

MINUTES
REGENTS PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, July 14, 2006

RPLAC Members:

John Szabo	Steve Schaefer
Gail Rogers	Richard Sanders
Greg Heid	Susan Whittle
Diana Tope	Gary Swint
Dusty Gres	Melody Jenkins – Teleconf.
Kathryn Ames	Alan Kaye – Teleconf.

GPLS Staff:

Lamar Veatch, State Librarian

House Study Committee Members:

Ruth Bruner – GMA Representative
Sandra Witty – Legislative Research Office

Guests:

Jim Cooper	Lyn Hopper
Nick Fogarty	Claudia Gibson
Adrian Mixson	Debbie Manget
Donna Howell	Joe Forsee

JoEllen Ostendorf

Chairman Schaefer called the meeting of the Regents Public Library Advisory Committee (RPLAC) to order at 10:12 a.m. in the conference room of the Newton County Public Library. A telephone conference call was established to permit members noted above to participate remotely in the meeting.

Minutes of the June 23, 2006, meeting were approved as revised and distributed. Introductions of guests were made.

State Librarian's Comments – Lamar Veatch

He reported growing knowledge on House Study Committee on operation and complexity of the Georgia's public library organizational structure, services, and funding history. The committee is very interested in RPLAC's input, and it looks forward to concrete recommendations for changes in library legislation and advice on policy direction. The next House Study Committee meeting will be in September, giving RPLAC some time to formulate recommendations.

Ruth Bruner from the House Study Committee reiterated that the House Study Committee is open to recommendations. She indicated that she would carry the information gathered at today's meeting back to the Study Committee.

House Study Committee Report – John Szabo

He reported that the meeting of June 29th was quite good, with great questions, excellent dialogue and discussions. The focus was on funding. The committee discussed the possibility of a 4th meeting, and it plans to have the 3rd meeting sometime in September. No specific date has been set at this time.

Committee Reports

The Chairman called upon the committee chairs for updates. Work was ongoing. Statements of Purpose and Goals and Objectives for the following 3 issues were distributed and reviewed.

Issue #1: **VISION**, Greg Heid and Richard Sanders

Issue #2: **FUNDING**, Diana Tope and Kathryn Ames

Issue #3: **LIBRARY LAWS and POLICIES**, Dusty Gres and Gail Rogers

General Concerns

Discussion continued about the high costs of audits and the differences between private and public auditors. There is a need for auditors that are familiar with the library world and a set of standards that auditors should be required to follow. There was discussion as to the possibility of contracting with one company to audit all of the systems that needed the service. Veatch noted new requirements for the Department of Audits to audit Charter Schools, and there is growing concern that Audits may not have the resources to continue the auditing of public libraries. There is no legal mandate for audits to do so.

There was discussion of the need for performance audits.

The CNI issue was discussed. The CNI does not accurately reflect the amount of people served due to its excluding dormitory resident college students, senior citizens, day care students and prison populations. This issue will be submitted to the House Study Committee.

How public libraries in Georgia are funded is a topic that needs to be addressed. The committee chairs need to get the information rolling and put it out on the list-serve for discussion. All RPLAC members should feel obligated to respond. Steve will compile committees' reports and send directly to Sandra Witty from the House Study Committee.

RPLAC noted that the Library Construction Committee should be promptly reinitiated, so that the policies for the Capital Program for Libraries can be finalized. The GPLS facilities consultant will be coordinating this work. The FY'08 Capital Request list will be submitted under the current rules, as amended, to follow GFSIC.

Construction concerns are moved into Laws and Policies.

RPLAC also strongly urged GPLS to move forward with all deliberate speed to finalize the new policies in Public Library Grant Funds.

Open Discussion of RPLAC Concerns:

- Libraries need a regular replacement schedule for technology/computers.
- Systems need more professional positions as the population continues to grow.
- Positive and negative implications of library systems splitting into county library systems.

RPLAC and Lamar Veatch agreed that the Requirements for Library Grant Funds need to be approved ASAP. Lamar will work with BOR to get this accomplished.

RPLAC agreed to schedule its next meeting for August 21, 2006, at 10 a.m. at the Uncle Remus Regional Library in Madison.

Chairman Schaefer adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.