

Agenda

Regents Public Library Advisory Committee

June 12, 2009

Milledgeville, GA

Those present: Alan Harkness, Richard Sanders, Adrian Mixson, Jon McDaniel, Lamar Veatch, Julie Walker, Barry Reese, Dusty Gres, Donna Howell, Kathy Ames, Leigh Wiley, Marsha Christy, Greg Heid, Claudia Gibson, Chuck Gibson, Carrie Zeiger, Joe Forsee, Thomas Jones, Chuck Davis

Teleconference participants: Alan Kaye, Susan Whittle, Teresa Cole, Claire Levy, Lyn Hopper, Jeff Tomlinson

Call to Order: Kathie called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Welcome New Members: Alan Harkness, Adrian Mixson, Carrie Zeiger, Leigh Wiley and Visitors

Approve Minutes of May 6 Meeting: Jon McDaniel made a motion to accept the minutes, Donna Howell 2nd, the motion passed

GPLS Update

Claire Levy hosted a southwest Georgia meeting with the legislators and had several attend last week. Good press—good advocacy
GPLS is waiting for final approval on the policies (the revised state grant guidelines, construction guidelines, and the MOE waiver has gone to BOR.) The Chancellor is waiting to sign them. The MOE document has not gone to Chancellor.

Lamar is on the committee review board and that policy requirement and criticisms (who controls records and how they are used.) have gone to OCLC Board for approval. OCLC is beginning to act like a vendor instead of a collaborative entity with members who have built the database. The issue is not about copyright but about ownership and use.

20 State library directors have been invited to go to Chicago to discuss collaboration with OCLC or through Lyrisis.

Julie Walker discussed the stimulus money and possibilities of obtaining some of the funds.

The network bid has been completed. Vendors have Posted the intent to bid and they must wait for 10 days to hear.

Tim/Nicole are ready to do technical environment survey to determine what the technology needs are.

OCLC advocacy campaign kicks off in Savannah on June 23 (for 8mos.) –Gates is funding Public Relations campaign through billboard, local TV, handouts, radio, and newspapers. No tax monies will be used for this campaign only Gates money. The aim is to build library supporters not to bring in more patrons. Gates will do the surveys with their staff and publish the results.

Joe asked if there are other sites to be considered. Lyn Hopper says that interest forms have gone out to obtain small grants to do local initiatives to develop materials for local areas for advocacy and must be completed and returned by June 5, 2009. Jenny Johnson is the person who is working with this campaign.

Georgia Municipal Association is the weekend of 20-21 in Savannah. Dusty Gres, Anne Isbell, and Julie Walker plan to work the booth for GPLS.

The 25% budget cut for June will be absorbed by GPLS. The health insurance cut announced for the month of June does not have to be send to GPLS. Julie thinks that the premium will be 18.534% in July but she expects that the amount will go up and down during the year. Julie believes that will be more budget cuts. Positions still frozen but if you need someone that is critical please write the letter.

Christopher is trying to get everything written down about directors policy state paid position guideline. Claudia questioned that experience from other states, pre-MLS, is not counted as experience toward pay. There was discussion about PHDs and what subject areas counted toward experience. Susan Whittle read the rule GA 320-3.01(4A) which states that the must be in the field of library science.

Joe Forsee moved, Dusty Gres 2nd to approve state paid position guidelines. There was much discussion about the loss of experience gained in other states and that it discourages good people from coming to Georgia. There was discussion about experience vs degree and certification. Motion passed.

- A. Certification Question
- B. State Grants Funding
- C. Discuss Federal Economic Recovery and Stimulus Package
- D. Other Issues

Old Business

- A. Review By-laws and Purpose of RPLAC
- B. Amend By-laws

The Chair recommended five amendments to the RPLAC By-Laws

1. Article IV. Officers. Point 1. *“The Chairperson, hereafter called the Chair, is elected. The Recording Secretary, hereafter called the secretary, is provided by the Georgia Public Library Service.”*

Changed to read: *“The Chairperson, hereafter called the Chair, and the Recording Secretary, hereafter called the Secretary, are elected.*

Dusty moved that amendment 1 be accepted, Barry 2nd. The motion passed .

2. Article IV. Point 2. *“The term of office for the Chair is on year...”*

Changed to read: *“The term of office for the Chair and Secretary is one year. The Chair and secretary are elected by a majority of those RPLAC members in attendance at the Annual Meeting. All RPLAC members as of July 1 are eligible to vote on new officers. The newly elected Chair and Secretary will assume the duties of the position on July 1st.*

Jon moved that amendment 2 be accepted. Alan Harkness 2nd and the motion passed.

3. Article IV. Midway down the page: *“In the event that the Secretary cannot attend a meeting, the State Librarian will appoint a replacement from the staff of the Georgia Public Library Service, or the RPLAC Chair will appoint a member of RPLAC to serve as Secretary for the duration of the meeting.”*

Change to read: *In the event that the Secretary cannot attend a meeting, the RPLAC Chair will appoint a member of RPLAC to serve as Secretary for the duration of the meeting.”*

Donna Howell moved that amendment 3 be accepted. Alan Harkness 2nd and the motion passed.

