

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 10, 2014

The Law Library, Forum Building

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA MINUTES

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

Members Excused: Mary Garm

Ex-Officio: Stacey Aldrich, Deputy Secretary & Commissioner for Libraries

Office of Commonwealth Libraries: Sandra Edmunds, Chief, Division of Subsidies & Grants, Bureau of Library Development
Rita Jones, Assistant to the Deputy, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Alice Lubrecht, Director, Bureau of State Library

Guests: Linda Bills, Library Director, Allegheny College
Rhonda Newton, Executive Director, Heritage Foundation
Bonnie Powers, District Consultant, Dauphin County Library System
Alan Silverman, Director, East town Library

1. Welcome & Introductions

Richey called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and welcomed all in attendance. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 27, 2014 Meeting

MOTION: Approval of the minutes with edits as noted below
MOVED BY: Marsha Everton
SECONDED BY: Robert Gallivan
VOTE: Unanimous

Edits

- Nesbit listed as both present and absent; removed from list of present attendees
- LaBar added to members on the policies committee
- Richey's comments on page 4 edited as follows: *Richey suggested the answer may be found in creating a level playing field and looking at the structure of systems and districts as a whole.*

3. Chair's Report – Cynthia Richey

Richey began her report by encouraging all Council members to join the letter writing campaign to their legislators asking for additional funding for libraries. Richey reported on topics discussed at the Pennsylvania School Librarian Association (PSLA) Annual Conference. The format for the luncheon was different this year as they had round table discussions set up. The Open Forum was held and was attended by herself, Robert Gallivan, David Belanger, Allison Mackley and Lou LaBar. Some topics discussed include:

- Continuing to have more dialog with the Department of Education (PDE)
- Common Core and equity
- eResources – Access is not up to date and POWER can be unreliable
- HSLC – Maryam has updated the portal and it is more responsive
- The creation of a communication paper which could then be customized to the type of library
 - A draft will be created and presented at the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) Annual Conference in the Fall

Richey suggested the creation of a task force to create a white paper which would explain the roles of all different types of libraries and how they work together. Aldrich suggested a visual or graphical representation that could be created as a tri-fold. Everton suggested that it should also point out opportunities for collaboration and be future looking. The task force will include: Deb Kachel as Chair; David Belanger as co-Chair and Marsha Everton.

4. Overview and Update on State Library Projects – Stacey Aldrich

Aldrich's report was made available in print and is attached (Attachment A).

Statewide projects currently in progress include:

Broadband – The main goal of this project is to ramp up connectivity for libraries and upload and download speed is important. Increased capacity is required as more patrons use internet access for resumes and student use. As there is an increased demand for digital content including ebooks so is an increased need for speed. Carrie Cleary is heading this project and has contacted libraries directly to verify statistics. She has found some buildings do not have enough power, are unaware of their facilities' network speed, and some are unable to configure the network. Other challenges include the wide range of costs as Comcast, for example, has three different networks that depend on local availability. Libraries with the slowest connection speeds tend to be those located in rural areas.

Edge – Over 400 libraries are now participating in this online assessment tool and results are presented in attached report (Attachment A). A challenge is in engaging with the community as they must understand the value in order to find funding resources. The study is looking at ways to provide support by looking at the data and patterns statewide in order to learn to better articulate needs. Diana Megdad has provided updates in the *Compendium* and has received positive feedback. The plan is to offer the opportunity to take the assessment again and compare results.

Pilot projects – A study is being conducted to look at the differences in services and funding for libraries across the state. Several counties have merged to share resources which can be learned from and used to create some models for discussion. For example, Pike and Wayne County combined their interlibrary loan services (ILL) and Fayette is working on a countywide strategic planning session. Results of these examples and the study have produced interesting results and reports will be shared in the future. The goal is to have data from PaLA to present at the fall meeting.

School Librarian Guidelines – Sara Gerhart continues to work with the department on updating these guidelines; a draft was submitted and she is waiting for feedback.

Keystone Grants – Beth Bisbano received 54 letters of intent and has invited 52 to apply. The applications are due in October. A webinar is being planned for any questions libraries may have about the process.

