

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT
NOVEMBER 12, 2006
PITTSBURGH HILTON, PITTSBURGH PA**

MINUTES APPROVED

Present: Matthew Flynn, Chair
Kathryn Stephanoff, Vice Chair
Sara Jane Cate
Francenia Emery
Robert Gallivan
Dr. Patricia Grey
David Mitchell
Dr. Larry Nesbit
Joanne Vavrek

Ex-Officio: M. Clare Zales, Deputy Secretary of Education & Commissioner for Libraries

Office of Caryn Carr, Director, Bureau of State Library
Commonwealth Barbara W. Cole, Director, Bureau of Library Development
Libraries: Jeanne Metcalf, Administrative Officer, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Susan Solarczyk, Executive Assistant, Office of Commonwealth Libraries

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chairman Flynn convened the regular meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development at 3:30 p.m., November 12, 2006, in the Sterlings 3 Conference Room of the Pittsburgh Hilton, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This meeting is conducted as a session of the Pennsylvania Library Association's annual conference.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE September 12, 2006 MEETING

Gallivan moved to approve the minutes of the September 2006 meeting as submitted. Cate seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION/COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

BUDGET

Commissioner Zales' written report is made part of these minutes as "Attachment A." An historic increase to State Aid Public Library Subsidy is included in the 2006-07 Budget while the other appropriations were level funded. Looking forward to the 2007-2008 budget, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries is considering the State Aid Subsidy at a sustainable level and will give added emphasis to increasing other library program line items that were not increased since 2002-2003.

COUNCIL TERMS EXPIRE

The following Council member's term will expire in January 2007 – Robert Gallivan, Dr. Patricia Grey, Joanne Vavrek and Susan Zug. The identified members will be contacted with instructions on how to apply for reappointment including a letter of intent that includes accomplishments while serving as a member of Council and a current resume.

MISSION STATEMENT

Zales reminded members that there is a breakfast meeting November 13, 2006 to develop a mission statement for Council.

PALA CONFERENCE

Zales urged Council members to take advantage of the continuing education opportunities while here during the Pennsylvania Library Association's Conference.

RARE COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

It was the initiative of this Council in 1998 that recognized the need to do something about the conditions of the rare books; therefore, a committee was formed under the leadership of Dr. Larry Nesbit. On October 3, 2006 a Ribbon Cutting opening the Rare Collections Library was held to coincide with the Capitol Centennial Celebration. The Council has been supportive of this project and at the September 2006 meeting, approved a \$175,000 Letter of Commitment to Department of General Services (DGS) to conclude the project. The Letter of Commitment was increased to \$200,000 because Council felt the need to support DGS and to ensure correction of the downspout/rain leader problems. DGS is now asking for another Letter of Commitment in the amount of \$75,000 to conclude this phase. Stephanoff made a motion to approve the Letter of Commitment. Gallivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rare Books Renovation Project – Dr. Larry Nesbit

Nesbit said that substantial completion, or 90% complete, would be done on November 17. Cornelius Rusnov, architect for the Rare Collection Library, anticipates that construction will terminate at the end of December. Nesbit noted the State Library's Rare Books Library now has the best preservation environment in the United States. When the systems are fully functional, the degradation of paper will slow down for as many as 400 years. Nesbit thanked the Council, DGS and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries for their support of this effort.

Stephanoff said that Rusnov has a passion for his life's work and has created the Rare Collections Library that is the envy of the literary and geographic world.

Nesbit distributed two financial reports on the Rare Books Project, which are made part of these minutes as "Attachment B." The initial report dated August 3 shows a balance of \$1,178,850.13. This report is not updated. The second page, which shows a balance of \$902,005.65, is more accurate, but does not have current charges or commitments such as the Letter of Commitment. As we may need matching funds for anticipated grant applications, Zales is asking that the proposed Letter of Commitment be taken out of anticipated 2007-08 funding rather than current year funding. A corrected report will be prepared and sent to Council.

Nesbit stated the \$75,000 Letter of Commitment would pay for any claims that the contractors may have at the close of the project. Stephanoff asked if there is a way to put a dollar figure on what the delays will cost and for the potential risk to the collection because the schedule was not met. Rusnov replied if there is a delay it would cause the collection to be at risk. Stephanoff asked what that dollar figure would be. Zales said that a possible dollar value would be around \$250,000. Initially, the books were to be moved into the new vault in September. The collection is unlikely to move in until the beginning of January/February 2007. The motion was amended: adding the wording to the effect that in return for the GAC to commit the additional \$75,000, DGS recognizes that they are liable for damages to the collection up to and including \$250,000 because the historic books have not been moved into the vault. Stephanoff amended the motion to approve the Letter of Commitment based on these conditions. Gallivan seconded the amended motion. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Additional funding is needed to continue the work for the preservation of materials in the large collection of materials spanning the Civil War through World War I era. Another trip to Washington, DC is being planned.

Stephanoff spoke about the significance of the Ribbon Cutting ceremony and the commemorative booklet that was provided by the Capitol Preservation Committee.

BUREAU REPORTS

BUREAU OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Return on Investment – Barbara Cole

Don W. King and Sarah Aerni from the School of Information and Library Science discussed the return on taxpayer's investment in public libraries. A written study is made part of these minutes as "Attachment C." The study included 1,128 random telephone interviews, 2,614 visitors in library surveys of 19 libraries and their branches, 226 school, university and college, business and non-profit organizations librarians, and a follow-up survey of 112 public libraries. The data collection was from January through June 2006. The summary report is anticipated being given to the Bureau of Library Development within a week. An economic return on investment is considered an important aspect of this study for both the patrons and the community of approximately 5.5 to 1. The study looks at the consequences of not having a library available to the community. These consequences may include: the patron would not receive needed information; the patron would like to get the information but not be sure of where to get it or that the patron would go to an alternative source to get the information. A study done in the United Kingdom, demonstrated that a community lost approximately 23% of revenue due to the library being shut down for about nine months. Libraries also affect the non-economic value of life. An example of this would be financial, hobbies, work at home or health-related issues. About 16% of library users use the library for work-related purposes. An important aspect of library use is for lifelong learning or continued learning. People use the public library for a variety of reasons – convenience, less expensive, trustworthy information, etc.

Bureau of State Library

Survey of State Library of Pennsylvania Users –Caryn Carr

Carr reported on LibQual - a service product used to electronically solicit, track, and understand user options and opinions with academic and some research libraries. With more than 300 libraries participating each year, the State Library of Pennsylvania will join the New York and Connecticut State Libraries in using LibQual.

2007 COUNCIL MEETINGS

January 9	Harrisburg
March 13	Harrisburg
June 12	SCI Forest, Marienville
October 14	Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference, State College

ADJOURNMENT

Stephanoff moved to adjourn. Gallivan seconded the motion. Flynn adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne M. Metcalf, Administrative Officer
Office of Commonwealth Libraries