



ULA General Board Meeting

Friday, September 21, 2018

Attendees present

Rebekah Cummings, Vern Waters, Dan Compton, Emily Darowski, Javaid Lal, Brandon Bowen, Mike Goates, Trish Hull, Joe Frazier, Lis Pankl, Kim Fong, Juan Tomás Lee, Amy Jamison, Natalie Gregory, Peter Bromberg, Valerie Buck, Allyson Mower, Leticia Camacho

Attendees via Zoom

Shane Wallace, Joe Everett, Erin Warnick, Pamela Martin, Kurt Meyer, Elise Silva, Ed Hahn, Linda Liebhardt, Mindy Hale, Wanda Huffaker, Xiaolian Deng, Daniel Mauchley, Dorothy Horan, Patrick Hoecherl

Opening

Call to Order

Rebekah Cummings, President, calls the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

Previous Minutes

Trish Hull makes a motion to approve the previous minutes from June 1, 2018. Kim Fong seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Trish Hull makes a motion to approve the consent agenda. Kim Fong seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

Agenda

Old Business

[None]

New Business

1. 2018-19 budget (Dan Compton / Javaid Lal)
 - a. Javaid reports that financial statements from last year and the proposed budget are on the website if you didn't get the email. Account balances good, and we made advance payments last year we now won't need to make this year so we are caught up. We are at our goal for the last few years as far as fund balance.
 - b. Dan introduces the proposed budget. He brings up the request by the Technical Services Round Table for \$1,000 for 4 librarians to attend a preconference. He would rather have them apply for conference scholarships first but suggests leaving the line in the proposed budget so if scholarships don't work there is still funding for them to attend.
 - c. Rebekah mentions something that seemed high to her is RegOnline at \$4,372. She would like to investigate using Wild Apricot to do conference registration and payments and to verify membership status for discounts. Vern adds this will keep registrants on the same platform.
 - d. Rebekah mentions looking closely at travel since it's high. For instance, she suggests Barb may not need to attend ALA since she has done the specific intended training in the past.
 - e. Pam says as our chapter representative she can use USU travel funds to attend ALA instead of ULA's, although the next person in the position may not have that option. Rebekah says Pam does the most work for ULA of all the travel things we budget, and we don't want to lose that line item in the future. Maybe we could see if USU will match ULA funds.
 - f. National Library Legislative Day attendance discussion:
 - i. Peter Bromberg brings up his concern that National Library Legislative Day is unnecessary. He clarifies it is specifically an ALA day and they have their own interests and are advocating for their own agenda. For example, when a group wants to try for increased funds for a legitimate need ALA sometimes denies it because their plan is to ask for maintenance. Peter says we can advocate for our state's needs more effectively here in Utah by going up the hill and having these conversations with our representatives. Since we have limited funds,

we need to be more judicious. There is value in National Library Legislative Day, but the opportunity cost of \$2,000 outweighs having a presence in DC that day.

- ii. Dan Compton responds that Jami Carter has attended the past two years on behalf of ULA and is a strong advocate of the day, so he would like to hear her perspective. Peter agrees that Jami likely uses the time very well. Dan wonders whether we could do the same thing here in state.
- iii. Pamela Martin points out that Jami has a lot of talent, knowledge, and skill in this area which makes her a good representative. However, the policy is to send the president, who may not necessarily have the skills to advocate for our libraries. Pam suggests we always send the best person for the role, not just the president. Rebekah counters that it is a professional development opportunity for whoever goes, and we need more than just one good library advocate in the state. She says we should cultivate more people who know how to have those conversations with legislators.
- iv. Trish Hull says we should be meeting with Utah staff instead of DC staff where we won't be remembered and we won't make as much of an impact. We have access to Utah staff all the time; we could be inviting staff to our library events. We'll have more access than trying to advocate for Utah outside the state.
- v. Juan Lee agrees that when talking to DC staff it probably doesn't get back to the representative. He says Colleen Eggett as state librarian is attending anyway. These funds can be more effectively used in state. He recommends using the proposed travel budget in state because there are small libraries all across the state that could be better served by seeing Rebekah and ULA's presence and support.
- vi. Trish agrees there are other days we could be on the hill. We can make appointments beforehand so they know us, then get there and talk to the ones who don't already like libraries. Kim Fong agrees day on the hill events give you a few minutes of facetime with representatives but that's much less effective than building a relationship outside the advocacy days.
- vii. Rebekah mentions there are people in UALC who are good about watching what's happening on a bill level in the state. Juan says ULA can give information to the state librarian who is already attending National Library Legislative Day to clarify which things are most valuable to us.
- viii. Joe asks for clarification on line item. Dan explains it is all listed under ALA Conference Travel because this year they are combined.

