ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Reaching Across Illinois Library System | Burr Ridge | 125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

PolyCom videoconference accessible locations: Illinois State Library; ILA HQ; IMLS Carbondale; IMLS Edwardsville; IMLS Champaign, RAILS East Peoria Atrium
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Meeting ID: 305 204 209
Date: January 6, 2020      Minute Taker Daniel Matthews (Jan 2020)

Voting Members Present:

Voting Members:

_x_ Danowski, Dennis (Chair)       _x_ Matthews, Daniel
   Macomb Public Library District   Moraine Valley Community College
_x_ Adams-Lanham, Sam               _x_ Nance, Karolyn
   Barrington Area Library         Bartlett Public Library District
_x_ Albers, Marian V.               _x_ Parker, Kathy
   Mascoutah Public Library        kathyparker consulting
_x_ Auston, Anthony                _x_ Phares, Dee Anna
   Wilmette Public Library         Northern Illinois University Libraries
_x_ Dombrowski, Monica             _x_ Pointon, Scott
   Sycamore Public Library         White Oak Library District
_x_ Mahoney, Betsy                 _x_ Starasta, Mike
   Six Mile Regional Library District Mount Hope-Funks Grove Twps PLD

Ex Officio Members:

_x_ Beestrum, Molly (ILA EB Liaison) _x_ McCormick, Greg
   Galter Health Sciences Library, NU Illinois State Library
_x_ Blaida, Derek                   _x_ Mills, Paul
   Legislative consultant            Fountaingale Public Library District
_x_ Brennan, Deirdre                _x_ Molloy, Patrick (Michelle Frisque attended for CPL)
   RAILS                             Chicago Public Library
_x_ De Fazio, Veronica              _x_ Popit, Ellen
   Plainfield Public Library District Illinois Heartland Library System
_x_ Deiters, Jim                    _x_ Alexander C. Todd
   Oak Lawn Public Library           Prospect Heights Public Library
_x_ Foote, Diane                    _x_ 
   Illinois Library Association     
   Vernon Area Public Library District

_x_ Anne Craig
   CARLI
_x_ Jacobs, Lou Ann
   AISLE
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Introduction of Guests
Leila Heath

Approval of Agenda
Monica Dombrowski motions and Karolyn Nance seconds. Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes December 2, 2019
Diane Foote has corrections, spelling mostly
Change name of Keith Fiels
Leila Heath is confirmed spelling
Macmillan is the spelling for McMillan

Motioned by Kathy Parker and seconded by Scott Pointon. Minutes approved.

Public Comments
No public comments

Update ILA’s Proposed Legislative Priorities
First version of palm card in packet for legislative meetups in January outlines priorities discussed by PPC. Federal side is thin due to lack of ALA agenda, but we now have ALA legislative agenda, Diane will enhance federal side of the palm card. Will include areas where we agreed on federal focus in previous sessions. 2020 federal budget did pass with increase for IMLS and LSTA. ALA will host fly in day February 10-11th with federal funding still the primary goal. Looking toward federal policy, some aren’t before congress but in front of agencies.

