

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT
JUNE 9, 2015
Green Room, Forum Building
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: David Belanger
Marsha Everton Dr.
Robert Gallivan
Mary Garm
Louis LaBar
Allison Mackley
Sharon McRae
David Mitchell
Dr. Larry Nesbit
Cynthia Richey

Office of
Commonwealth
Libraries

Beth Bisbano, Library Development Advisor, Bureau of Library Development
Rita Jones, Administrative Officer, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Alice Lubrecht, Bureau Director, Bureau of State Library
Linda Rohm, Education Admin Specialist, Bureau of Library Development

Guests: Joe Sherwood, Executive Director, Chester County Library System

1. Welcome & Introductions

Richey called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 10, 2015 Meeting

MOTION: Approval of the minutes as submitted (attachment A)
MOVED BY: David Belanger
SECONDED BY: Lou LaBar
VOTE: Unanimous

3. Chair's Report – Cynthia Richey

Richey began her report by reading a thank you card that Brian Dawson, Acting State Librarian, sent to Council thanking everyone for their support and get well wishes. Richey also acknowledged the efforts of Alice Lubrecht and Rita Jones on behalf of the State Librarian in his absence. Richey summarized the Open Forum which took place on Friday, May 1st during the Pennsylvania School Librarian Association (PSLA) Annual Conference. One item that was discussed was the fact that many library programs are being eliminated at institutions of higher education.

4. Overview and Update on State Library Projects – Alice Lubrecht

See attached report in print (attachment B). Lubrecht reported on the fact that the summer reading program, including STEM, has caught the attention of the press office at the Department of Education (PDE). The new press office contact, Nicole Reigelman, is planning to highlight the program with an emphasis on libraries that also provide food programs over the summer months. Belanger offered Delaware County as a potential library to visit as their program includes STEM and an after-school program with food. Richey commented that this is a positive move and could signal the beginning of a relationship in which PDE highlights library programs for good public relations.

Lubrecht shared a document created in order to explain the process to follow in order to apply for the school library advisor position. As with most positions under the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, there is a process to follow which is guided by civil service rules. Mackley offered to send it to the field and PSLA in order to distribute the information to interested candidates.

MOTION: Approve the distribution of informational document to library field
MOVED BY: David Mitchell
SECONDED BY: Allison Mackley
VOTE: Unanimous

Mackley asked for a status update on the school library guidelines that Sara Gerhart had been working on prior to resigning. Lubrecht responded that she and Susan Pannebaker plan to meet in the near future to look over the document that was recently located. The next step will be to plan a meeting of the committee that was working on these guidelines.

Lubrecht reported on the current status of the Law Library renovations. The Law Library remains closed since Capitol Preservation Committee has plans to do additional restoration work. Lubrecht met with an individual from CPC who provided an update on the status of the project. The bid for contractors will finalize in September with an anticipated October start date. A suggestion was made to hold a grand opening event for the Law Library post-renovations to coordinate with National Library week in May.

Lubrecht presented updates on LSTA and current projects. The broadband project that was very successful and had positive feedback from the field was discussed. More libraries are interested in funding and would like to be included should another round of grants be offered.

MOTION: Schedule the completion of the broadband project using LSTA funded grants
MOVED BY: Louis LaBar
SECONDED BY: Robert Gallivan
VOTE: Unanimous

A discussion took place regarding the funds for the Rare Collections Library currently held in an account at Mansfield University. The funds were initially used for the construction of the facility, to replace system parts, and to pay for any other needed materials. The distinction was made that these funds were not to be used for the annual maintenance contracts necessary for maintaining the systems once in place. With a balance remaining, Nesbit suggested spending a designated amount yearly for purchases for the rare collection. Currently, no guidelines are in place to direct the funds. All invoices are currently signed by the State Librarian and the Chair of the GAC, and then sent to the comptroller at Mansfield who is the designated fiscal agent.

MOTION: Develop a spending policy in writing to include a designated percentage for new materials and the usage of funds for preservation of current items at the discretion of the State Librarian. The policy should also spell out the role Mansfield University plays as fiscal agent for the funds and will continue past practices.
MOVED BY: Marsha Everton
SECONDED BY: Louis LaBar
VOTE: Unanimous; with abstention from Larry Nesbit

Also discussed was to work with Iren Snavelly, Rare Books Librarian, to create a wish list of items to purchase as a guide. The Council also discussed looking for an organization to help assist in the future with the maintenance of these funds.

Lubrecht reported on district negotiations including district library center and library system visits made by Anne Kruger and Beth Bisbano. The report is in print with specific emphasis on the outdated guidelines which are dated 2003. Garm asked if there are particular issues that were identified or if it is just the date that is outdated. Bisbano offered that one issue is the date as well as how the funds are being used. Lubrecht stated she would send the charts electronically which demonstrate that the funds are being spent on salaries and benefits with not much else.

MOTION: Proposal to give blanket waivers for state aid again in 2015-16 as was given in 2014-15.

MOVED BY: David Mitchell
SECONDED BY: David Belanger
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: At the discretion of the State Librarian, new librarians should be granted extensions in order to complete the required amount of education for the position.

MOVED BY: David Mitchell
SECONDED BY: Robert Gallivan
VOTE: Unanimous

A discussion took place regarding municipalities and county funding for libraries. Belanger asked about the study on library funding that the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) conducted. Lubrecht stated that she has a copy and will meet with Glenn to discuss. Richey explained that the study was disappointing as it presented only raw data without analysis.

House Bill 1180 was discussed and how the issue is an ethical dilemma. Lubrecht explained that the proposal is to allow parents access to the library records of their minor children. The bill references paper circulation not database searches. Mackley commented that in school libraries this is a gray area. FERPA guides student records but does not make a definitive distinction that covers library records. Mackley further explained that because of state law library records are student records however; current process is they do not readily give out library information unless pressured by a parent they ultimately must share. Lubrecht wanted to make Council aware of the bill as it is currently being watched but does not plan to make noise in the hope that it will die out.

5. Strategic Plan Updates – Cynthia Richey

Richey reported that the main goal of the strategic plan is to raise awareness and increase visibility of libraries. Programs such as Get Storied, mental health training and access to ebooks have made progress toward this goal. Another issue to get in the spotlight is sustainable funding for items such as POWER Library. The strategic plan is currently in a holding pattern until a new State Librarian is named and in place.

6. The Governor’s Advisory Council’s Platform – Cynthia Richey

Richey thanked Council for their efforts in putting together the platform document. A copy was presented to Jones to include in the GAC file. PaLA will present the document at an upcoming meeting for their endorsement. Once endorsed by PaLA, it can be sent out to local organizations.

7. Search Committee Update – Mary Garm

Garm provided an update on the search for a new State Librarian. The committee met and completed the first round of interviews which were selected from a pool of thirty applicants. The goal is to make an announcement by August.

8. Public Comments

Joe Sherwood commented on a new space downtown that will have a ribbon cutting on July 3rd. This is a new addition to the Chester County Library system. Sherwood reported on the Montgomery County library which is not state-supported but receives district funds. The township is considering shifting to a 501©3 as they are looking for ways to cut budgets without adding anything to the tax base.

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 11:25 AM.
MOVED BY: Mary Garm
SECONDED BY: Louis LaBar
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Jones, Assistant to the State Librarian
Office of Commonwealth Libraries