

Illinois State Library Advisory Committee
Illinois State Library
Gwendolyn Brooks Building
Tuesday April 25, 2006

MINUTES

Chair Kang Moy Chiu called meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Introductions followed.

Present

Barbara Aron	Dianne Harmon
Brad Baker	Joe Harris
Yvonne Beechler Bergendorf	Kay Langston
Pat Burg	Barry Levine
Barbara Burroughs	Carol Little
Alice Calabrese	Bob McKay
Anne Craig	Mike Ragen
Karen Danczak Lyons	Chad Raymond
John Dittmer	Becky Robinson
Kristine Hammerstrand	

Mr. Levine told the committee about the Talking Book and Braille Service award.

Illinois State Library Staff: Pat McGuckin, Pat Norris, Sharon Ruda, Kathy Bloomberg, Blaine Redemer, Mark Shaffer, Bonnie Matheis, Gwen Harrison, Ron Winner, Suzanne Schriar, Greg McCormick, Mary Downing, Cyndy Colletti, Jeanne Urbaneck

Ms. Aron moved to accept the minutes from previous meeting. Ms. Calabrese seconded the motion as amended. The minutes were amended to read Kang Chiu's Chair, not chief. Minutes adopted.

ISL Report – Director Craig

- Ask Away kick-off was yesterday (4/23/06). 120 libraries in Illinois signed up for the virtual reference project. The Illinois State Library will partially fund Ask Away for four years. It is hoped that by then, there will be enough support that the project will be self-sustaining. The Illinois State Library entered into a cooperative agreement with Wisconsin State Library. Wisconsin will spearhead the project and handle billing.
- Director Craig echoed Mr. Levine's congratulations to Sharon Ruda and the Talking Book and Braille Service on their Award.
- Bonnie Mathias talked about the Center for the Book and Book Fair.

- Family Reading Night will kick-off the Book Fair on Thursday, November 16. On Friday, November 17 there will be “How to programs” with various authors during the day. At night there will be a “Together We Read Program” coffee house inspired program. On Saturday, November 18 will be the Illinois Authors Book Fair to include a ceremony for write-in poetry. Also on Saturday, “A Book and a Movie”, featuring an author whose book was turned into a movie. The movie will be shown and then both will be discussed.
- Delivery Committee Meeting (May 5, 2006) to discuss the future of delivery - What changes need to be made? Kathryn Harris will chair the committee.
- Photos from Illinois Library Day were distributed.
- Anne Craig, Pat Norris, and Vandella Brown attended the 5th class of Synergy.
- Nothing new to report on Budget
- The Illinois State Library is wrapping up Gates Foundation “Rural Sustainability Grant.” Three grant participants will go to American Library Associations annual conference in New Orleans.

Illinois Library Day – Mr. Raymond’s 25th consecutive Library Legislative Day 2006 and he evaluated this year’s as the best one to date. System directors really worked to get people to Springfield. The constituencies that showed up were really diverse. Several trustees went down on the bus, and it was a way to get to know each other. The comments were very positive. The speakers were great. Committee asked why the local media-which they were not there to cover it. This year there was really the feeling that “we need to be in Springfield”. Congratulations to all event planners.

Dianne Harmon- It was an outstanding idea, and they credit Director Craig for bringing everyone together to work on this. One of her board members came and loved it. Pat Norris did a great job chairing it- thank you! The committee realizes that lunch was a problem and that will be addressed. Ms. Harmon has agreed to be the chair for the 2007. Everyone was very glad that the Secretary could make it. Thanks to Allen Lanham’s work we are going to have \$2000 to carry over to next year. He would like to create an archive of banners and pictures etc. Please send anything you might have to include to Dr. Lanham. www.illinoislibraryday.info

Pat Norris- Illinois Library Day was a lot of work, but we had an excellent planning committee and an in-house committee. It was very important that all types of libraries took ownership in the day; it benefited all of us. Academics had a letter of participation put in their files by CARLI.

Pat McGuckin- The impact we had will hopefully encourage the press to cover Illinois Library Day next year.

Alice Calabrese- Ms. Calabrese noted that Secretary White could not have been more gracious in welcoming everyone and listening to their ideas. She commented that he opens his office to everyone and that is very important. The Secretary made everyone feel important.

Some of the small libraries actually closed to come and participate, which made an impact as well.

Mr. McKay- He thinks the rally was most important, and that is what we really need to get people to participate. The person we are really trying to influence the most is Secretary White and his staff. We don’t want people who lack confidence being scared off at the thought of standing in line waiting to talk to their legislator.

Mr. Levine- Would like to see more trustees. He suggested getting high school kids to participate.

- The graphs are very important to really help people see.
- The Illinois Library Day buttons are a great visual in addition to being a conversation starter.

