

URBAN LIBRARIES SECTION MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2016

Prepared by Janet Birckhead

In Attendance: Mary Faith Chmiel, Cathy Folk-Pushee, Peggy Cadigan, Holly Belli, Eileen Morales, Pat Tumulty, and Janet Birckhead

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Minutes from June 16 Meeting

A motion was made to correct the last paragraph on page 2 of the June minutes. Janet moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Cathy seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

2. Introduction of 2016/2017 Officers

Mary Faith introduced the officers. She is President. Cathy is Vice President. Janet is Secretary. The Members at Large were absent from this meeting.

3. Presentation by Eileen Morales, NJSL Grants Manager

After introducing herself, Eileen asked what types of grants libraries wanted to see. Janet asked if the Collections Development Grant program will ever be resumed. Eileen stated that it was dropped because of the cuts to the State Library's budget. She added that the Literacy Boot Camp is the first collections development grant offered by the NJSL in approximately five years. Peggy commented that, formerly, the NJSL offered mini-grants of \$2000 to \$3000 but found that the same libraries applied each year.

Eileen stated that she has a dual role as Grants Manager: to help find funding opportunities for the NJSL and support for the libraries in the state. The blog section of the NJSL website lists grants. She has not been in this position long but has already ascertained that the New Jersey Historical Commission is a source of grant funding for libraries in New Jersey. Mary Faith concurred, adding that the Elizabeth Public Library received a grant for digitization. Eileen said that the NJSL got a new microfilm machine a few years ago.

Eileen asked who still had a microfilm machine and whether there was a problem getting parts. Janet answered that the Long Branch Free Public Library has two machines, a newer and an older model. Both are in use.

Mary Faith pointed out that the other area of renovation is buildings. For example, the Elizabeth Public Library had a slate roof installed when the façade was done. The maintenance contract costs \$48,000 for two years. Eileen added that the slate roof at the Updike Farmstead cost six figures to replace. The Orange Public Library is having work done, but the library is still open.

The 1772 Foundation funds historic buildings. They have funded libraries in the past. The current grant is meant to be maintenance-based. The foundation is a Connecticut-based company that works through the New Jersey Historic Trust to offer grants once a year. The New Jersey Historic Trust is once again offering grants. Traditionally NJHT has offered long-term grants. Since funding legislation just passed, libraries seeking grants for their buildings should check the New Jersey Historic Trust.

The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) also provides grants. Some people think that only the NJSL can apply. This is not true. Individual libraries can obtain grants from the IMLS.

Pat asked, "Don't some county libraries have their own historical commissions?" Eileen and Mary Faith explained that this is a change by the New Jersey Historical Commission. They wanted the counties to beef up their historical commissions; all but one county did. Eileen was not sure if the funds could apply to buildings.

Besides roofs, the other common building problem that was discussed was bathrooms.

4. Program Ideas

a. Social Workers and Libraries

Cathy and Mary Faith and two people from the Diversity & Outreach Section will be meeting with Mark Lamar regarding a partnership with the Rutgers School of Social Work. Elizabeth Public Library and Newark Public Library are looking at partnering with Kean University. Peggy summarized for Eileen the trend of libraries hiring social workers. Mary Faith noted that the contact at Kean University is excited about this. She thinks he wants to write a paper about it. The libraries will be stationing the social worker upstairs with a cell phone. If someone comes to the Reference Desk with a question that should be forwarded to a social worker, staff at the Reference Desk will call him. Eileen wondered about liability. Mary Faith thinks any liability rests with the university.

Janet reported that the Long Branch Free Public Library currently has an intern who is working towards a bachelor's degree in social work. The library has also hired him part time. He works at the Adult Services Desk or at the public computer station. Long Branch is also blessed to have the Long Branch Concordance, which acts as a clearing-house for social service agencies in Long Branch. The library has also inaugurated the Community Connects program, which brings social service agencies to the library once a month. Cathy announced that a library in BCCLS has a director who is both a librarian and a social worker. "Social Workers in Libraries" might be a program idea.

b. Painting Pictures

Mary Faith suggested "Painting Pictures" as another program idea. Peggy heard a good speaker on "Painting Pictures." She feels that this program gives urban youth a picture of a different future. She will contact Leslie to get the name of this speaker. It was pointed out that "pictures" is not to be taken literally.

c. People & Stories

Peggy suggested a program based on "People & Stories." Pat added that this program originated in Trenton. Trenton Public Library received an \$8,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to implement this program a few years ago. Pat knows the presenter and will contact him. This program has been copied in Las Vegas and elsewhere. The program is aimed at adults and is based on the short story. It provides an opportunity for people to tell their own stories.

