

Steering Committee Meeting, December 20, 2004 Cranston Public Library

Present: Bob Aspri, Kathleen Boyd, Alex Caracuzzo, Peter Deekle, Donna DiMichele, Kathryn Hopkins, De Johnson, Rolf Johnson, Janet Levesque, David Macksam (convener), Alison Maxell, Anne Parent, Susan Reed, Tovah Reis, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Eileen Socha, and Dale Thompson

1. Summary Comments on Town Meeting – Maureen Sullivan thinks that the Town Meeting went well. Observations from LibFutures members included:
 - the Town meeting was a good warm up for the Commission’s work;
 - there is now consensus about what needs to be done, whereas two months ago there was not;
 - during the Town Meeting, some LibFutures members observed that some participants felt that what was being discussed was already in New Possibilities (A.K.A. “Burger Report”) and the Blue Ribbon Committee (BLC) reports;
 - we need sound financial support and legislative support for the programs we need to embark on and legislative support was lacking for the Burger Report;
 - the **position statement by the LORI Committee** was read by Donna DiMichele;
 - in hindsight it is not so bad that we did not put into operation a virtual catalog after the Burger Report, the technology in place today is better than ever and easier to implement.

2. Establishing work groups for key service goals – Key service goals that emerged from the Town Meeting are: One Catalog, Statewide Databases, and Lifelong Learning. The Town Meeting Planning Committee recommends the establishment of work groups for these three areas and that each work group is charged to develop an action plan for implementation with consideration of appropriate legislative recommendations to the library study commission. The Planning Committee recommends the following people as chairs of the work groups: Kathy Boyd for One Catalog, Ron Fark for Statewide Databases, and Eileen Socha for Lifelong Learning. The LibFutures Committee unanimously approved a motion made by Anne Parent, as recommended by the Planning Committee, to establish three work groups for the three key service areas, One Catalog, Statewide Databases, and Lifelong Learning, and approve the appointments of the recommended chairs.

3. Dealing with the "gorilla issues" – Maureen thought the number of participants at the Town Meeting was too large to really talk about the "gorilla issues." Smaller groups are more likely to tackle issues that might make people uneasy in a larger group. The barriers listed at the Town Meeting are different than the gorillas. The gorilla issues are: the statewide role of OLIS, the statewide role of Providence Public Library, the status of school libraries, the plethora of library organizations, and the roles of the networks and consortia. The Work groups might be able to wrestle with the gorilla issues as they work on their assigned topics. Small discussion groups could also be set up to work on these issues.
4. Upcoming events – Maureen Sullivan agreed to meet with members of the LibFutures Committee and other interested individuals during ALA Midwinter in Boston. Anne Parent arranged for the use of Conference Room #5 in the Boston Public Library from 11:00 to 1:30. Lunch will be served. Maureen is doing this pro bono.

HELIN Conference: "New Perspectives on Library Service" Wednesday, January 12, 2005 (Snow Date: January 13th) George E. Bello Center for Information and Technology Bryant University. The keynote is about how Maine implemented a statewide catalog using Innovative Interfaces products. The speaker is Karl Beiser, Library Systems Coordinator for the Maine State Library and his presentation titled, "Maine's Statewide Library System: Linking Maine to the World." HELIN graciously agreed to offer the option of morning only registration with a reduced fee. Registration is required: <http://helin.uri.edu/screens/annualconf2005.html>

Next meeting of LibFutures: Wednesday, January 26, 2005, 3:00 P.M., Cranston Public Library.