

Illinois Library Association Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes 12/7/20

Date: 12/07/20

Minutes Taken By: Monica Dombrowski

Voting Members Present:

- Adams-Lanham, Sam - Barrington Area Library
- Albers, Marian V. - Mascoutah Public Library
- Danowski, Dennis - Macomb Public Library District
- Dombrowski, Monica - Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District
- Livergood, Ryan - Warren-Newport Public Library District
- Malinowski, Rebecca - Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)

- Matthews, Daniel (Chair) - Moraine Valley Community College
- Nance, Karolyn - Bartlett Public Library District
- Parker, Kathy - kathyparker consulting
- Phares, Dee Anna - Northern Illinois University Libraries
- Pointon, Scott - White Oak Library District
- Yanikoski, Catherine - Joliet Public Library

Ex Officio Members Present:

- Beestrum, Molly (ILA Past President) - Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University
- 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

- Jacobs, Lou Ann - AISLE
- McCormick, Greg - Illinois State Library
- Molloy, Patrick - Chicago Public 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
- Wilson, Leigh Ann (ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee) - Carol Stream Public Library

Introduction of Guests: Michael Campbell (RAILS Board), Cyndi Robinson (ILA), Thomas Stagg (Alpha Park Library), Monica Harris (RAILS), Mary Witt (RAILS), Jim Kregor (RAILS)

Approval of Agenda

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☒ **Motioned:** Marian Albers

☒ **Seconded:** Dennis Danowski

Approval of Minutes 11/09/20 [Link to Minutes](#)

☒ **Motioned:** Kathy Parker

☒ **Seconded:** Scott Pointon

NOTES

Springfield Updates (Derek Blaida)

- Veto session canceled
- New class will be sworn in during January
- No schedule yet due to COVID; Derek will keep up posted once it's in place
- Derek does not anticipate any financial discussions during January though there may be some on closing the loophole on the Per Capita Grant (PCG) during next year's budget discussions; things are fluid, stay tuned for more info
 - A question was raised regarding what Derek meant by the "loophole" for PCG
 - 2 parts: one is raising the budget number (which already happened this year) and one if tweaking the state statute verbiage to ensure the adjustment takes place going forward
 - There was further discussion regarding the fact that since the state already awarded the higher PCG amount this year, it would be hard to lower it again; Derek agreed and said that would be part of the advocacy argument if they try to cut it back, though he believes we have enough support on both sides to keep it flat from last year. He DID say we may want to budget conservatively using last year's number and then we can only get that amount or be surprised in May
 - Diane added that closer monitoring of the PCG issue and asking for more frequent increases is now on ILA's radar
- There was another question about what the reported \$1 billion in marijuana sales is earmarked for; Derek said one was Health & Human Services for treatment programs and he will verify the other two and send them to us. He also said the state has the authority to reallocate these revenue streams at any point
- There was a question about what might happen with the balance of power based on reports that House Speaker Mike Madigan is losing support. Derek said discussions on this issue continue. No other candidate has announced more support than Madigan has today.

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- Someone asked if we should expect any reduction in pension obligations and Derek said no; if anything, he expects there may be more as one of the funds already said they need a few million more to keep up with the existing rates and some of the downstate funds are being minimally funded now (some at less than 20%)

Library Legislative Meetups (Diane Foote)

- Diane reminded everyone that we shifted our priorities for next year and that the ILA Executive Board approved them in their meeting last week. The broader focus is:
 - Keep our budgets whole in FY21
 - When giving guidance to libraries, consult us
 - Be sure we are eligible for COVID relief funds
 - We oppose unfunded mandates
 - We oppose property tax freezes
- ALA agenda is similar as they also are waiting on more info- federal legislators have been tied up with election and COVID ([ALA legislative agenda](#))
- ILA is still moving forward with their legislative meet ups though they have no dates/times due to no calendar for Springfield; holding Mondays and Fridays in February based on days legislators are historically off
- Planning to promote through website and palm cards using ILA's "Bigger than a Building" campaign and RAILS' "My Library Is" campaign
- Will continue to be organized by region and will include visuals and a presentation though still in development
- The idea of adding where library staff falls in the vaccine queue to the priorities was raised; most liked the idea, though opinions differed on how to best make that happen and whether or not staff should be declared essential workers to try to get moved up in the queue
 - As a point of information, Dee shared that in Ohio, the state library is trying to get library staff declared as essential workers so they can have a higher priority for vaccines
 - Some suggested that we advocate to be included in the same group as educators
 - Derek has a presentation from the Governor's office last Friday about initial plans to rollout the vaccine; he will send to Diane to share with us
- One other item that is still hanging out there but ILA is not ready to take an official position on is the Clean Air Legislation
 - ILA historically helps members advocate against potential losses in funding but is not comfortable taking official positions on matters that are not fully developed and about which they are not experts (ex. nuclear power)

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- Have to look at the precedents and may take a position in the future, even if limited; leaving the issue open
- Diane shared the following about virtual meet ups for 2021:
 - We don't know how legislators will respond to them being virtual instead of physical and what impact that may have on attendance
 - We will lose some of the spontaneous conversations that happen at the in-person events and the ability to connect person-to-person
 - Legislators will have a chance to talk if they attend
 - It will be hard to manage breakout rooms, and idea that was presented by someone on the committee, based on the normal behavior of legislators during the meetups (rsvp yes then don't show, rsvp no then show, show up late, leave early).
 - There is a concern that mishandling the breakout rooms by overpromising and under delivering may make legislators less likely to participate in the future (ex. they come at the last minute and no one is in their room)
 - Idea is to assign "homework" to library leaders to reach out and contact their reps afterward to start the personal conversations
 - The Advocacy Committee is still fleshing out their ideas and plans so more to come

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20am with a motion from Catherine Yanikoski that was seconded by Scott Pointon.