

# THE LIBRARY BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## Library of Virginia

January 6, 2020

### ARCHIVAL, COLLECTIONS, AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Archival, Collections, and Records Management Services Committee of the Library Board met on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in Conference Room B of the Library of Virginia located at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. The following committee members were in attendance: Barbara Vines Little, *chair*; Blythe Ann Scott, *vice chair*, Robert D. Aguirre, K. Johnson Bowles, Paul Brockwell, and R. Chambliss Light Jr. Staff liaisons John Metz and Mike Strom were also present. Board member M. David Skiles was absent.

Chair Barbara Vines Little called the ACRMS committee to order and invited Deputy for Collections and Programs John Metz to begin his report to the committee. Dr. Metz began with the first agenda item, an update on the pre-1913 Vital Records Request for Proposals for scanning. He reported that the Library has selected a potential vendor with whom to conduct further negotiations and that Contract and Procurement Manager Nancy Sconzo was in the process of finalizing those discussions. While it is largely dependent on the selected vendor, it is hoped that scanning would begin sometime in the spring.

Next, State Archivist Mike Strom provided the committee with an update on two grant awards from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the granting arm of the National Archives. He began by reporting that the Virginia State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) will receive \$10,000 to survey the needs of the state's archival repositories and develop a strategic plan. The plan will help the board carry out its mission of assisting organizations throughout Virginia in preserving and providing access to Virginia's historic records. The Library of Virginia administers the board for the state. Several members asked about the composition of the SHRAB board as well as how board members are selected. Mr. Strom explained that board membership is generally consistent across SHRABs nationwide and that it generally includes members representing museums, archives, libraries, and other institutions that have archival collections. A member might also be selected for their expertise in history or other relevant areas. In Virginia, the sitting administration selects board members from a pool of applicants who express interest in and their qualifications to serve on the SHRAB.

Digital Initiatives and Web Presence Director Kathy Jordan reported on the second grant award of \$175,392 from the NHPRC in the amount to support Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative digitization project. The objectives are to complete digitization of, engage users in the transcription of, and provide free public access to all free black registers in possession of the Library and those held in Arlington County and the City of Lynchburg, as well as the City of Richmond's free black records, within two years. The development of more streamlined and effective transcription tools will allow for seamless access to digitized content, as well as open access to the data in aggregate. She explained that the ultimate goal underpinning the entire Virginia Untold project is to provide users with a deeper understanding of African American

enslavement and freedom in the nineteenth century through these primary sources. This grant funding will allow the Library to recruit and hire for the new position of project manager, which will enable Virginia Untold to transform into an institutional flagship project. With an influx of additional content coupled with outreach, the Library will be able to demonstrate to state government funders that Virginia Untold is a project important to the commonwealth and its citizens, and one worth supporting financially.

Following this, Mr. Strom called on Local Records Program Manager Gregory Crawford to provide an overview of the accomplishments of the Local Records Branch and the Circuit Court Records Preservation (CCRP) program in 2019. The highlight of the year came with the award of \$918,736.75 in grants to 77 localities. These were primarily item conservation grants.

Committee member R. Chambliss Light Jr. asked what the greatest threat to records preservation in the localities is, and Mr. Crawford explained that it was mold, and that this was a problem that could not be adequately dealt with (e.g. grants to update HVAC or to mitigate mold issues) until the fee collected for records preservation was increased. He shared with the committee that the Circuit Court Clerks Association had submitted House Bill 306 that proposes to raise the CCRP fee from \$1.50 to \$3.50 if it passes.