Letter to the editor referring to sexual assault case at CPL and potential legislation on banning community members from library services based on criminal record
• There is a history of laws to restrict sex offenders from libraries which we believe to be unworkable, and counter to our obligation and mission to provide information services. Vocal people, within and outside the librarian community, disagree with these beliefs, and care is needed when arguing these positions.
• Currently, PPCs interest is in being aware that if/when the response letter is sent in, it may bring in much legislation. PPC should be ready for this potential.
• The complaint is from an individual, not an institution. Though, this person is the president of their library board of trustees.
• Letter only printed on NYE for one day. Which means it got less attention than on a regular news day. Which prompts discussion of ILA’s needed level of response.
• For many years, bills have been stopped or slowed based on an educational/philosophical/practical reasoning track. For the first time in a long time, a legislator may have a real world news story to file a bill to ban people from library services.
• Response letter drafted, and consulted with ILA and ALA stakeholders. ALA suggested not sending the letter to “poke the bear.”
• Original complaint letter has been circulated through RAILS, and ILA members are asking for a response on this.
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• In current national environment, and the means in which we learn of information, and a March 17 primary, ballot referendum, legislators in IA for IA caucus in February, and many more newspaper media inspired proposals than in the past.
  o If a bill on subject goes to committee, it will be difficult to stop. More so than in the past
  o The argument of “It’s going to be hard to determine who can and can’t access information” will be met with “well, figure it out.”
  o Assume that a bill on this will happen this year. We better be able to say we are all in. Everyone in PPC and Advocacy, at meet ups, must be all in. We’re vulnerable going into 2020.
  o These lawsuits will be expensive.
• CPL has no public statement on this letter to the editor yet, but likely forthcoming. CPL has responded to the assault via Chicago press, but no the discussion taking place outside of Chicago regarding the letter to the editor. Their policy looks to be updated in response to this. The offender was already under a ban. ILA specifically was called out in the letter.
• Legislator mentioned in original complaint letter doesn’t seem to have introduced the referenced bills, which may have been misrepresented in the original complaint letter.
• Federal courts have found these bans to be unconstitutional. ACLU was the one to take up the lawsuit, and will be the first to be called in need to fight arises.
• It was suggested the ILA response letter be more aggressive
• Previous proposed legislation made the library liable for offenders being in the library. It was proposed to preemptively draft legislation shifting the liability to the offender.
• There was a mention of democrats being on our side and keeping these bills from being passed.
• An explanation of how the votes would go if bill is introduced was given. This Emphasized that it wouldn’t be out of the realm of possibility for a bill to pass. There is no bill currently introduced. Previous bills were introduced by Dems, and they didn’t go anywhere. There are massive demographic shifts in IL, southern IL is losing democratic party support. It is unclear where the Secretary of State would land on the matter
• Park districts and schools are also public spaces. A difference is the mission of the libraries is philosophically opposed to restricting access.
• What we serve in sex offenders is sustained rehabilitation, and this notion is being picked up in Springfield
• There is suspicion that letter writer is looking for controversy to run for mayor. This position will come up again and again, as it is considered a “third rail” that people are afraid to combat. Calling out ILA specifically is disingenuous. Meant to make us vulnerable by separating us out.
• Suggestion to tweak our letter to add something about these bans already being ruled unconstitutional
• It was suggested that these policies be a local decision.
• A question on taxation was raised: If someone has committed a crime and then released, they are paying property taxes, how does the park district get to say that people that aren’t allowed to access services that they are paying taxes for?
• It was suggested to put the ILA response letter in E-news for ILA if we wanted to respond to membership
• It was stated that we don’t want to rile up membership, but important to not get caught off guard.
• Next steps – we are airing the issues and having the discussion, but no next steps at this time. The presidents agreed that this was something to be decided by the board.
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State Legislative Priorities, Derek Blaida

1. Budget/Finance/Labor
   a. Budget – drafted and presented in February. Greg still hopeful that secretary;s budget will reflect established priorities. PALM card section is okay.
   b. Late last week, IL property tax task force attempted to report. 88/177 members are on this committee. Leading republicans wrote an observational letter that claims that procedure was not followed, so nothing was appropriately adopted. Confusion over whether or not procedure was followed. Derek will read a gain and possibly suggest to sweat property tax freeze section to a don’t mess with us statement.
   c. Majority of bills in packet aren’t good for us, but packet is platform that we will go from later this month
   d. Broadband advisory council, Ann Slaughter is on the council. We have a report, and will be sent out soon.

2. General Policy

Old Business
N/A

New Business
Meeting on February 3rd is the same as the meet-up. In the past we did not meet in February. Last year, PPC met on the Wednesday that week of the meet-up.

Meeting scheduled for 10am, February 5th.

Adjournment
Kathy Parker moved for adjournment, Scott Pointon seconded.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 5th, 2020