

Illinois Library Association
Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 6, 2020

Call to order: 10:00 A.M.

Roll Call:

Voting Members

Present: Dennis Danowski (Chair), Sam Adams-Lanham, Anthony Auston, Monica Dombrowski, Betsy Mahoney, Daniel Matthews, Karolyn Nance, Kathy Parker, Dee Anna Phares, Mike Starasta, Marian Albers

Ex Officio Members

Present: Molly Beestrum, Derek Blaida, Deirdre Brennan, Elizabeth Clarage (CARLI for Anne Craig), Diane Foote, Cynthia Fuerst, Lou Ann Jacobs, Greg McCormick, Ellen Popit, Alexander Todd, Veronica De Fazio, Paul Mills

Absent: Jim Deiters, Patrick Molloy

Guests: Monica Harris, Rebecca Malinowski, Mary Wood, Yont Cho

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Anthony Auston to approve, second by Betsy Mahony, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2020: Motion by Marian Albers to approve with changes; seconded by Kathy Parker; motion carried.

Public Comments: None

State Legislative Priorities (Derek Blaida):

- Derek reported that revenue levels are on target and that we are currently ahead of what was expected. However, the fourth quarter will probably have shortcomings.
- With businesses quarantined, revenue taxes are in a freefall and there will probably be many adjustments to the state budget. As a result, Derek suggested that libraries begin budgeting earlier.
- Derek noted that the legislature will not return to Springfield until at least May, as such many issues will move as omnibus orders.
- HB5622 is probably off the table. It will need to be changed because it is not what the sponsor wanted.
- In regard to property and sales taxes, Derek informed us that there have been calls for property and sales tax reductions. However, there probably won't be a property tax freeze this year.
- A question was raised of whether or not libraries can reimburse those working from home. Derek responded that libraries can reimburse those operating from home under the guise of what needs to be done in regard to library functions.
- It was also noted that that reimbursements have the possibility to make discussions with boards more difficult. Marian Albers noted that most of us are not working full days.
- Current legislation regarding does not contain a reduction in property taxes.
- New FOIA bills have been or will be introduced.

- Although various aspects of OMA have been suspended, public attendance is still required.
- We are looking for nominations for the McClarren award.

Federal Government

- Diane noted that we need to be keeping up on guidelines from the federal government.
- It can be difficult to know exactly what is what in regard to federal legislation as some aspects apply to us and some don't.
- We don't know about the federal side the next budget.
- Illinois is in the top ten states for census responses.

Misc.

- Dennis and Diane both agreed that we (PPC) are doing well in regard to our strategic plan.
- Dennis asked about guidelines for cleaning libraries before we open to the public. Deirdre noted that information is available online.
- Kathy stated that we can expect to see more property tax appeals.
- Todd noted that there may be multiple years of freezes and that we need to be proactive.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.