Mr. Strom then discussed the backlog reduction report the Library is required to provide to the Governor and the General Assembly each year. The report originated in 1999 when the General Assembly provided funding for 17 new positions to eliminate the backlog of unprocessed archival material that was then estimated to take 54 years at pre-1999 staffing levels. Over time, progress on the backlog reduction slowed, as positions were lost through successive budget reductions and with the introduction of electronic records. The report details the way that different types of records (e.g. state, local, and private, as well as electronic) are processed. Moreover, it explains how the rate of accessioning compares to the rate of processing. Several committee members asked questions about how collecting and accession rates differed between state, local, and private papers. Mr. Strom explained that collecting for state and local government records is dictated by Records Retention and Disposition Schedules and that there is a major spike in the acquisition of these records every fourth year as administrations change. The exponential growth in the volume of electronic records continues to be an area of concern, especially with regard to the adequate staffing and resources necessary to manage more than four terabytes of data. Dr. Metz explained that private papers and other collection areas (e.g. Special Collections) throughout the Library are developed through more active means of acquisition. Despite very lean staffing in these areas, which translates into a more limited ability to be proactive in acquiring collections, the Library's reputation for excellence in Virginia-related collections and their care continues to attract a significant number of donors each year.

As there were no additional business items, the committee adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

## **PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Public Library Development Committee met on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 8:36 a.m. in the Conference Room C of the Library of Virginia. The following committee members were in attendance: Shelley Viola Murphy, *chair*; Mark Miller, *vice chair*; L. Preston Bryant Jr., Mark E. Emblidge, and Mohammed Esslami. Due to conflicting personal business, Board members

Kristin Cabral and Marcy Sims participated electronically by telephone from their respective cars while traveling. Staff liaison Nan Carmack, and Library staff member Kim Armentrout were also present.

Chair Shelley Viola Murphy called the committee meeting to order. Library Development and Networking Division Director Nan Carmack presented a request for a waiver of the requirements for a certificate of professional librarianship from Cindy Schmidt of Lynchburg, Virginia. Ms. Schmidt has completed a non-ALA accredited library science program and an ALA accredited doctor of library science program, except for her dissertation. She has been employed in school libraries and is currently employed in an academic library. After review and discussion Mark Miller moved that the committee recommend to the full board that the Library grant Ms. Schmidt a Provisional Certificate of Librarianship until such time as she completes her dissertation, not to exceed her stated anticipated date of graduation. Preston Bryant seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

Public Library Consultant Kim Armentrout made a presentation regarding the common governmental funds reported by public libraries and the impact they have on state aid calculations. Common governmental funds (CGFs) are those that a locality spends to support their library but that are not in the library's operating budget, such as grounds maintenance and snow removal. Virginia is only one of four states that allow CGFs to be considered in qualifying for state aid. These funds have been reported by libraries toward fulfilling the state aid requirement that two thirds of a library's operating budget come from local government funds. Since the recession in 2008, some libraries have claimed more CGFs to maintain their two-thirds balance and others have not. The reported expenditures have been difficult to quantify at best (for example, Human Resource expenditures on the library versus the remainder of the locality) and are not allowable at worst (a wellness program offered by the locality).

In an effort to rein in and use CGFs more consistently, libraries have been instructed that items such as rent and general allocations for information technology, human resources, and administrative services are not allowable. These skew state aid calculations for others, artificially inflating the median benchmark. Ms. Armentrout also reported that 41 percent of libraries are capped from claiming CGFs as a result of their median funding; 10 percent are partially capped; and 51 percent of libraries ineligible to claim full CGFs to support their two thirds requirement. Removing CGFs from the equation entirely will cause many libraries to receive additional state aid, while others (18 systems or 19 percent) will see a reduction in their state aid. Those 18 libraries are among the least well-funded libraries and not equipped to absorb this loss. Much discussion surrounded this topic and Mr. Miller remarked that this was a good advocacy point for fully funding state aid. Various refinements were discussed, such as a multi-year phase out of CGFs.

The director and a trustee of one of those libraries, Halifax-South Boston, is on the agenda of the regular board meeting to discuss the removal of rent from their CGFs and the impact it has on their library at this time. If all CGFs are completely removed, they will lose approximately \$40,000 in state aid. No recommendation or action was required by the committee; this discussion was presented as background for the committee and the Library Board.

With regard to the source of funds for Library Development and Networking Division staff benefits, Dr. Carmack reported on checking with financial and administrative services to confirm that the benefits package resulting from a proposed conversion of a part time staff member to a full time staff member would be covered by federal grant funds.

On ALA-accredited MLIS requirements for directors, Dr. Carmack reported that no respondents to the Chief Officers of State Libraries listserv for development directors indicated that their state aid did NOT require an ALA Accredited MLIS for directors; she asserted that the only state she knew of was Colorado.

