

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2019; meeting called to order at 10:05

Voting Members Present

Dennis Danowski (chair)
Macomb Public Library District
Sam Adams-Lanham
Barrington Area Library
Marian V. Albers
Mascoutah Public Library
Anthony Auston
Wilmette Public Library
Monica Dombrowski
Sycamore Public Library

Daniel Matthews
Moraine Valley Community College
Kathy Parker
Kathy Parker Consulting
Scott Pointon
White Oak Library District
Mike Starasta
Mount Hope-Funks Grove Twps PLD

Ex-Officio Members Present

Derek Blaida
Legislative Consultant
Deirdre Brennan
RAILS
Veronica De Fazio
Plainfield Public Library District
Jim Deiters
Oak Lawn Public Library
Diane Foote
Illinois Library Association
Cynthia Fuerst
Vernon Area Public Library District

Elizabeth Claredge
CARLI
Lou Ann Jacobs
AISLE
Greg McCormick
Illinois State Library
Maggie Clemons
Chicago Public Library
Ellen Popit
Illinois Heartland Library System
Alexander C. Todd
Prospect Heights Public Library District

Guests

Keith Fiels
ILA Advocacy Committee

Leila Heath
RAILS

Guests were introduced.

Marian motioned and Kathy seconded that agenda be approved, motion carried.

Minutes were amended to reflect that Anthony and Sam were present at November meeting. A report regarding the Macmillan e-book embargo and ALA's action was updated to reflect that ILA supports the ALA's actions, but ILA is not working directly with the US Congress. Approval of minutes as amended was made by Scott and seconded by Kathy.

Diane reported the ILA Executive Board voted to approve legislative agenda recommendations for 2020, with the exception of concerns around how library user's names are shown on held materials, spec very short names. Cindy suggested the wording be changed to say that hold slips cannot use complete first and last names. Executive board will consider the amended wording in online session.

Three funding proposals were prioritized by the executive board.

1. A per capita grant increase in funding for libraries: current rate of \$1.25 per capita to public libraries and \$.75 to school libraries was established in 1995 and have not been raised since. CPI has increased by 18% in the same time frame. After discussion over asking the merits of asking for a precise v. rounded amount (e.g., increase to \$1.475 v. \$1.50), it was decided to use the rounded amount and automatically tie future increases to COLA. While the ILA supports an increase to the minimum wage, it does impact library budgets.
2. CARLI's proposal to create a \$4 million grant program in the Secretary of State's office in support of Open Educational Resources: this is an area where libraries can be helpful with higher education costs, to the benefit of individual students and the state as a whole.
3. RAILS proposed the funding of the statewide purchase of databases to be available to public libraries, at a cost of approximately \$3 million.

Diane reported on matters around library involvement in the 2020 census; ILA received one of 12 grants to encourage census participation. AISLE and CARLI members are requested to attend the appropriate census.gov webinars. She also shared information about a program encouraging English language learners to be counted in the census.

Derek referred to an article in that day's (Dec 2) Chicago Tribune on the legislature's task force to address the perception that state property taxes are too high. He noted that

- The state does not receive any money from property taxes
- Half the members of the Illinois House are members of this task force
- If an individual supports local control, they should logically oppose state control
- Even with a supermajority of his own party, Gov. Rauner was not able to pass property tax legislation
- The Trib advocates that a multi-faceted solution is necessary to property tax issues

He advised reading the article for a more in-depth understanding.

Due to various factors, the 2020 legislative calendar is 50 days, rather than the usual 60-65 days. However, 2019 was a productive year.

Legislative focus for next year will be on budget appropriations, telecom issues, and hospitals.

If public policy or advocacy issues arise in between monthly PPC meetings, there is a strike team of the ILA executive director, ILA board president, and the PPC chair, in consultation with our legislative consultant, to address pertinent, time-sensitive matters.

Scott raised questions about setting aside the proposal to simplify the process of merging library service areas, i.e, municipal and district, non-contiguous areas, etc. Since the primary concern was about the size and regional make-up of library boards, if that section is clarified, could the proposal be revived? Various factors were mentioned—over-large boards, bigger towns eclipsing smaller ones, variations in board member qualifications from one unit of government to another. Further discussion is suggested at a later date.

Keith from the Advocacy committee discussed the Macmillan embargo and a Washington Post article about people obtaining fake library cards in order to borrow more e-books. Libraries need to reiterate their position supporting copyright and encouraging honest use of resources.

Diane reported that ILA passed an open meetings policy: by default, all meetings are open, apart from nominating and awards committees. Others may go to executive session when necessary; use of this option should be as limited as possible.

Observers and guests may not vote; they may address committees as the chair recognizes them.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32.