

LIBFUTURES

Steering Committee Meeting, September 24, 2004

Cranston Public Library

Present: Cheryl Banick, Fran Farrell Bergeron, Peter Deekle (recorder), Donna Longo DiMichele, Michael Havener, Phyllis Humphrey, Janet Levesque, David Macksam (convener), Susan Reed, Maureen Sheridan, Eileen Socha

1. **Funding** – RILA is the fiscal agent for the LibFutures statewide study. At the last meeting of the Steering Committee potential funding sources were identified. It was suggested that the public minutes make less specific mention of individual funders in the future, until final agreements have been reached. The Committee members discussed the value of increased contact with foundations (rather than corporate sources of funding). Members will consult national and regional foundation directories to determine future contacts. Library vendors may also provide support for a statewide study; they, too, will be contacted. David Macksam agreed to share letters that can provide “talking points” for members who contact funders.
2. **Meeting Senator Elizabeth Roberts** – K. Hopkins, David Macksam, Anne Parent, and Dale Thompson met recently with Senator Roberts who, with Representative Betsy Dennigan, will co-chair the Commission. All but the political appointments (and House/Senate appointees) have been named, and these final appointments will occur after the general election. Senator Roberts believes that the Commission will respond to information provided via the consultant, Steering Committee, and findings from statewide hearings. There will be a first joint meeting of the Commission and Steering Committee on March 3, 2005. She advocated more school library Commission representatives, particularly from needy districts.
3. **RFP Timeline and Outline** – The timetable for action and a tentative RFP contents outline were distributed. Steering Committee members agreed that a brief background document describing the historic state of all types of libraries (since 1987) should be prepared as part of the RFP (and to inform the Commission members). The entire RFP document will likely not be longer than 15-20 pages. Brief drafts (2 pages at most) will be prepared and given to Eileen Socha and Fran F. Bergeron (editors) by October 8. Each background brief will describe the funding, technology impact, and interlibrary cooperation histories since the Berger Report. The editors will draft a public library brief. Peter Deekle will compile an academic library brief. Cheryl Banick will provide a special library draft. And Donna DiMichele will consult with Anne Parent about a brief OLIS document.

Next Meeting ?