4. Article V. Subcommittees, Point 4. *“All subcommittee chairs and members must be current members of RPLAC.”*

Changed to read: *“All subcommittee chairs must be members of RPLAC. Subcommittee chairs may include non-RPLAC Directors to help consider specific issues*

#4 Article V---Joe Forsee moved that the amendment 4 be accepted. Barry Reese 2nd and the motion passed. **What did Dusty Say?** (Dusty made a clarification) **I don't have any notes on this other than to clarify that chair will be from RPLAC, but additional committee members could be pulled from the other directors rather than only RPLAC folks.**

5. Article VI. Meetings. Point 2. *“Meetings of RPLAC as a whole can be called by the RPLAC Chair, by a written*

request of a two-thirds majority of the RPLAC members, or by the State Librarian.”

Changed to read: *“Meeting of RPLAC as a whole can be called by the RPLAC chair or by the State Librarian.”*

Joe Forsee and Dusty Gres asked that the amendment read: *“Meeting of RPLAC as a whole can be called by the RPLAC chair or by request of 3 or more RPLAC members or by the State Librarian.”*

Joe Forsee moved that the new wording of the amendment be accepted. Adrian Mixson 2nd and the motion passed.

Greg Heid called a point of order regarding the dissemination of the Amendments to the By-Laws. As the changes to the By-Laws were previously discussed in the May 6, 2009 meeting and in so much the Chair did send out the Amendments with two weeks notice, in good intent, I make the motion that we can vote on these Amendments despite some members not having received notification until today. Jon McDaniel 2nd the motion and the motion passed.

Joe 1st, Jon motion, passed.

C. Motor Voter verification law

Julie Walked said that Lyn Hopper spoke to the Kevin with Secretary of State Office about this and was told that libraries have not additional responsibilities for looking at Passports and other identification before handing out voter registration forms. RPLAC requested that this statement be in writing from the SOS.

D. Progress on MOE

The MOE document has not been signed by the Chancellor.

New Business

A. Review Annual Report on RPLAC progress and goals for 2009-2010

Chair Kathryn Ames presented an annual report for Fiscal Year 2009. The members of RPLAC commended her on the report. To make it clear about the composition of RPLAC, it was suggested that the type of library represented be added by each of the member names. Lamar Veatch asked that the titles of the GPLS represented be corrected.

B. Develop a recommendation for the FY2011 budget

There was a discussion of what should be requested in our next budget package. Lamar said that GPLS has not heard anything about but that BOR must approve their budget in August—so GPLS will work on the budget in July after they have received instructions from BOR.

A discussion followed about the stimulus money and how it could be obtained for libraries. Lamar said that the money is basically to enhance broadband capability throughout the state. The US is way behind other countries (such as Japan) in our capabilities. The plan is to try to get fiber into as many libraries

as possible and probably those closest to the colleges and universities will get it first. Lamar wants to get a proposal crafted that addresses the needs for a significant number of libraries. As soon as they can get a plan, they will ask for help from Georgia Council, RPLAC, to support the plan. “Word of the day is fiber to the library.”

There will need to explore of price for fiber and equipment compared to the e-ratable T-1 lines before any decision can be made. There was a suggest that a check with EMC about getting fiber especially into rural area.

Adrian asked about MRR money from the stimulus money. It was stated that MRR money would have to come from local packages in the various counties. The primary approach is for broadband for GPLS.

It was asked how many constructions projects for next year. No one knows at this point but if the Governor thinks that if there is room in the bonds venue and if he thinks that libraries are still important, he may recommend as many as 12?? Nate Rall, GPLS Construction Consultant, has a list of libraries systems that are ready.

Greg suggests that Nate should have list of MRR projects. There is such a list. Adrian made the motion to update the list, Alan Harkness 2nd and the motion passed.

Claudia Gibson would like to discuss the MOE. Her libraries are being cut 50% but they are not cutting other departments as much, in fact county staff is getting a 3% COLA and the Recreation Department is getting an increase. Her Board is not comfortable with signing the waiver since the county says that they have no intention of restoring the library budget. Lamar, in discussion with the Chancellor and/or Rob Watts, says that the state will zero out state funds for that county. The statement to the county would read: “Where there is not fairness in local funding and you are not willing to support libraries; then the state cannot support the library with funding.”

Donna commended Kathy for her leadership. The other members of RPLAC agreed.

C. Elect Officers for FY2010 [Chair and Secretary]

Joe Forsee nominated for both positions.

Nominations: Carolyn Fuller, Chairman.

Richard Sanders, Secretary

They were elected by acclamation.

Other Business

Next Meeting – Tentatively planned for July 30 at 4pm at the Athens Clarke County Library.

Adjourn