The agenda having been accomplished the meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.

## **EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND RESEARCH SERVICES**

The Education, Outreach, and Research Services Committee of the Library Board met on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room B of the Library of Virginia. The following committee members were in attendance: K. Johnson Bowles, *chair*; Robert D. Aguirre, Mohammed Esslami, Barbara Vines Little, and Shelley Viola Murphy. Due to conflicting personal business, Board member Marcy Sims, *vice chair*, participated electronically by telephone from her car while traveling. Staff liaisons Gregg Kimball and Paul Casalaspi, and staff members Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt, Emma Ito, and Barbara Batson were also present.

Chair K. Johnson Bowles brought the meeting to order. Education and Outreach Manager Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt reviewed the department's 2019 programming. She shared a graphic with the committee that broke down the programming by series. Education and Outreach conducted 129 total programs broken down as follows:

- Genealogy (17 programs)
- Weinstein Author Series, Books Talks, Writing Workshops, and Panel Conversations (18 programs)
- Exhibition (22 programs)
- Exhibition and Library Tours (34 programs)
- Outreach (22 programs)
- Education (16 programs)

Ms. Fitzgerald Wyatt also talked about 2020 program planning, including the new Civic Conversation series. This small-group discussion series encourages informed conversations around contemporary issues and topics. On the second Wednesday of the month, the Library will screen a segment from a documentary film, followed by moderated discussion led by an expert or authority of the subject. Audience members are encouraged to share their perspectives with the group. Ms. Bowles asked if the numbers served with this programming could be shared on social media so that board members could re-share and retweet this information. She also asked if social media analytics for 2019 programs could also be shared at the next committee meeting. Barbara Vines Little suggested that as the Library promotes programs to our multiple audiences we not forget the general history audience and #tag groups with our marketing and promotion.

Barbara Batson, exhibitions coordinator, updated the committee on the next exhibition *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia*, scheduled to open on Monday, January 13, 2020. She showed a PowerPoint created by Cindy Marks as a Facebook teaser to the exhibition. The traveling version of the exhibition is scheduled for thirteen venues into 2021.

Education and Program Specialist Emma Ito shared an update with the committee on the work being done by the Library to recognize Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) history. She showed images of Japanese American soldiers that are in our Prints and Photographs collection and shared information on a few collection items around APIDA history, as well as informed the committee on the work being done around a resource guide, programming, and networking with the APIDA community across the state.

There being no further business or questions the committee adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

## **LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Legislative and Finance Committee of the Library Board met on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room C of the Library of Virginia. The following committee members were in attendance: R. Chambliss Light Jr., chair; Paul Brockwell, vice chair; L. Preston Bryant Jr., Mark E. Emblidge, Mark Miller, and Blythe Ann Scott. Due to conflicting personal business, Kristin Cabral participated electronically by telephone from her car while travelling; M. David Skiles was absent. Staff liaison Connie B. Warne and Librarian of Virginia Dr. Sandra G. Treadway were also present.

Chair R. Chambliss Light Jr. asked Deputy of Administration Connie Warne to provide the committee with an update on the Library's budget. Ms. Warne reported that the budget decision package that the Library submitted last summer for the State Records Center expansion was approved by the Governor's Office. The project is included in the capital outlay portion of the Governor's 2020-2022 budget and is now before the General Assembly. The second decision package requesting funds for four additional positions and for the use of artificial intelligence technology to expedite the processing of gubernatorial electronic records was not approved. Committee members shared their disappointment and their concern that the Library will continue to be criticized by the public and the press for its inability to address the backlog of unprocessed records. Mr. Light asked the committee if they would be willing to seek a budget amendment through the General Assembly to secure the needed resources, explaining that the Library could not pursue this but the Library Board could. Committee members were enthusiastic in their support for this. After brief discussion of possible patrons for such an amendment in the House and Senate, Mr. Light moved that the committee recommend to the full Library Board that the Board direct the staff to draft language for an amendment for the \$844,000 as outlined in the decision package to cover the cost of staffing and technology to be used in expediting the processing and release of gubernatorial records. The committee unanimously approved this motion.

