

Oregon State Library
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 15, 2015
Hilton Eugene & Conference Center, Eugene

Board members present: Ebonee Bell, Aletha Bonebrake, Sam Hall, Susan Hathaway-Marxer, Leslie Hicks, Ann Malkin, Jennie Tucker.

Guests present: Candace Watkins, Oregon Library Association President, Colin Rea, director of the Fern Ridge Public Library, Ted Smith, director of the Newport Public Library, Margarita Saunders.

Staff present: MaryKay Dahlgreen, Margie Harrison, Jessica Rondema.

Chair Aletha Bonebrake called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rondema will fix the typo on page 6. Malkin moved to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2015, Board meeting. Tucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF BOARD CHAIR AND TRUSTEES

Bonebrake reported that the format for the Governor's Quarterly Report from the Board has changed, requiring her to shorten the report. The abbreviated version she submitted maintained the intent of the longer version.

Hall reported that the Salem Public Library held a successful ceremony to honor the opening of the updated children's space. There was a good crowd in attendance.

Malkin reported that Ruth Ozeki will be visiting for Deschutes Public Library's A Novel Idea... Read Together 2015.

Hicks reported that she and her family attended the Salem Public Library's children's room ceremony.

Hathaway-Marxer attended the Oregon Book Awards and passed around the brochure. The event was sold out and is becoming very professional.

Bell reported that the administrative offices of Multnomah County Library have moved to a location in St. Johns. In addition, the library at the Donald E. Long Detention Center has also moved.

REPORT FROM THE OREGON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Candice Watkins, president of the Oregon Library Association (OLA), gave a report on the association's recent activities. She began by thanking Dahlgreen and the State Library for its leadership. She mentioned that the OLA Board's goals for the upcoming year include improving communication and focusing on leadership. The Intellectual Freedom Committee has done great work regarding net neutrality.

Watkins commented on the hard work of the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) for the adoption of the school library standards by the Oregon Board of Education, giving praise to OASL as well as Jennifer Maurer of the State Library. Watkins also discussed OLA's mentoring program, its round tables, Oregon Reads 2014, the work of the OLA's Legislative Committee, and the state of the OLA budget.

Bonebrake expressed her appreciation for the work of OLA and Watkins this year.

Hicks commented that as a corporate librarian she does not feel welcomed by OLA. She is the membership chair for ORSLA (the Oregon chapter of the Special Library Association). Watkins would like to discuss this further with Hicks.

REPORTS OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN AND STAFF

Activities Since the Last Meeting

Progress Report

Dahlgreen briefly discussed the reports that were included in the agenda packet. She reported that she will have a detailed progress report on our strategic planning activities in June.

Dahlgreen also provided data on the usage of the *Libraries of Oregon* and the amount of LSTA funds we have spent on Oregon Battle of the Books in the past, which was information that was requested by the Board.

Two weeks ago, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means introduced a legislative concept in the House, which became House Bill 3523. It has gone to the House Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness Committee. When Dahlgreen learned about this, she sent a message to the Board, library directors in Oregon, and State Library staff. She also held a meeting the following morning with the staff to discuss the bill.

Since then, Dahlgreen has submitted some minor changes to HB 3523. There is a public hearing tomorrow and both Dahlgreen and Bonebrake are planning to attend. Members of the Oregon Library Association (OLA) Legislative Committee are planning to testify tomorrow.

The State of Oregon Law Library and the Archives will be submitting some amendments, which they have said they will send to Dahlgreen to review.

Dahlgreen summarized the substantive points of HB 3523. The first involves changing the makeup of the State Library Board to include designated positions, such as state agency representatives, someone from the Commission for the Blind, someone from the Department of Education, members of the public, representatives from public libraries and an academic library. These designations will also include some geographic representation. The Board will have nine members. Our current Board members will cycle off the board within the next three or four years, or fill one of the designated spots. The Board members will continue to be Governor-appointed and Senate-confirmed.

The State Librarian would be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor, rather than the Board. This appointment would also require Senate-confirmation.

This House Bill would designate the State Library as the clearing house for subscription databases for other state agencies. In addition, the State Library would certify other state agency libraries. The State Library, the Law Library, and the Archives would work together to form the State Reference Coordinating Council.

With the exception of the governance changes, these proposed changes have been discussed over the last few years and were included in the 2011 Workgroup Report on Libraries and Archives.

Dahlgreen commented that having staff from other state agencies on the Board could be very valuable in providing us with a wider perspective. She understands that having the State Librarian position be appointed by the Governor is causing some concern. This will align us more closely with most other agencies in state government. It may also allow us to communicate more effectively with the Governor's Office.

Bonebrake commented that this House Bill incorporates the beneficial aspects of the transformation processes that we went through, giving the State Library more authority and respect as a state agency. It will allow us to be more effective and efficient.

Hall brought up the section which mentions that the Governor will select board members after consulting with the Oregon Library Association.

The OLA Legislative Committee has been in frequent contact with the Legislature over many years and appreciates that OLA is considered a professional community that should be involved in significant decisions that affect libraries across the state.

