

Illinois Library Association, Public Policy Committee Meeting Agenda

Zoom Meeting Information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82328669185>

Date: 11/09/20 10:00 AM

Minutes Taken By: Catherine Yanikoski

Voting Members Present:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Adams-Lanham, Sam - Barrington Area Library✓ Albers, Marian V. - Mascoutah Public Library✓ Danowski, Dennis - Macomb Public Library District✓ Dombrowski, Monica - Winnetka-Northfield Public Library✓ Livergood, Ryan - Warren-Newport Public Library District✓ Malinowski, Rebecca - Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)✓ Matthews, Daniel (Chair) - Moraine Valley Community College | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Nance, Karolyn - Bartlett Public Library District✓ Parker, Kathy - kathyparker consulting✓ Phares, Dee Anna - Northern Illinois University Libraries☐ Pointon, Scott - White Oak Library District - absent✓ Yanikoski, Catherine - Joliet Public Library |
|---|---|

Ex Officio Members Present:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Beestrum, Molly (ILA Past President) - Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University - absent✓ Blaida, Derek - ILA legislative consultant✓ Brennan, Deirdre - RAILS✓ Clarage, Elizabeth - CARLI✓ De Fazio, Veronica (ILA President & Executive Board Liaison)- Plainfield Public Library District✓ Foote, Diane - Illinois Library Association✓ Jeanne Hamilton (ILA VP/P-E) - Bloomington Public Library | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Jacobs, Lou Ann - AISLE✓ McCormick, Greg - Illinois State Library✓ Popit, Ellen - Illinois Heartland Library System✓ Szwerek, Magan (ILA Advocacy Committee) - Schaumburg Township District Library☐ Todd, Alex (ILA Advocacy Committee) - Prospect Heights Public Library - absent✓ Wilson, Leigh Ann (ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee) - Carol Stream Public Library |
|--|---|

Illinois Library Association, Public Policy Committee Meeting Agenda

Introduction of Guests

Thomas Stagg (Alpha Park Public Library); Tina Hubert (Six Mile Regional Library District);
Mary Witt (RAILS); Cyndi Robinson (ILA); Monica Harris (RAILS)

Approval of Agenda

- ❑ **Motioned:** Marian Albers
- ❑ **Seconded:** Sam Adams-Lanham

Approval of Minutes 10/15/20 - [Link to Minutes](#)

- ❑ **Motioned:** Kathy Parker
- ❑ **Seconded:** DeAnna Phares

Agenda

Shift to Broader Actions in PPC - [Supporting Statement from Diane](#)

Diane thanked us for considering the document that recommends a shift in the PPC's focus, based on the following reasons (amongst those included in the linked document above)

- Select ideas submitted by PPC for legislative consideration are in need of additional support and discussion within PPC prior to advancement. There is still confusion on the PPC and on the ILA Executive Board as to the proposals we have brought up (ie. mergers).
- Our field is bruised due to COVID-19. We do not need unfunded mandates, we need to be kept whole in the budget. We need to really make the case for what we are doing for the people that we serve.
- We have a very real challenge to our State budget, which was predicated on the success of the failed graduated income tax proposal. As such, we will need to reconsider advocating for libraries and their budgets, in light of the difficult decisions currently before legislatures regarding budget cuts. The increase in the Per Capita Grant was a legislative change that ILA was going to seek, but this might also be best to postpone.
- We don't have access to legislators as we did prior to COVID-19, which affects advocacy.
- We have newly elected officials who are unfamiliar with the issues facing libraries. As such, we want to prioritize the issues we introduce to those new to these considerations.

Illinois Library Association, Public Policy Committee Meeting Agenda

Diane's proposal to shift the focus to the important work and services provided by libraries during the pandemic, and what libraries will need to prioritize in order to persist, was well received by the PPC.

Marian recommended that we slow down, particularly in areas with which we are not sure of consequences. Kathy stated that a library's relevancy during COVID-19 when shut down is challenging to justify, so slowing down and taking stock of how we can best present our relevance and the necessity of libraries to our funders (local, state or federal) is essential when we cannot be the "third place" to our patrons. Getting back to basics is essential.

Diane said that we can be assertive about the promotion of libraries with our advocacy capacity. Legislators aren't hearing about what is happening in libraries. We need to speak more loudly.