- ix. Dorothy Horan says it would be a shame for the president to miss it and that it is more impactful for the president to attend along with the state librarian.
 - x. Peter mentions Jami hasn't offered her opinion and it is past practice, so there is no harm leaving it in. Pamela and Daniel Mauchley agree. The item will stay in the budget.
 - g. Daniel Mauchley asks about the change in membership database cost. Javaid clarifies there was overlap between Wild Apricot and Memberclicks last year and there will not be for the coming year.
 - h. Kim Fong moves to approve new budget as it stands. Trish Hull seconds the motion. The budget is approved unanimously.
2. Conference Rate Update: Student Preconference (Rebekah Cummings)
- a. Rebekah explains that the previously approved lowered student preconference rate faces challenges in RegOnline and proposes that it maintains the same price as other preconference registrations.
 - b. Valerie Buck asks why there were only two student registrants for the preconference only. Rebekah explains most students register for the full conference.
 - c. Kim Fong asks if it can go back to the lowered rate in the new system when we move to Wild Apricot for registration for 2020. Rebekah says it can.
 - d. Erin Warnick inputs that from her own perspective as a current student she is totally fine with that.
 - e. Dan Compton makes a motion to change the student preconference only registration rate from \$40 to \$55. Pam Martin seconds the motion. It is approved unanimously.

Reports / Activity / Discussion Items

1. ULA Fall Workshop (Valerie Buck / Erin Morris)
 - a. The annual ULA Fall Workshop is all set for September 28 in Richfield, UT. The theme is "Enriching Your Library Services in Richfield." State Librarian Colleen Eggett is the opening speaker and the mayor of Richfield is the lunch speaker. Online registration ended last week. Anyone is still welcome to attend for \$20 at the door. Currently it has upwards of 40 attendees.
2. Our Schools Now Coalition (Peter Bromberg)
 - a. Peter Bromberg presents information about a potential gas tax increase for public schools and roads, which will appear on November ballots as "Nonbinding Opinion Question #1." This asks voters to support an additional \$0.10/gallon gas tax, of which 70% goes to education, and 80% of that goes to K-12 schools. Peter asks ULA to vote to issue a statement of support of it

because it's a source of dollars for schools and school libraries, and school librarians and media specialists are already in the authorizing language in this draft format. Once passed, then we have the opportunity to work with school boards for school library funding. Peter reports that almost all groups in Utah involved in education support this, including UEA and PTA. He suggests if we get behind it now it gives us better standing later in the game and it raises our own profile by showing we are supporters now.