The next item on the agenda related to the legislation of interest to the Library prefiled for the upcoming session. Dr. Treadway mentioned that among the bills staff had identified was one introduced by Delegate Keam adding language to the Code declaring public libraries essential

government services and another bill that we were expecting to be introduced that would create a commission to plan statewide activities to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Ms. Warne then reviewed the Library's Statement of Financial Condition as of November 30, 2019, and the variance between 2018 and 2019. There were no questions on the financial statement, and the committee adjourned at 10:17 am.

## **THE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**

Library of Virginia

January 6, 2020

The Library Board met on Monday, January 6, 2020, in the Board Meeting Room of the Library of Virginia located at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM**

L. Preston Bryant Jr., chair, called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m., starting a few minutes late due to technical challenges with the conference phone line; he welcomed the Board, and invited all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

The following members were in attendance:

L. Preston Bryant Jr., *chair*  
K. Johnson Bowles, *vice chair*  
Robert D. Aguirre  
Paul Brockwell  
Mark E. Emblidge  
Mohammed Esslami  
R. Chambliss Light Jr.  
Barbara Vines Little  
Mark Miller  
Shelley Viola Murphy  
Blythe Ann Scott

Due to conflicting personal business, Board members Kristin Cabral and Marcy Sims participated electronically by telephone from their respective cars while traveling. M. David Skiles was absent.

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Bryant began by stating that while the agenda before them had been properly noticed, they had an additional item for later in the meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented; a motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Miller, seconded by Shelley Viola Murphy, and approved by unanimous vote.

### **III. WELCOME TO VISITORS AND STAFF**

Mr. Bryant welcomed members of the Library staff who were present, Assistant Attorney General Audrey Burges, Conley Edwards from the Friends of the Virginia State Archives and two guests from the South Boston Public Library in Halifax County, Jay Stevens and Becky Donner.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 AND NOVEMBER 21, 2019 BOARD MEETINGS**

Mr. Bryant asked if there were any additions or corrections to the drafts of the minutes from the September 23, 2019 and November 21, 2019 Board meetings. As no comments or corrections were offered, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2019 minutes as submitted. Paul Brockwell motioned to approve the September 23, 2019 minutes, Blythe Ann Scott seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously. Mr. Bryant then asked for a motion to approve the November 21, 2019 Joint Board Retreat meeting minutes as submitted; Mr. Miller motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Murphy; the motion passed unanimously.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None given.

### **VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. Reports from Other Organizations**

Conley Edwards, president of the Friends of the Virginia State Archives (FVSA), expressed appreciation for the assistance of the Library's Facilities staff with arrangements for the Friend's annual Slatten Lecture held at the Library of Virginia on Saturday, September 30. This lecture featured Michael Strauss and was particularly successful, with 51 participants attending. Plans are currently underway for the 28th annual spring conference, *Straight to the Source*, on Friday, March 20, 2020 which will also be held at the Library. Five Library staff members will be presenting on various subjects.

The total direct contribution to the Library by the Friends during 2019 was \$14,784; \$7,563.95 for additions to the Library's printed collection, \$6,720 supported a staff position to process several collections of personal papers, and \$500 supported the production and distribution of the annual Archives Month poster.

Mr. Edwards was pleased to announce that two recently retired Library staff members – Tom Crew and Louise Jones, joined the Friends' Board filling two vacant positions; their experience and enthusiasm will be a great contribution to the Friends' efforts on the Library's behalf.

In closing Mr. Edwards relayed the passing of a past Friends' Board member and retired Library staff member, Katherine "Kitty" Smith; Ms. Smith passed away on December 27 at the age of 102. She was a valuable resource and a wonderful colleague.

## **B. Committee/Division Reports**

- **Archival, Collections, and Records Management Services Committee**

Committee Chair Barbara Vines Little shared several highlights from the committee meeting. The first was an update on the status of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for digitizing the vital records from 1853 through the twentieth century in the Library's collection. The Library is in negotiations concerning finalizing a contract, which will be sent shortly to the Attorney General's office for review. Next, she announced that the Library has been awarded a "major initiatives" grant by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) in the amount of \$175,392 for its "Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative" project. The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) is being revived and will receive \$10,000 from NHPRC to survey the needs of the state's archival repositories and develop a strategic plan to assist organizations throughout Virginia in preserving and providing access to Virginia's historic records.