Rebecca mentioned that there is a lot of sympathy for bars, restaurants and schools that are mandated by the state. Seeking statewide solutions using ILA, IDPH and ISL might be a good way to proceed in seeking guidance to then provide to administrators. Guidance from the State isn't always the same as giving up local control, and might be appreciated by our populace. Diane reminded us that the letter from ILA to the Governor requested that any guidelines for libraries be in consultation with libraries, and not in the absence of it. Society, and ILA, is divided in how to best approach COVID-19 protocol. Daniel said we are likely looking at federal guidance, with the forthcoming Task Force. Dee Anna also said consistency is also desired, as there are so many differences from library to library in terms of service.

Marian asked about quarantining, and Greg updated the group that the quarantine of materials has been sent to Public Health officials. ISL is aware of Oregon and Wisconsin guidance, and ISL is anticipating guidance relatively soon.

Diane suggested that perhaps we put out a survey or infographic regarding public service, and packaging regional stories for legislatives. Dee reminded us that RAILS surveys libraries and will continue to do so, and recommended that ILA focus on legislative talking points and templates that libraries can use, similar to what is used for Legislative Meetups, but for use on the regional level.

PPC's next steps would be to bring its revised focus for 2020/2021 to the ILA Board, perhaps in advance of the December 2020 meeting.

Veronica recommended that we take a formal vote on a revision of priorities.

Illinois Library Association, Public Policy Committee Meeting Agenda

Dennis Danowski made a motion to supersede the previous motion on 2021 legislative priorities to vote to table our current legislative priorities with the intention to further develop them over the next year. Karolyn Nance seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sam Adams-Lanham made a motion to vote to shift our 2020/2021 priorities to focus on demonstrating the value of libraries, advocating for input in state guidance, and retaining full library funding. Rebecca Malinowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The 2020 General Election, the FY2021 and FY2022 budget impact of it; The November Veto Session; The ILA 2021 legislative agenda

- Veto session is scheduled from 11/17-11/19, with final discussions from 12/1-12/3. Due to COVID-19 numbers with positivity rates spiking and hospitalization resources depleting, it does not seem possible that legislative sessions will continue as planned.
- The Governor has stated that budget cuts to education, social services, Medicaid, pensions, and other expenditures are to be avoided.
- Federal reserve borrowing, alternative revenue sources or a combo of the two are ways to close the gap in the budget.
- There will be budget adjustments down the line, and information will be sent to PPC. The vast majority of Illinois counties voted Republican, and discussions based on election results will likely be deliberate, slow and not considered in a vacuum.
- The Governor's address in mid-February will likely confirm budget adjustments made in the beginning of 2021.

We additionally discussed marijuana revenue, voting results, property tax increases, Chicago's contributions to the State budget, and other items.

Clean Energy Legislation - [Supporting Document](#)

This matter was brought to Diane by an ILA member library, and has been brought to PPC by Diane for us to weigh in on the role of libraries as it relates to clean energy, and vice versa. Is it ILA/PPC's role to support legislation to keep a nuclear power plant open in an effort to maintain library budgets? Could we support the call for alternative revenue sources or financial relief for libraries whose budgets are negatively affected by changes in energy?

Rebecca shared a link to legislation and alternatives found in the [Clean Energy Jobs Act bill](#), which can be located along with other relevant information found at <https://ilcleanjobs.org>. We did not vote on this, as legislation has not yet been drafted, and supporting information has not been provided.

Illinois Library Association, Public Policy Committee Meeting Agenda

Ex-officios and outreach

ILA and the PPC are seeking PPC ex-officios to solicit and report back constituent feedback. IHLS, RAILS and AISLE are all able to assist with this.

We agreed that PPC does not have concerns about soliciting feedback from non-ILA member libraries--in fact, quite the contrary!

What type of outreach would be useful for us to facilitate in order to best reach the public, and to then gather information to bring back to the PPC and ILA? More discussion will be had, as we ran short on time for this discussion point.

On another note...

Congratulations to Ellen Poppit for her AISLE Crystal Award, and to Lou Ann Jacobs for her AISLE lifetime member appointment!

Kathy moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 AM.