This bill will give us additional guidance, narrowing the focus of our mission in order to more effectively serve our customers. There may be a fiscal impact in the future, depending on what resources we require to effectively carry out our responsibilities. This will integrate very well with the work we are currently performing.

OPEN FORUM

Ted Smith, director of the Newport Public Library, spoke to the Board, expressing concern over the idea of the State Librarian position becoming politicized. It is possible that every four years there will be a new person in the position who will bring dramatic changes.

Margarita Saunders, a corporate librarian and resident of Los Angeles who will be moving to Oregon, spoke to the Board. She finds it positive that this bill includes other groups having involvement in the State Library Board. She also expressed concern about the politicization of the State Librarian position and expressed concern that there may be a conflict of interest.

Since there was no one else present to speak at the open forum, the Board continued with its meeting. House Bill 3523 was created at the request of the Joint Ways and Means Committee. It may have been a response to the fact that the legislative workgroup to discuss issues relating to the State Library was never created.

Hall expressed concern about the fact that OLA was so quick to decide to testify in favor of this bill. He does not see this bill as a positive step for the Board. He was surprised that the Legislature is proposing to transfer more power to the Governor and less to the citizens (the Board).

The Board discussed whether or not Dahlgreen should give testimony. It is important to be aware of the consequences of not testifying. Bonebrake asked to hear from each Board member about this issue.

Bell appreciated hearing Dahlgreen's and OLA's point of view about the bill. She expressed concern that the Board has not had someone with a legal background look at the document to provide greater clarity.

Bonebrake sees the inclusion of OLA as an important check for the political process.

Watkins encouraged the Board members to email Janet Webster and Abigail Elder, the co-chairs of OLA's Legislative Committee, if they have questions about OLA's decision to testify and its knowledge of the bill. The committee is very knowledgeable about the events of the State Library over the years.

Hathaway-Marxer commented that this bill would have been the perfect opportunity to include information about the Talking Books Endowment Fund and interest rates.

Dahlgreen feels that this is not the time to make substantial suggestions, as the bill came to us already written.

Bell expressed concern that we continue to be caught off guard by actions of the Legislature and believes that we need a way to prevent this from happening.

Malkin sees that the most productive way to move forward is to determine the best next steps. She stated that OLA is doing its job by taking action in response to this proposed legislation. She is comfortable relying on Dahlgreen's analysis of the situation. Malkin also found that the proposed changes to the Board makeup are consistent with other state agencies.

Hicks commented that it is important to be practical and rely on Dahlgreen's expertise to know what is best for the State Library. She does have some concerns about the possibility of a political appointment. She mentioned the value of aligning us with other agencies.

Tucker is frustrated about how this legislation was released and does not like the political appointment of the State Librarian. However, she believes we need to move forward.

Bonebrake summarized the difficulties of the past few years and stated that for the most part, she sees this as a positive step forward.

Dahlgreen read her statement to the Board, which referenced the value in bringing us in line with other agencies and broadening representation on the Board. She sees that it is intended to increase efficiency and reduce duplication.

Hall said that it is premature for the Board or Dahlgreen to take a position on this bill.

The rest of the Board stated that Dahlgreen should provide testimony using her statement as written.

Dahlgreen mentioned the value of participating in OLA's Legislative Day. It will demonstrate to legislators that the Board is engaged and concerned. Visibility is valuable at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Government Information and Library Services Advisory Council has three vacancies. The recommended candidates are Matt Ausec of Oregon Health Authority, Jeannette Hulse of the Department of Human Services, and Donna McKeever from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Tucker moved to approve the recommendation to appoint Matt Ausec, Jeannette Hulse, and Donna McKeever to the Government Information and Library Services Advisory Council. Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to continue with this method of making appointments based on a slate prepared by staff rather than holding an election. This method will now be used for the Talking Book and Braille Advisory Council and the Library Services and Technology Act Advisory Council as well. The Board requested that the criteria used in the selection process be included for the Board's information.

LSTA FUNDING DISCUSSION

The Board expressed interest in examining how we are spending the Library Services and Technology Act funds. Dahlgreen called the Board's attention to the budget estimate included in the Board agenda packet and gave a status update about each item. The ending balances fluctuate. We have not received the 2016 funds yet.

The 4% cap on LSTA administrative costs is not optional. LSTA is up for reauthorization this coming year. COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Associations) and the American Library Association are discussing the idea to ask for a higher administration rate.

Dahlgreen will be meeting with John Cole of the National Center for the Book in the beginning of May to discuss the Oregon Center for the Book and whether or not this designation comes with the expectation of programming. It is possible that an individual library could take on the program.

Dahlgreen has been talking with Faye Chadwell of Oregon State University Libraries regarding Libraries of Oregon. We are getting closer to making a recommendation for a statewide portal. The Board will need to discuss how much money to put toward Libraries of Oregon.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2015 at the Beaverton City Library. The Board will meet at Nike at 9:00 am for a tour of Hicks' library.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- Rondema will fix the typo in the minutes from the March 20, 2015 Board meeting.