- We start talking about library day in November but do not have the legislative schedule until December.
- Very important for the small libraries to be there as well-gave a sense of the library community as a whole.
- There were a lot of people that have never been to library day.
- There were school people present.
- Maybe have a competition regarding the kids writing an essay.

Illinois State Library Strategic Planning

Ms. Danczak Lyons- A variety of people were invited to participate in a session led by Don O'Neal as the facilitator. The group was to come up with strategic issues and then what goals to achieve in the next 1-5yrs. The process was very open.

- Addressing changing technology- among workers and hardware
- Clarifying the Illinois State Library role in state government.
- Addressing access for everyone including un-served and underserved
- Leadership- through the Synergy program
- Marketing
- Addressing changing customer needs and expectations

Goals-

- Cutting edge technology
- Leadership
- Programs to increase access to library services
- Promote services to government
- Promote awareness of Illinois State Library benefits

Mr. Raymond- Reported that he thought about what the tone might be, and he was very pleased by what he experienced. The process made him think about his library's strategic planning and would like to mold it the same way. Some of the issues identified were eye openers.

Mr. Levine - Agreed that it was beneficial. Mr. O'Neal was a good facilitator. It got a lot of people involved in a number of issues. Mr. O'Neal was non judgmental, and he brought the stakeholders together. He was very honored and proud to be a part of that day. March 10 was the first time he thought of the Illinois State Library as a library.

Ms. Harmon really enjoyed the small group discussions. She felt the day was very productive and got the impression that it came down to "communicating our values". She was very impressed with the work of the group.

Director Craig is trying to make the process as short as possible. The State Library got the input from our customers right from the beginning. The survey was invaluable. The mission statement is still a draft, "The Illinois State Library promotes excellence in information access by connecting government, people and libraries." We are at the point where we look at the programs and services we provide and see if they match up to our goals. How can we really focus what we do to have an impact? Mr. O'Neal kept everything very guided. We must measure the impact long term to see if it will be successful.

New Trends In Establishing Public Libraries- Mr. McKay

He discussed changes that have occurred in LaSalle County and he shared a map of Illinois that showed the areas that do not have public library service. Wallace and Farm Ridge established a public library,

but their intention is not to tax. Freedom Township also voted to establish a non-taxing township library. In the long run these township libraries could wind up being more positive than negative. As we begin to work through this, maybe the boards will change, and they will want to provide services. We need to make them consistent with the taxing public libraries. The vote to establish vs. not establish was misrepresented on the ballots.

Director Craig- announced that this is Chair Chiu's last meeting. He is not eligible for reappointment and has served for 6 years. He was presented with a plaque from Secretary White thanking him for his service.

Economic Impact of Illinois Libraries- Ms. Harmon

Illinois Library Association (ILA) has been made aware of some studies regarding the economic impact of libraries upon their communities. One study is credited for keeping the Florida State Library open in addition to restoring its funding. Ms. Ruhnke, from Lewis and Clark Library System was telephoned for a conference call with ISLAC. Ms. Harmon and Ms. Ruhnke discussed studies done in Florida and South Carolina. The ILA board and Illinois library directors continue having discussions about replicating a similar study in Illinois. The other states did a smaller sampling of what Illinois would like to do. They also talked about replicating the study survey in the next several years and making it a multitype study. They would like to revisit this study every 3-5 years.

ISLAC members asked if the findings from the other states were as similar and dramatic? Yes they were. This will be very powerful in actually telling our library story. Solid research is what is needed. The study should take about two years to complete.

Ms. Calabrese made a motion to support/endorse ILA's Economic Study of Multitype Libraries. Ms. Aron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The committee felt that a sampling of twelve libraries is too low. The people hired to do the study should be able to know what the minimum sampling should be, for how many libraries to survey. Ms. Calabrese commented that some libraries might pay to be included in the study. Mr. Levine suggested hiring a statistical analyst to tell us how many to select. The key is that no one who is involved with libraries will be conducting the survey. ISLAC members asked if the other states came up with any ongoing recommendations? No, but that's something we would like to do in Illinois. We would like to have the other libraries in Illinois be able to replicate this survey in their community.

Ms. Robinson indicated that 250 libraries need to be included in a survey of this capacity by their researcher.

Mr. Ragen said we should also have the results in, in case they look at re-doing the state constitution so that we can show that libraries are important. The Constitution Convention is in 2008.

ILA estimates at least \$100,000 to \$150,000 for the study. The State Library of Florida partially sponsored their Florida study.

Report from the Illinois Library Association- Ms. Harmon

The Committees have all been active. ILA has been able to stop filtering and confidentiality issues this year. ILA is recruiting some of the new librarians to join committees. ILA has been working with the Intellectual Freedom Committee to promote intellectual freedom around the state. Illinois Library Day is such a good case in point as to how long ILA has worked to promote advocacy. ILA believes in the need for a strong State Library.

Chair Chiu made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Raymond seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Pecoraro.
4/25/06