

Minutes
ODL Board of Directors
December 5, 2003
10:00 a.m.
Muskogee Public Library,
Eastern Oklahoma District Library System
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Chairman Benny Briggs called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and asked for roll call. Board members present: Duchess Bartmess, Benny Briggs, Glenda Kilmer, Judi Knapp, and Susan McVey, ex officio. Absent: Betty Bass, Doyle Kinney, Sherry Roberts.

Guests and staff present were: Jan Bryant, Karen Currie, Carol Fox, Susan Gilley, Mary Hardin, Gayle Ledford, Mary Moroney, Chris Sheehan, Vicki Sullivan, and Bill Young.

Briggs asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 19, 2003 meeting. Kilmer had two corrections to names and requested one sentence regarding a speech by Shirley Jones be removed. Bartmess moved the minutes be approved with changes. Kilmer seconded. Votes were as follows: Bartmess, yes; Briggs, yes; Kilmer, yes; Knapp, yes; Bass, Kinney, Roberts, absent. The minutes were approved.

Guests were asked to introduce themselves. Jan Bryant, Manager of the Muskogee Public Library, welcomed the group and invited everyone to tour the library, especially the genealogy collection. Gayle Ledford, Fort Gibson Library, said she regretted the new Fort Gibson Library was not completed in time for the Board meeting but would love to host the Board in the future. Mary Moroney, Assistant Director of the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System (EODLS), extended an invitation to the board to visit all of EODLS' branches. Moroney said the EODLS Administrative staff is now housed in a building across the street from the Muskogee Public Library in order to make more room in the library. Chris Sheehan, Autographics representative, said Oklahoma uses the interlibrary loan feature of their Agent software. Approximately four hundred libraries participate in the statewide catalog.

McVey received word that the National Historical Publications and Records Commission has given ODL a conditional federal grant of \$134,000 to initiate a model Archives project. The condition is that the vacancies on the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) will be filled. The governor's office has been contacted in order to fill positions. ODL will regrant some of the funds to fifteen local archival entities in grants of \$5,000 each. The funds will be used to develop disaster preparedness plans, promote preservation, and improve collections. Over a twenty month period, a series of workshops will be held on how to apply for the grants, and on special subjects such as preservation and disaster preparedness. Susan Feller has assisted with this project. McVey said the recent OHRAB Forums were a lead-up to this grant. Five workshops will focus on archival basics. A simple and straight-forward archival manual will be produced and aimed at non-professionals.

Briggs asked if other such grants are available. Sullivan said ODL will be exploring other areas as well. The OHRAB, appointed by the Governor, has been very supportive. Smaller repositories will benefit from this grant.

Briggs introduced Representative Barbara Staggs and thanked her for attending. He said Staggs is a strong supporter of libraries and education. Staggs said the budgeting process has been

tedious this year with zero based budgeting being implemented in stages. Return trips to the Budget Committee will be required for most agencies. She said many legislators do not really know about schools and have not visited libraries and sometimes their decisions are not as good as they could be. Recently, there was a misconception by a legislator that ODL had forty grant readers. McVey said this was definitely not the case.

Staggs said ODL needs to be political and look for areas that need help. Staggs asked if ODL did not lose any federal funds due to reduced state maintenance of effort (MOE), would the agency gain any additional federal money. McVey said no. The two criteria for determining the amount of federal funds to be received are a minimum base amount and state per capita. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding has been growing modestly each year. Reauthorization of the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) has been recommended. The Act is currently in a hold harmless appropriation bill which has not passed yet. There could be a slight increase in funding or if there is a rescission on all appropriation bills, a possibility of a 5.9% reduction.

Briggs discussed the construction funds available to ODL and further possible cuts to ODL's budget. Briggs said the real issue is whether the cuts are over, and if not, should construction grants be cut since they do not count towards the MOE. Staggs suggested making a specific plea to the state legislature to restore the 5.5% cut to the construction grants plus an additional 5.5%. Staggs suggested making the legislature aware that we are the only state in the area passing legislation giving public library construction money to libraries and that this is innovative and good for Oklahoma.

Staggs suggested that ODL should present itself as a partner with education. Schools must have libraries and library systems to back them up. McVey said the newer public libraries have stimulated pride in the community and improved economic development. With a renovation or new library building, circulation goes through the roof.

Staggs thought the budget situation would be better but warned that many neglected big ticket items were coming up. Staggs thanked the board for inviting her to the meeting.

McVey asked Staggs about a possible constitutional amendment to change the millage cap for public library systems. Many systems are at or near the mill cap. McVey said raising the ad valorem can be very difficult. Staggs said it is especially difficult in the western part of the state, where there are vast amounts of grazing lands. Staggs believes the library community can approach the legislature about this since millage increases are county option.

McVey announced that Donna Skvarla, Administrator of the Office of Library Development, will be retiring, effective March 1, 2004. ODL will fill this position.

Briggs asked for consideration of the federal Library Services and Technology Grant proposals. McVey said that although the federal fiscal year begins on October 1st the Congress has not yet passed the appropriations bill for the current year. As a result, full funding will not be received until at least January, 2004. However, ODL does have the funds in hand to cover the Library Services and Technology Grant proposals included under tab d of the Board packet. Kilmer moved to accept the Library Services and Technology Grant proposals. Knapp seconded. Votes were as follows: Bartmess, yes; Briggs, yes; Kilmer, yes; Knapp, yes; Bass, Kinney, Roberts, absent.

Briggs asked for consideration of the 2004 ODL Board Meeting Schedule. The schedule was discussed. McVey said statutorily the board must meet four times per year, but five has been the norm, and additional meetings could be added if needed. Knapp suggested approving the schedule as is, and changing later if necessary. Kilmer thought meeting at ODL would use less staff time. Knapp moved to approve the 2004 ODL Board Meeting Schedule and Kilmer seconded. Votes were as follows: Bartmess, yes; Briggs, yes; Kilmer, yes, Knapp, yes; Bass, Kinney, Roberts, absent.

Briggs asked for consideration of the State Aid formula. McVey said leftover money from last year was added back into state aid this year. Last year, \$90,000 was cut, so with the additional money added, it is only \$12,000 less than the original amount. This addition will allow ODL to restore the \$1,500 minimum payment to the smallest libraries, and the per capita amount for systems will rise slightly. Kilmer asked why Lawton and Claremore did not receive state aid. McVey said both cities received reduced funding from their local governments and did not meet their MOE. Kilmer made the motion to accept the state aid formula and Bartmess seconded. Votes were as follows: Bartmess, yes; Briggs, yes; Kilmer, yes, Knapp, yes; Bass, Kinney, Roberts, absent.

The floor was opened for discussion. Kilmer said last month the Tulsa Friends of the Library hosted a special guest, Nancy Pearl, originally from Tulsa and now at Seattle Public Library's Washington Center for the Book. Pearl spoke and signed books at the event. Pearl has been on a national tour with her book, *Book Lust*. The new librarian action figure is based on Pearl and Kilmer presented a personalized figure to McVey. The inscription read "To Susan McVey, the number one Oklahoma librarian action figure."

Young announced the 15th annual Oklahoma Book Award dinner will be held Saturday, March 13th, 2004 at the Petroleum Club in Oklahoma City. Carolyn Hart will receive the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award. Her book *Letters from Home* is up for the Pulitzer Prize.

Briggs asked for consideration and vote to adjourn. Knapp made the motion to adjourn. Bartmess seconded. Votes were as follows: Bartmess, yes; Briggs, yes; Kilmer, yes, Knapp, yes; Bass, Kinney, Roberts, absent. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00.

Susan McVey, Secretary