Mary Faith commented that "People & Stories" sounds like the "Great Stories Club." The Elizabeth Public Library received a grant for this from the American Library Association. The "Great Stories Club" works with young adults.

d. Sign Language

Peggy reported that she had met a woman whose parents are deaf. She speaks and signs in both Spanish and English and wants to work in libraries. Holly Belli advised Peggy to tell the woman to contact Andrea Moore at Camp Eunice Kennedy Shriver in Lawrenceville. Andrea Moore is involved with Special Olympics. She gave Holly lots of free literature for a Special Olympics program at her library. Holly had to go for training, but Special Olympics does almost all of the work to prepare for a Special Olympics program at a library.

e. Her Story

This program was started in New Jersey by a former director at the Caldwell Public Library. The initiative originally came out of Long Island. The program helps women who have been incarcerated and their children write their stories. Karen, the originator of this program, would probably come to one of our meetings.

f. Barbershop Literacy Program

Janet reported on the Long Branch Free Public Library's "Fade to Black Barbershop Literacy Project." Although she had not yet asked Tonya, she hoped that Tonya and/or some of the barbers would be willing to serve as presenters for an Urban-Libraries-sponsored program. Mary Faith added that a barber was one of the inspirations for a New Jersey Council for the Humanities program entitled "Hair for All!" held at Elizabeth in 2014.

g. Prison Videoconferencing

There was a video conferencing program at Rahway Prison, since renamed the East Jersey Correctional Center. This enabled inmates to see and talk with their families. Many families find it difficult to travel a long distance to visit their loved ones. One member thought it would be nice to have libraries offer this service.

h. First Friends

First Friends collects books in other languages to donate to detention centers. Kyle Craig at Rockaway is the contact. Peggy said this program would be good either for NJLA conference or as a stand-alone. Pat informed the members that NJLA requires members to charge \$20 for a half day or \$35 for a full day when they put on a stand-alone program.

i. Other Thoughts on Programs

Mary Faith announced that the Elizabeth Public Library will have a new Children's Librarian starting after Labor Day.

Peggy said that she loves some of these program ideas for the Adult Services Forum. Pat has a good connection with a woman in Trenton for the "People & Stories" program. Another member felt that "Painting Pictures" would also be good.

Mary Faith said that the Administrative and Management Section is talking about doing programs on Organizational Health or Building Management Real Talk as Pre-Conferences, should UL be interested in co-sponsoring. Is there a possibility we could co-sponsor a pre-conference.

5. Should Narcan and Defibrillators Be Available in Libraries?

Mary Faith raised the question of having defibrillators in libraries and of having Narcan available for staff to administer in case of a drug-related emergency. Holly replied that, although she is an EMT and her library has a defibrillator, she's not allowed to administer Narcan. Administering Narcan requires special training beyond the EMT level. Pat reported that New York passed a law permitting libraries to administer Narcan. Participation by staff is voluntary. The New York Library Association pushed for this law because members wanted it. Pat passed on Bob Belvin's inquiry as to what kinds of lights libraries could put in the bathrooms that would make it harder for addicts to find their veins.

Holly noted that using a defibrillator is part of CPR training. She says that using a defibrillator on a person is terrifying, even for an EMT. She can't imagine doing it as an average librarian without EMT training. She felt that participating staff members would need counseling afterwards. She advised librarians who wanted their libraries involved in this to have their towns' EMTs train the staff.

Someone raised the question of liability and asked, "What if no staff member helps?" Holly stated that the Good Samaritan Act protects those who walk away. She added that, as an EMT, she is required to help, wherever she is and whatever she is doing, but the average person is not required to do anything. Holly added that the situation may involve a person with mental health issues rather than strictly physical illness.

Peggy asked the difference is between an EMT and a paramedic. Holly replied that EMTs cannot administer drugs, whereas paramedics do. Janet asked if security guards can carry Narcan. Her library's security guard is a former policeman. The answer is that he can if he is willing.

6. Providing Fee-Based Continuing Education Programs to NJ Librarians

Pat stated that NJLA wants sections to run fundraising programs, not only to raise money for NJLA but also to increase the visibility of the section. Mary Faith said that she

questions the legitimacy of taking money out of her library's budget to support NJLA's budget.

Pat said that she understands the problem of having staff out of the building. Webinars are a partial solution, but Pat feels that there is no substitute for the kind of discussion that is possible when members meet in person and cited the discussions we have had during this meeting as evidence. Peggy added that, if you have a topic of interest, you'll get people from Trenton and from all over the state.

Pat suggested that if Mary Faith can't do it, maybe Cathy could plan a program. Cathy stated that the Professional Development Committee encourages sections to present or co-sponsor programs. She announced that Joyce Wilenza is the speaker at a program during the School Librarians Association Conference. This program is free except for \$10 for lunch.

Pat noted that the Professional Development Committee wants a schedule by September. Mary Faith said that she would be willing to offer a lab at her library but it would be limited to 24 people, or two at a computer. The Elizabeth Public Library has the Grants Directory online. Pat replied that this program would not work as a fee-based program, since the NJSL offers the same program.

Mary Faith alluded to the problem we experienced developing an urban librarians/teachers meeting at William Paterson University. We need to meet at a more central location, with a longer announcement period.

7. Future Meetings

Cindy has a conflict with the third Thursday, when the PALS Plus Executive Board meets. Both D&O and the Urban Libraries sections had meetings scheduled for today. The Urban Libraries section has had the third Thursday for a long time. Mary Faith will talk to Jill D'Amico. Janet urged her to ask Jill to change the dates of their meetings, since she just changed all of the dates for the book club she moderates in order to accommodate the Urban Library section's schedule.

A tentative schedule of meeting dates was provided with the agenda. However, we need to find locations for most of the dates. Peggy will talk to Cathi Sheridan at the Lakewood Branch of the Ocean County Library. Janet will talk to Tonya to confirm the Long Branch Free Public Library for January. The next meeting will take place at the

Hackensack Public Library on Sept. 15. Hackensack will also host on Dec. 15. Volunteers are needed for other dates.

8. Handouts: Photo IDs for Residents

In Roselle, IDs are issued through the library. In Newark and New York City, issuing IDs is a city matter but is not done through the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.