Storytelling Toolkit – The toolkit was shared at the Statewide Regional Leadership meeting in April for feedback from the systems and district library centers; it was developed as a way for library directors to more effectively communicate with their boards and community. Some edits are needed and it will be presented next to our federal partner (IMLS).

ALA Future of Libraries Highlights – Aldrich attended the Summit on the Future of Libraries held at the Library of Congress on May 2-3, 2014. The authors of *Freakonomics* have a new book coming out called *How to Think Like a Freak* and their perspective highlights the need to ask different questions in order to tackle issues. Dr. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, spoke about the support of a knowledge-based democracy which can be vital for considering the role of PA libraries. Thomas Frey spoke of Catalytic Innovation which causes wondering what a catalytic library would be. ALA is putting together a center for the future.

Comments:

- Mitchell commented (Broadband) that librarians should be part of the dialog and involved in local contract negotiations
- Belanger (Broadband) commented that some libraries have to make a choice between running the air conditioners or using the computers since electrical issues are a problem
- Nesbit commented that capability should be extended to academic libraries
- Aldrich commented that some patrons “shop” around for public libraries that have the fastest connectivity.
- LaBar (Pilot Project) commented that the combination of ILL services by Pike & Wayne counties has resulted in significant savings
- Mackley (SL Guidelines) commented that it is important to update the section that focuses on school library issues. Many schools are losing professional positions which are being replaced by aides. They also believe that teachers can teach library skills at the elementary level since there is no requirement for a school library. A school library/librarian viewed as non-essential.

Aldrich commented on a recent library, Chartreuse Houston Library, that may have to close due to lack of funding. The school district is withdrawing \$50,000 of funding which has caused the library to look for other ways to get funding. This highlights the issue of how to build sustainable funding for libraries. Aldrich asked the board for thoughts on how to offer support to the Library for moving forward. Everton suggested contacting Bill Schell from York County for feedback. When Hanover Public library was threatened with dramatic cutbacks of borough funding they were able to reduce expenses while increasing services which resulted in more donations and ultimately an increase in funds from the borough. Richey commented that without data or analysis on the use of libraries; it is unclear what impact a library closing has on a community.

MOTION: Draft a letter to start dialog with county commissioners
MOVED BY: Louis LaBar
SECONDED BY: Robert Gallivan
VOTE: Unanimous

5. Presentation of Assembly Collection book

Linda Bills, Library Director at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA transferred a missing volume from the original Assembly of Pennsylvania collection to Stacey Aldrich.

The State Library of Pennsylvania was established by the Pennsylvania’s Assembly in 174. The *Annales et Historiae de rebus Belgicus* (Annals and History of the Low Countries) by Hugo Grotius was one of the early purchases. It arrived at Allegheny College through the Charles Thomson estate.

Charles Thomson was the secretary to the Continental Congress and its successor assemblies and as such, would have had access to the State Library’s collection. By accident, it was misfiled with his personal collection and, in 1825, it was sent to Allegheny College by his heirs as they were handling his bequest of papers to the College.

Aldrich commented that we are so grateful to Allegheny College for caring for this rare volume and returning it to the State Library to be preserved with the original Pennsylvania Assembly collection.

The State Library is a unique treasure of Pennsylvania. It not only collects, preserves, and connects the world to the history of Pennsylvania, but also that of the United States. With a collection of over 4 million items, including the largest collection of Pennsylvania newspapers, the library offers rich research materials for all.

6. Update on Rare Book Collections Room Study – Stacey Aldrich

Aldrich thanked Lubrecht and Snaveley for putting together the request for proposal in order to request a study of the Rare Collections Library. One reply was received and accepted as this individual is very qualified to perform the study. Questions to pose and answer during the study include:

- How things work
- What is needed in order to continue to function
- What needs to be replaced or redone

Nesbit distributed a hand-out (Attachment B) with the current funds available at Mansfield. Only one charge since the last report is noted which was for \$6,000 from McClure to repair the dehumidifiers.