A final item of note was on the CCRP update. Ms. Little asked all to keep an eye out for and to support passage of House Bill 306. Sponsored by the Circuit Court Clerk's Association, the bill proposes an increase in the real estate sales tax from \$1.50 to \$3.50 to fund county court records processing and preservation.

- **Education, Outreach, and Research Services Committee**

Committee Chair K. Johnson Bowles began her report by relaying key highlights of Library programming, which included 129 programs in 2019. She gave an overview of upcoming exhibits and highlighted in particular the newest exhibit *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia*, which commemorates the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote. This exhibit opens on Monday, January 13, 2020. A history of the Virginia suffrage movement written by Library personnel will be published by The History Press book on February 17. Ms. Bowles praised the hard work and creativity of the staff for their enthusiasm and creativity in program and exhibit planning.

- **Legislative and Finance Committee**

Committee Chair R. Chambliss Light Jr. called on Deputy of Administration Connie Warne to proceed with the Library's financial report and budget update. Ms. Warne reviewed the Library's Statement of Financial Condition as of November 30, 2019, and noted that the Library spending to date was in line with usual spending for this time of year and explained the variance between 2018 and 2019.

As there were no questions forthcoming, Ms. Warne moved on to relaying the good news that the Library's capital outlay request was approved for inclusion in the Governor's Budget Bill, and the Library should be able to move forward with the initial phase of the project this coming July 1. She also reported that the Library did not receive the funding



requested for the gubernatorial records backlog project. In light of this, Mr. Light reported that the Legislative and Finance Committee had unanimously adopted a resolution asking the Library Board to direct staff to draft a budget amendment seeking funding for this purpose, seek sponsors in the House and Senate, and secure the submission of the amendments in both houses of the General Assembly by the deadline of January 10, 2020. Since this was a motion from committee, no second was required. After brief discussion, Mr. Light called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Treadway then shared she will be keeping an eye on legislation that would create a commission to plan events and activities relating to the state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. It is hoped that the planning process for this commemoration will include the Library in a meaningful way.

- **Public Library Development Committee**

Committee Chair Shelley Viola Murphy shared they were presented with information on an application for waiver on the certification requirement. After discussion the committee found it to be appropriate to provide the waiver and had unanimously recommended that the Board approve the waiver and have the Library issue a Provisional Certificate of Professional Librarian to Cindy Schmidt. Ms. Schmidt is working at a library and on track to complete her dissertation for her Ph.D., at which time the provisional certificate would expire. As there were no questions or further discussion, Mr. Bryant asked for a vote on the committee motion to approve the waiver request; it passed unanimously.

Mr. Bryant asked Public Library Consultant Kim Armentrout to provide background on common governmental funding and how these are reported by public libraries and used in state aid calculations. After Ms. Armentrout's explanation, she referred all to the Library Development tab in the Board packet to the document titled "Common Government Figures in State Aid Calculations." This document recommends that beginning with the FY2021 cycle, common government expenditures (in-kind local support) be phased out by percentage decreases over a 3-year period (or longer) with a possible exception of salaries, direct benefits which sometimes are not coming through a library's operating budget.

Mr. Bryant invited guests from the Halifax -South Boston Public Library System, Director Jay Stevens and Chair of the South Boston Library Board Becky Donner, to address the Board. Mr. Stevens explained the likely significant negative impact to their state aid funding with the phasing out of common government funds (CGFs) as expenditures that qualify for the state aid requirements. Mr. Stevens expressed his hope that there could be alternatives to the proposed complete elimination of the CGFs, which they and other smaller/rural localities depend on. Ms. Donner next spoke and emphasized the important role the public libraries play for the citizens of Halifax County, with many residents not having computers or wi-fi at home, making the access to the internet at the libraries in the evening hours incredibly important for their community. She stated that these hours might need to be reduced if the library's state aid is reduced. Discussion

