Open Forum and Association Reports

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephanoff advised that the June meeting of Council be held in Harrisburg due to the prohibition placed on the Commissioner of Libraries against leaving Harrisburg during budget negotiations. Cole suggested a May or July meeting. Stephanoff advised this would be discussed at the next GAC meeting.

Stephanoff advised that there were Return on Investment folders for Council. Cole stated these packets were distributed to the Library District Centers with enough for the local library to give to their elected officials.

Cate announced the Keystone Book festival for 2008 in Harrisburg was dissolved.

Sobina requested that council prepare a thank you letter to Marlene Furnish at the Marienville Library. Sobina advised he is preparing a letter to the Bucktail Hotel on behalf of the GAC.

ADJOURNMENT

Gallivan moved to adjourn. Sobina seconded the motion. Stephanoff adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerrsia L Shemory, Clerk Typist III
Office of Commonwealth Libraries