MOTION: Accept the budget report as submitted
MOVED BY: Robert Gallivan
SECONDED BY: Louis LaBar
VOTE: Unanimous

Aldrich provided an update on the Law Library renovations which are set to begin in a couple of weeks. The Law Library will shut down for approximately six months in order to complete much needed restoration to the ceiling and replace the canister lights with star lights original to the space. The law materials will still be accessible to patrons via the Main Reading room during the shutdown.

7. Discussion Legislative Update – Mary Garm

The funding charts for the past 10 years were provided (Attachment C). Belanger provided a report on National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on Garm's behalf. Some topics discussed at NLLD included:

- LSTA funding
- E-Rate program which is important for connectivity
- Net Neutrality

Library supporters used this day to meet with aids to congress people and senators. Richey commented that it is important to continue to lobby for library funding needs. Aldrich met with the FCC while in Washington, DC and explained a proposal in order to stop the inequity of companies charging other companies to use "fast lanes" that meter internet access. The ALA is sending a letter expressing their support of net neutrality which Stacey will forward to the GAC in order to have the support of the Council added.

8. Discussion of By-Laws – Bob Gallivan

Gallivan reported that no revision is ready to present. His version is in PDF form and was unable to convert it to a Word document in order to make edits. The last edited version is dated January 2007; he will offer revisions to present at the September meeting. Aldrich suggested using Adobe software to convert to an edit-friendly version. There was discussion on the need for an Executive Committee. The committee task would be to discuss strategies and functions of the GAC. The committee will be re-considered for edits of by-laws.

9. Public Library Code – Update on Regulations – Stacey Aldrich & Sandy Edmunds

Edmunds presented a draft document (Attachment C) that attempts to make sense out of the regulations for libraries. This draft displays the present state of the regulations and dates are noted to show the last time items were amended. Aldrich stated that she and Edmunds have been meeting regularly with PDE Attorney in order to create a timeline and a draft outline was presented. When writing regulations it is important to follow rules and correct format; the outline should be followed for each reg. Some items to note include:

- Collection development standards should be based on community need
- Currently approximately 97% of libraries receive "incentive for excellence" aid
- A discussion should focus on when to give waivers

Aldrich commented that the changes and updates should make the regulations much more understandable.

10. Policy Task Force

Belanger provided report on Garm's behalf. The previous afternoon, June 9, the policy task force met including Mary Garm, David Belanger, Larry Nesbit, Louis LaBar, Sharon McRae and Stacey Aldrich. The task force discussed philosophy, eligibility and compensation regarding the Statewide Library Card. The Statewide Library card program is important for creating ease of use of library materials for all Pennsylvania residents. The task force discussed possible eligibility guidelines:

- A resident of a municipality that directly supports a public library or has an agreement with a library to provide services for their community is eligible to use their library card in any other state aided public library.
- If a resident lives in a community without library services, the resident will have the opportunity to purchase a library card from the library that is most convenient to them.
- Libraries within districts will negotiate yearly a consistent fee structure for the non-resident library cards in each district.

If funding is available a suggestion was to compensate libraries by receiving reimbursement only for sharing resources inter-county.

11. Discussion GAC Communication – Cynthia Richey

Richey requested a two sentence biographical blurb from each Council member that she can use to create an article for the *Compendium* entitled "Meet your Council". Belanger commented that when he has polled library leaders on what they feel is the best way to communicate; many have answered the *Compendium*. Aldrich stated that time must be focused and one single channel is the best way for communication. Belanger also suggested inviting the GAC to attend library events.

12. Comments from observers

_____ requested a copy of the State Aid to Local Libraries draft.

Maryanne thanked the staff and Council for their diligent work.

13. Meeting Schedule for 2014

The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Library Association's (PaLA) Annual Conference on Sunday, September 28, 2014. The PaLA conference is being held in Lancaster from September 28 through October 1. An Open Forum will be scheduled the afternoon of September 28 and the 2nd annual GAC Strategic Planning session will be scheduled on Saturday, September 27. Further details and meeting room locations will be sent as they become available.

14. Adjourn

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 12:27 P.M.
MOVED BY: Robert Gallivan
SECONDED BY: Allison Mackley
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Jones, Executive Secretary
Office of Commonwealth Libraries