ensued around rethinking the policy on common government funding and possible solutions presented in the Board packet just discussed. Dr. Treadway shared that the Library's goal was to advocate for 100 percent funding of state aid to libraries and when that was achieved, to see if the formula could be adjusted to provide additional support to libraries in less affluent areas. As there were no action items on this matter to be taken at the current meeting, it was decided that this discussion should be continued at a future date and that the Library Development and Networking Division would continue researching possible solutions. Mr. Bryant thanked both Mr. Stevens and Ms. Donner for travelling such a distance to address the Board and encouraged them to also be in contact with their state representatives on this matter.

- **Report of the Foundation**

Executive Director of the Library Foundation R. Scott Dodson reported that at this halfway point in the fiscal year the Foundation is 15 percent ahead of last year in unrestricted donations and about 20 percent ahead in restricted donations, which is an indication of positive movement in the right direction. The budget requires almost a 100 percent increase from the previous year, and the staff is working to eliminate any structural deficits within the Foundation operations. Currently the Foundation is operating at a small operating deficit but that it is significantly less than it was at this time last year. The Foundation has been able to fund about \$46,000 of Library projects so far this year compared to around \$14,000 at this same point in the year.

Mr. Dodson also reported on continuing efforts to find a vendor to operate the first floor café who is also able to work with the use restrictions for the space. The Virginia Shop is expanding the focus of their inventory from official Virginia items to items generated and created here in Virginia and tied to some of the Library exhibits.

The endowment this year has been very strong; with a 22 percent increase in earnings over the past year. He reported that the Foundation will be focusing this year on planned giving efforts, which have slowed over the past several years, and will be reaching out to members of the Henning Society to see whether a gift to the Library is still in their estate planning. The Foundation will be working with Library division directors and staff on making big picture ideas discussed at November's joint retreat more scalable and concrete for funding purposes and building tactical plans on how they get those funded.

In closing Mr. Dodson thanked everyone who had already contributed to the Foundation's annual fund and encouraged all to contribute so that we can reach 100 percent Board participation, which is important to demonstrate when seeking outside funding. He closed his report by inviting all to the January 15 opening reception for the *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia* exhibit.

- **Report of the Librarian**

Dr. Treadway began by sharing that no new Board appointments have been forthcoming from the Governor's Office. As a result both Kristin Cabral and David Skiles whose

terms expired on June 30, 2019, continue to serve as members of the Library Board (both are eligible for reappointment).

Dr. Treadway went on to recount several key take-a-ways from the November Joint Boards retreat. The first was the request for more frequent and detailed communications with the Board on Library activities. To that end, the Board will receive an update every two weeks, from either her office or from the Foundation. She will check back with the Board at the April meeting to see if these communications have been helpful. A strong interest was expressed at the retreat by Board members to contribute to the planning of the 200th anniversary of the Library of Virginia coming up in 2023. It was recommended that the celebrations have an over-arching vision for what we want citizens to know about the Library at the end of that year that they do not know now, with a particular emphasis on highlighting the collections. It was also suggested to look at opportunities to engage a national audience instead of just a state audience for this bicentennial celebration.

The final note-worthy item from the November joint boards retreat was high enthusiasm for repurposing and reenergizing the Library's reading rooms, the east reading room in particular. Board members were most interested in programming that could make use of those spaces that will appeal to a wider audience and possibly families as well.

Dr. Treadway ended her report expressing appreciation to the Board for their support of the funding requests that the Library has submitted for the upcoming budget and especially to Mr. Bryant for his advocacy with the administration on behalf of the expansion of the State Records Center.

- **Report of the Chair**

Mr. Bryant encouraged all Board members to reach out to their legislators in support of the legislation related to the Library, emphasizing the importance of securing the funding outlined in the proposed budget amendments. He closed with expressing his ongoing appreciation for the Library staff in the work they do as well as the important work all local libraries do, day in and day out, which today's guests from South Boston, in particular Ms. Donner articulated so eloquently.

## **VII. OLD OR NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Bryant thanked everyone for their dedication and attendance; the meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.