

Illinois Library Association
Public Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2020

Call to Order 10:01AM

Voting Members Present:

Sam Adams-Lanham, Barrington Area Library; Marian Albers, Mascoutah Public Library; Dennis Danowski, Macomb Public Library District, Ryan Livengood, Warren-Newport Public Library District; Rebecca Malinowski, Cooperative Computer Services; Daniel Matthews (Chair), Moraine Valley Community College; Karolyn Nance, Bartlett Public Library District, Kathy Parker, kathyparker consulting; Dee Anna Phares, Northern Illinois University Libraries; Catherine Yanikoski, Joliet Public Library

Voting Members Absent:

Monica Dombrowski, Sycamore Public Library; Scott Pointon, White Oak Library District

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Molly Beestrom, Galter Health Sciences Library/Northwestern University; Derek Blaida, ILA Legislative Consultant; Deirdre Brennan, RAILS; Elizabeth Clarage, CARLI; Veronica De Fazio, Plainfield Public Library District; Diane Foote, ILA; Jeanne Hamilton, Bloomington Public Library; Lou Ann Jacobs, AISLE; Greg McCormick, ISL; Ellen Poppit, IHLS; Magan Szwerek, Schaumburg Township District Library; Alex Todd, Prospect Heights Public Library

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Chicago Public Library representative, Leigh Ann Wilson, Carol Stream Public Library

Guests:

Keith Fiels, Tom Stagg, Alpha Park library

Motion to approve the August 31, 2020 PPC agenda:

Karolyn Nance moved, Marian Albers seconded the motion.
Motion carried

Motion to approve the July 16, 2020 PPC minutes

Dee Anna Phares moved, Sam Adams-Lanham seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Updates

State Legislative Priorities, Derek Blaida

- Deferred to discuss when committee is discussing each priority later in agenda

Federal Legislating Priorities, Diane Foote

- All updates have been included in the weekly ILA Alert
- COVID-19 relief funding efforts are stalled. Seeking 2 billion for libraries with the Library Stabilization Fund Act.
- Special districts – for those who provide essential services and includes federal relief for library districts – ILA is supportive of this legislation
- USPS support – many libraries rely on USPS for their ILL's, especially academics. 50% of the Illinois State Library service is through USPS
- Census – Illinois is doing really well in the response rate.
- Diane asked for feedback on proposals and priorities for ILA to focus on

Illinois State Library, Greg McCormick

- 1.1 million in Cares Act funding –has to work within the parameters of IMLS funding
- grants are due Sept 30th
 - PPE grant - \$500 per building, 781 facilities to cover
 - Digital Network Access up to \$10,000 (for wifi expansion)
 - Back to Books – always popular and have seen a huge ebook increase since COVID. Will be prioritized similar to the Live and Learn grant offerings of \$750 minimum grant for school libraries and \$15 per person served for public libraries

AISLE, Lou Ann Jacobs

- Many schools have seen a push to utilize the libraries as classroom space to accommodate social distancing requirements
- Media Literacy – would like to see the House Joint Res 009 and HB 1559 on agenda for spring session and would like to talk to ISBE
- Dee asked if ISBE would support funding for the ILA Database proposal and asked AISLE to inquire
- Diane commented that media literacy is a hot issue right now and this might be a good time to highlight legislation
- Catherine stated that she has someone who is interested in working this and they are affiliated with legislative personnel
- Derek commented that the Media Literacy Task Force is a 10 member group appointed by the governor and it might be easy to add a school librarian and get an odd number
- Diane commented that we should try to build a better relationship with ISBE and that the media literacy task force is likely a higher priority than mandating media literacy curriculum

Partnering/Collaboration

Daniel asked for ideas of other entities PPC can partner or collaborate with, besides ISBE, in the future

- Alex – other agencies who also have restricted funds (IMRF etc) like library districts do – park districts were mentioned as an example
- Diane (and Dee chimed in) – IL Association of School Administrators', IL Principals Association, IL PTA, Relators
- Daniel – IL Community Colleges Board, IL Municipal League, League of Women Voters

Daniel asked what other ILA committees should PPC communicate with on proposals

- Many chimed in: Diversity, ILA Reporter Advisory Committee, Conference committee, awards committee, IACRL

Legislative Proposals

Academic Libraries SCOER Grant Program – Elizabeth Clarage

- A per capita for academic libraries
- 4 million-dollar repetitive ask focused creating and updating Open Educational Resources
- All colleges and universities would be eligible
- Diane commented that this would be a good focus for an ILA Reporter article.
- Derek commented that requesting Board of Higher Ed would be a good place to start. Continuing appropriations are normally frowned upon given the uncertainty of funding.
- Derek said that this proposal can be introduced a few different ways. 1) introduces as a the governors proposal 2) stand alone appropriations bill or 3) included with budget proposal
- Greg said this this was included in last years Sec of State list
- Diane said that the ILA Exec Board voted to support this and databases funding last year

Amending Rules for Lottery to determine ballot placement for 2021 – Diane Foote

- Diane said this was brought to her from a member-at-large and is more of a concern because of COVID
- Process for next local election (signatures, picking up packets, dropping off, lotteries) is not COVID friendly and was wondering if there was a way to get this looked into
- Election law cannot be changed except by legislature
- Upon discussion no one really had an concerns of this - issue at this time and many already have mechanisms in place to handle these COVID specific issues

Annexation of property from district to municipality – Diane Foote

- Diane said that this was also brought to her by a member-at large and concerns that property was annexed by the municipality which took those funds away from the library in one year. Recommended that libraries be added to the list like fire protection districts where the losses are phased and not in one year.

- Derek said that sadly fire protection districts are seen as life safety and libraries are likely not.
- After discussion many members felt that annexations happen rarely and might not be a huge priority for many

Cards for unserved residents under age 18, local board vote – Deirdre Brennan

- Waiving non-resident fees for children under 18 by local board vote. This is not to be confused with the recent law that requires libraries to waive non-resident fees for children at/under poverty levels.
- Diane mentioned that waiving fees for children under 18 also means adults over 18 because fee is based on address/family.

Creating OER for materials that support curriculum changes proposed in HB4954 – Daniel Matthews

- Lashawn Ford presented legislation to have history books be more reflective of black, women etc histories
- Elizabeth asked if this was only for K-12? And if so, not aligned with CARLI
- Diane asked if PPC should recommend that ILA support HB 4954 as long as there is the addition of OER's in the language.

Library Mergers – Deirdre Brennan

- Want to eliminate the barriers to library mergers that currently exist (one has to be a district, must be contiguous)
- Kathy – goes to goals of creating fewer governmental entities
- Marian asked about some procedural questions
- Karolyn was in support of this
- Diane commented on something Scott said last year when this came up – sometimes by merging 2 entities a 3rd can be created.

FYI/Reminders and Action Items

Daniel- Libraries are not included in some language regarding when boards can go into executive session. Would like to get that rectified at some point.

Action Items

- Daniel will create an online form to vote for legislative priorities and Diane will email out
- Daniel, Elizabeth and Dee Anna will work on an article for ILA Reporter on OER
- Catherine and Lou Ann will collaborate on getting a school librarian on the Media Literacy Task Force

Adjournment

Marian moved and Kathy seconded to move for adjournment at 12:21 PM.
Motion carried