ILF Legislative Committee Minutes

January 10, 2017

Meeting was held, 2:05-3:45pmET in the Indy PL Central Library, Conference Room 148 and via conference call.

Attendees in person: Co-chairs Jos Holman and Bill Wiebenga; members Monica Casanova, Nick Schenkel, Jake Speer, and Edra Waterman; Contracted Advocates Carolyn Elliott and Matt Long; and ILF staff Brittany Snow and Lucinda Nord Attendees by phone included Kelly Ehinger, Melody Gault, Kristi Howe, MacKenzie Ledley, Michael McCullough, Naz Pantaloni and Board President David Peter. Absent were Leslie Sutherlin and Terry Rheinheimer.

Jos Holman welcomed attendees to room and by phone.

Minutes from the December 6, 2016, meeting were approved after Monica motioned and Michael seconded.

1. Review of any written, email and verbal updates as well as below – Lucinda explained the multiple emails sent in advance.
   a. ILF-Bose meeting - Co-chairs, presidents and ILF executive met with Carolyn, Matt and partner Trevor Vance on 12/28 to clarify expectations, processes and communications, as well as billings. The meeting was positive and clarifies expectations for going forward.
   b. Relationship Mapping Survey and ILF Legislative Update (click throughs) – Lucinda explained that she sent the relationship mapping survey 12/28 and again through the Legislative update on 1/6. Lucinda explained the new format for sending the weekly Legislative Update, which includes the bill tracking list and the update from Bose. This format also tracks click-throughs and will enhance our action alerts. Jos asked about access, as he wasn’t sure he received them. Lucinda explained that 1) email was sent to all, including those whose membership expired 12/31/2016; and 2) members were provided grace periods in January, as the ILF office is still working to correct a system issue that was identified during our financial review. Some members with outstanding invoices have not been able to access member only documents; instead of resolving on a case-by-case basis, ILF staff have been working through a system change in the online membership software.
   c. State Library – Jake reported that he has reviewed the budget issued by the Governor’s office, and that everything requested appears to match what is in the budget. He has been meeting with staff from the new administration. ISL will be issuing an annual report for ISL and public libraries; this report will be provided to all legislators as an educational piece and will be posted.
   d. Inside scoop from Bose
i. The Governor’s budget has the two line items the same as last year. Carolyn still needs additional detail over the few lines from the policy brochure. Education funding appears to be about $280M over last budget. Total budget projects $1.8B surplus.

ii. About 700 bills have been released; more will be released in coming weeks, as House deadline is 1/10 and Senate deadline is 1/12.

iii. Regarding people appointed in new administration, there are many familiar faces, though some in different roles. Mike Brown was named liaison for Supt. McCormick. Bousman for AG. Good to know interns.

iv. Bose hired three new interns, all who have statehouse experience: Hunter Renschler; Amy Schwartz will work on education issues; and Evan Dant.


2. Draft bill list to date - Committee discussed several bills on bill list and that have been in the news.

a. 1002 – Road/Infrastructure will be heard on 1/25

b. 1004 – pre-k

c. Two bills to enhance bandwidth development, 1192 and 281

d. Porn bills – 181 and 1091; Carolyn believes that the library/museum carve out is not affected

e. 248 – school consolidation – Consensus to have conversation with bill leader(s) to help understand origin and advocate that library services be removed from list of admin services. Cmte discussed how ILF might advocate that libraries remain in the educational definition of budget expenditures—not in admin or supportive services. We would highlight that certified librarians are educators. We might support language about allowing bulk purchasing, etc. but no reduction in school librarians.

f. 1129 – LIT – Edra provided update via email. Bill clarifies that LIT funds specifically levied for a purpose must be used for that purpose unless rescinded or modified. The code has updated timelines that determine when additional revenues due to levy changes would be available/distributed. There is an addition of a requirement for the Local Income Tax Council (in a former COIT county) or the County Council (in a former CAGIT county) to directly notify taxing units if they are looking to change allocations. No other action is needed other than to monitor if it changes.

g. 127 –eliminates franchise fees, which affects funding to local governments

h. 3-4 bills that would eliminate Supt of Public Instruction after 2021; anticipate the one authored by Speaker Bosma would pass House.

i. MacKenzie asked about broadband – it does not appear to be as high priority to legislative leaders as perceived weeks ago. Cmte discussed examples of special broadband initiatives; Jos mentioned Champagne IL as a community that has done well.

3. Draft Resolution celebrating 125th Anniversary

a. Committee provided suggestions on language for resolution, reaching consensus to include some history, some current info and future thinking. Discussed various options for inclusion of statistics. Agree that INSPIRE database downloads are good place to start. Kelly sent language from 2014 for ways to discuss what libraries do.

b. Discussed delaying Statehouse Day until after crossover when we might have a better opportunity for presentation of resolution on the floors.
4. **Discuss representation at Strategic Visioning session on Feb. 3**
   a. Lucinda reviewed the Strategic Visioning outline. The goals is to envision the libraries of the future and then consider what type of state association should support that future. Some things are already given based on interviews and counsel: that we will update governing documents and that advocacy will play a large part of our future.
   b. Several Legislative Committee members plan to attend. Jos asked if any others are interested to contact Lucinda within day, as the board needs to approve the list. Note that the room limits attendance at 70. The board is trying to be strategic in planning the day and recruiting all types of libraries, staff and mix of age and experience.

5. **Other Business**
   a. **Awards and Honors Committee** is reviewing all awards and scholarships, two that relate to Legislative Committee. First, the A&H Cmte is recommending consolidation of our three Intellectual Freedom awards. Second, we will send a notice to the Legis Cmte about the Legislative Advocacy Cmte, to prepare a nomination should any legislator rise to the criteria.
   b. **Opportunities and role of Legislative Committee** – While the Board has authorized Lucinda to explore partnerships that benefit libraries, Lucinda asked if the Legislative Committee has ever been approached about some types of partnerships in state government or involve group purchasing for savings to local libraries. She shared that some relate to what might be considered government relations, not necessarily legislative issues. Jos recollected INCOLSA activities, but that he didn’t believe that ILF can explore contracts on behalf of libraries. Edra shared that MCLS plays part of that role today. Kelly offered that opportunities are worthy of further conversation or exploration.

6. **Next Meeting Dates and Locations through April**: Lucinda has confirmed the Indy PL location; will confirm dates and distribute. Phone attendees confirmed that sound was okay, but that we may need to remind certain folks to speak up and others not to rattle paper.

7. **Adjournment at 3:45**