

Minutes from the ILA-PPC Meeting on January 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Daniel Matthews at 10:04am.

Attendance

Voting Members Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Marian Albers, Monica Dombrowski, Ryan Livergood, Rebecca Malinowski, Daniel Matthews, Karolyn Nance, Dee Anna Phares, Scott Pointon, and Catherine Yanikoski.

Voting Members Absent: Dennis Danowski and Kathy Parker

Ex Officio Members Present: Molly Beestrup, Derek Blaida, Anne Craig, Veronica De Fazio, Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Lou Ann Jacobs, Greg McCormick, Ellen Popit, Magan Szwarek, and Alex Todd.

Ex Officio Members Absent: Deirdre Brennan and Leigh Ann Wilson

Guests Present: Jim Kregor, Monica Harris, and Mary Witt.

Approval of Agenda

Monica Dombrowski moved to approve the agenda. Marian Albers seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Sam Adams-Lanham moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting as presented. Dee Anna Phares seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

Committee Announcement

It was announced that Sam Adams-Lanham will be the Chair of PPC starting in July 2021. All congratulated Sam and wished her well.

ILA Legislative Meet-Ups

Diane Foote reported that registration for the events is open and that the site coordinators are busily recruiting legislators to attend. Diane reminded us that ILA institutional members may attend for free, and non-members will pay a nominal fee of \$15 to attend. She also reported on a new online tool that you can use to look up a library and see which legislators are relevant to that service area. For the larger meet-ups, it will not be possible to have a lot of Q&A due to the nature of the virtual experience and time constraints.

Springfield Update

Derek Blaida reported that the remainder of the lame duck session was focused on the "4 Pillars" being pushed by the Illinois Black Caucus, which includes bills addressing systemic racism reform. A lot of last minute bills are being filed, and the Black Caucus hopes to pass as many of them as possible. Due to the hour by hour changes being made to the language of the bills, it is impossible for Derek to read them fast enough to report back to us before they are again modified or altered in some significant way. He promised that once he has the bills in their final form and has studied them he will pass on to us any that will effect libraries.

HB 1559 – Derek reported that this is our media literacy bill (curriculum). It is getting a lot of attention, but he is unsure if that means that (1) the legislators love the bill or (2) they wish to use it to attach another piece of legislation onto in the hopes that both will then pass.

Wednesday 1/13/21 the legislature will adjourn and the new legislature will be sworn in.

In other Springfield news, the Governor's budget address will be the third week in February. No one has yet introduced a bill to allow "remote" legislation.

Derek departed the meeting at 10:36am.

Federal Update

Diane Foote reported that the 2021 Covid-19 relief package contains nothing specifically for libraries. However, it did contain an additional \$5 million for IMLS and another \$2 million for LSTA. ALA noted that in over several recent years IMLS has seen an annual funding increase of \$26 million dollars.

The Build America's Libraries Act is a bill that has been proposed that would fund \$5 billion toward construction and repair of libraries in economically disadvantaged areas of the country.

Diane also reported that ILA has posted its Federal legislative agenda on the ILA website.

Marian Albers asked if our federal funding could be delayed due to the recent violence in Washington. Greg McCormick reported that he will know soon if that is the case.

Broadband in Illinois

The Broadband Advisory Council has formed and Anne Slaughter is our library rep on that committee. There is also a newly formed statewide Office of Broadband Service, from which a report will be coming soon. Diane reported that the ISP – homework help effort is being worked on, but she is skeptical that the cost estimates are accurate. Are there ways that libraries can help this effort? Diane find out and post more info when she can.

The important issues surrounding broadband in Illinois remain:

- Net Neutrality
- The concept of the Internet as a public utility

Daniel Matthews asked if there was a timeline on this project, and Diane said that no timeline is known at this time.

Old/New Business

A topic of growing concern is the availability of Covid-19 vaccines for library workers. From our perspective, the debate is centered on the question of library workers falling into group 1B or 1C. Diane proposed a two pronged approach. First we need to advocate for library workers to the Governor and the IDPH. Second, we need to advocate to the County Health Departments across the state. Jeanne Hamilton reported that she sits on a local human resources group and through that venue has learned that in vaccine distribution, the "squeaky wheel gets the grease". All agreed that whatever tier library workers are deemed to belong, once that tier is authorized to receive vaccinations, we all need to do a good job of calling our county health departments to keep library workers at the front of their minds.

Adjournment

Catherine Yanikowski moved to adjourn and Ryan Livergood seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried.