

MINUTES
REGENTS PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 15, 2008
Covington, Georgia
Newton County Library System

ATTENDING: Kathy Ames, Nick Fogarty, Carolyn Fuller, Greg Heid, Richard Sanders, Gary Swint, John Szabo

TELECONFERENCE: Dusty, Gres, Donna Howell, Alan Kaye, Barry Reese

GPLS: Julie Walker, Lyn Hopper, Lamar Veatch (Via Teleconference)

VISITORS: Joe Forsee

Greg Heid called the meeting to order and asked for the approval of minutes from December 12, 2007 and January 18, 2008. Two corrections were brought to the attention of the group. Kathy Ames moved that the Committee approve the RPLAC minutes from December 12, 2007 and January 18, 2008 with corrections. Carolyn Fuller seconded the motion and both sets of minutes were approved.

Lamar Veatch spoke to the group about Senate Bill 331 for Health and Human Services, sponsored by Senator Regina Thomas (Savannah,) that was making it's way through Senate Committee. The bill has been sent to a subcommittee, headed by Senator Renee Unterman, for study. The bill would bring together all state agencies serving the blind and physically handicapped – including GLASS and the Subregional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped under one Commission in Georgia. Lamar explained that his official position is that GPLS would be happy to work in conjunction with this new state agency in it's mission. However he believes that GLASS and the Subregional libraries should remain under GPLS, closely allied to public libraries throughout Georgia as the mission of both are so closely tied to each other. The Department of Labor and Department of Education are also opposed to this legislation.

Representative Bob Smith, Chair of the House Higher Education Appropriations Sub-Committee will have two more meetings next week. Library capital construction projects will be on the agenda for one of the meetings. Julie Walker attended the meeting yesterday. Lamar Veatch informed the Committee that he is scheduled to speak to the Sub-Committee to support the Governor's proposed budget items for the FY2009 state budget. Kathy Ames told the group that she met with Representative Smith for 90 minutes after Library Legislative Day, regarding the budget and the need for additional library construction projects to be funded in the FY09 state budget. There is concern that the projects that the Governor choose to fund were not chosen in priority order from the list. One project that was chosen, ranked 16 on the list. Library directors want the Sub-Committee to fund all of the library construction projects on the list between the two top priorities and the 16th ranked project. Representative Smith says that libraries have never been properly funded.

Representative Bob Smith has introduced HB1165 and HR1245 which would disband the Board of Regents in favor of a Commission of Higher Education. Members of this commission would be appointed by the legislature to represent the different legislative districts. Representative Smith wants to establish a seamless education tract from pre-school through to higher college education. He also wants to fold DTAE under the new Commission.

The Committee next discussed HB226 regarding the definition of obscenity. Lamar Veatch told the group that there is not a lot of interest to move the bill back into the Senate for a vote and no one was pushing the bill in the House. Lamar recommended that we just leave this bill alone as it is without the new definitions and it may well die in committee.

Greg Heid next asked the Committee to comment on any of the edits and changes that Julie made to the definition section of the draft Policy on Requirements for State Aid. The definitions was the part of the document that RPLAC reviewed at the last meeting. Kathy Ames asked whether RPLAC should have edited "Affiliate Library" entirely out of the document. After much discussion, the group asked that Julie place "Affiliated Library" a "see reference" back into the definitions. Under "Affiliated Libraries" Julie agreed to place, "see Member Library."

Gary Swint raised the question of the definition of a virtual library and whether that definition could be made. After much discussion, the group agreed that Virtual Library is a service that is provided by libraries and that a Virtual Library is not a branch of the library itself.

Gary Swint also raised the question concerning personnel policies in multi-county regional library systems. GPLS staff explained that member libraries can have their own personnel policy, however, the member library is bound by the personnel policies set by the regional library board within the regional system. The regional library board can also adopt a combination of individual personnel policies of the member's libraries to create the regional policy.

The Committee then began to review the actual rules for State grant (the last half of the document.)

Page 6. b. 1. The Public Library Materials Grant shall be used for the purchase of Library Materials and to purchase cataloging and processing services in accordance with the Materials Selection Policy.

b. 2. The Public Library Materials Grant shall not be used for personnel costs.

c. 2. b. Construction.

e. GPLS reserves the right to make additional grant awards for the provision of library service in Georgia.

Page 7. 1. Delete (collection development and maintenance)

Page 7. 10. The Library system shall offer training for Library System Trustees.

12. Library System Board of Trustees of Library Systems may choose to charge an annual non-resident fee for a library card to those who reside outside the Service Area of the Library System. The fee shall entitle non-residents to all Basic Library Services. PINES Library Systems shall follow PINES Policy for non-residents.
13. Library System Boards of Trustees may choose to recover unique, identifiable costs from customers for specific transactions that exceed basic library services, e.g. photocopying, fax, fee or deposit for library facilities or property.
14. Old 13-----change “Affiliated” to “Member”
15. Old 14-----change “maintain” to “insure the maintenance of”

- 17, Change “State Grants and LSTA grants” to “all” grants

Numbers 20-23 will be completed at the March RPLAC in Warner Robins.
Greg charged RPLAC with studying these and being ready to make suggestions at the March meeting.

Lamar Veatch told the Committee that we will be looking at the draft Construction Grant Policies at the March RPLAC meeting. These need to be reviewed by RPLAC for approval before they are sent to BOR for approval.

Lamar Veatch had draft copies of a draft of the opinion letter from the Decatur attorneys regarding the use of local school board funds to support local public libraries. Lamar briefly summarized the letter and then asked that the Committee look over the draft letter and make any recommendations to him. Once finalized, the letter will be officially sent to the five library systems that provided information and paid for the opinion to be written. The final letter will also be shared with library systems throughout Georgia.

Greg Heid asked the members to study the list of next issues and come prepared to the March meeting to choose the next issues that the Committee should address.

Next Meeting - March 15th at the Nola Brantley Memorial Library in Warner Robins at 10:00AM