

Minutes of the Meeting of the Library Futures Committee
October 26, 2004

Present: Mike Havener, URI GSLIS; Tom Evans, RI State Library on behalf CRIARL; Cheryl R. Banick, SLA RI Chapter; De Johnson, RILA; Bob Aspri, HELIN; Susan Reed, CLAN; Anne Parent, OLIS; Kathryn Hopkins, Providence Public Library; Dale Thompson, PPL; Donna Longo DiMichele, LORI Committee; Tovah Reis, ARIHSL; Phyllis Humphrey, RIEMA; Frances Farrell-Bergeron, WWA; David Macksam, CRA-RILA

The meeting was opened by chair David Macksam at 2:10.

David reported that Peter Deekle had communicated to him that CRIARL and HELIN did not support funding a consultant. However, they supported the creation of a statewide plan and funding for the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendation, which were developed from the Berger Study.

ARIHSL voiced similar concerns. They felt that there were still recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee that needed to be implemented. They also felt that there are skillful librarians in the state who could provide consultant expertise. Because of their concerns they could not agree to request funding from CVS. They suggested the following:

1. Put RFP on hold
2. Hold a state-wide Town Meeting to discuss previous reports – what recommendations have been implemented; of those that were not implemented which are still relevant and what steps need to be taken to implement them, and are there new concerns/issues not in the recommendations.
3. After the Town Meeting, the Steering Committee should propose next steps that should have consensus from a wide sector of librarians in the state.
4. Part of “next steps” should include how to involve the Commission.
5. I (Tovah Reis) volunteer if the Steering Committee agrees to work on organizing the Town Meeting.

David gave a historical background of the Berger Study from his perspective. He said that there had been no legislative buy in of the Berger Study and this is something we were trying to accomplish this time by having the Legislative Commission. The library community was divided on supporting the recommendations.

Discussion followed of the need to having another study versus using the Berger Study. It was mentioned that the Berger Study dealt mostly with technology issues. Fran spoke about the needs of the underserved and the growing elderly population that weren't addressed in the Berger Study.

Holding a Town Meeting was discussed and what would happen at such a meeting. It was thought that previous studies could be discussed and new concerns could be raised.

A vision of what library services should be would be reached by consensus and the steps needed to make the vision a reality would be discussed. It was decided that such a meeting would be planned for the beginning of December.

A subcommittee was established composed of De, Dave, Tovah, Dale and Anne to plan the Town Meeting.

Cheryl reported on the development of the website. There will be minor changes. A discussion followed about finding another host for the website so that we would have a shorter and more memorable URL. It was decided that this wasn't necessary since it was linked from OLIS's and other library sites. It was also mentioned that large documents cannot be posted on the website but directions to the location of the documents could be posted.

The next meeting will be held November 17 at 2:30 at the Cranston Public Library.

Respectively submitted by Susan L. Reed