- b. Daniel Mauchley makes a comment that they have seen school libraries cut twice. This isn't just putting money into getting more books; it's helping get qualified people and research librarians to help align instruction with curriculum.
- c. Kim Fong asks why we should support a tax that could impact the people who will least be able to afford it, which is a large part of the population we serve in libraries. Amy Jamison adds that this kind of money for education is a positive thing but the way it's funded is a problem because it can build resentment when it's coming out of pockets at the pump. She suggests there is a lot of support from corporations but they're a beneficiary of a well-funded school system. Corporations are not actually contributing; consumers take the hit.
- d. Peter responds that coalitions are about finding common ground and this legislation has seen many drafts. He mentions an income tax increase and another option which both failed. He says a gas tax funding model is not the first choice or the second choice, but this is what is possible in the state of Utah's political climate right now. This is not a question of personal views, it's about the organization participating in something that meets our larger goals and being part of this from the beginning so we have money for our own goals later. Amy agrees it is not perfect but showing support for any educational spending is important.
- e. Juan Lee suggests checking with UELMA first to get their standing so we don't do anything rash or step on any toes.
- f. Kim Fong brings up a recent public opinion survey which showed that 57% of Utah's population opposes the gas tax. She asks if we should really support something the population we serve does not. Pam Martin suggests we should support it because it's the right thing to do.
- g. Rebekah would like to check with UELMA but says the General Board will not meet again soon enough to do so. Trish mentions the PTA is very careful about what they support and if they are supporting something we can. She also says the language supports before and after school programs, which is a way to help less advantaged kids.
- h. Trish brings up that ballots go out in 2 weeks and that if we want to support this we have to vote on it today.

- i. Peter contributes that a gas tax will help pull some revenue from those passing through the state. Trish adds with the new port authority we could have an even higher amount of commercial driving providing tax revenue.
 - j. Wanda Huffaker proposes the board vote today to support it but make issuing a statement contingent on UELMA's response. Trish says it doesn't matter what UELMA thinks. Vern Waters says there is nothing on their website to indicate any opinion on the matter. Amy Jamison says she is involved with UELMA and hasn't heard a word either for or against this.
 - k. Vern Waters makes a motion that the Utah Library Association express our support for Our Schools Now and our support for a "Yes" vote on the upcoming November 2018 referendum "Nonbinding Opinion Question #1: Potential Gas Tax Increase for Public Education and Local Roads."
 - l. Trish Hull seconds the motion. A majority of voting Board Members vote in favor. There is one vote against the motion and no abstentions. The motion carries.
3. Conference Committee Report (Mike Goates)
 - a. Mike has been organizing keynote speakers.
 - b. He is still looking for volunteers in the following areas:
 - i. Hospitality: sending thank you notes, creating lists of places to eat, etc.
 - ii. Grants: there is one UPLIFT grant to apply for
 - iii. Registration: working with Pia and staffing the registration desk
 - iv. Silent auction: assisting with organization, set up, etc.
 - v. Book drive: identifying the library or organization we want to donate to and coordinating the drive
 - c. Brandon Bowen adds that most of these volunteer roles are clearly outlined with instructions and help so there is no need to be intimidated.
 - d. Valerie Buck asks if Mike has sent anything out through Wild Apricot in a general call for volunteers. Mike says he has not yet. He will send a general call if the listed spots don't fill up soon. Erin Warnick says she's a representative for Emporia and is happy to get this call for volunteers out.
 - e. Rebekah mentions the initial call for proposals will be sent out soon too.
4. Utah State Library Report (Juan Tomás Lee)
 - a. Library Resource Program Manager search currently has 1 top candidate; Library Development Program Manager search is in second round interviews.
 - b. LSTA is about to have another round of grants with a total of \$250,000 for projects. Interested parties must submit a letter of intent by October 15. There is a webinar for help on the Utah State Library website.
 - c. The Public Library Directors Summit is coming up October 4-5. Currently 45 library directors are registered.
 - d. Highland City Library is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

- e. Utah State Library's sister agency the State History Division will hold their annual conference workshops September 27-28. The theme is transportation and movement.
 - f. The State Library is partnering with the American Graduate Initiative, KUED, UEN, and Utah Futures to provide film screenings around the state of PBS's *Roadtrip Nation*.
5. ALA Council Report (Pam Martin)
- a. See the report as sent out through Wild Apricot on the consent agenda.
 - b. Daniel Mauchley thanks Pam for doing a great job representing our state.
 - c. Wanda Huffaker also thanks Pam and emphasizes it is so important that she attend Midwinter and Annual ALA Conference because she is our vote.
6. MPLA Report (Joe Frazier)
- a. MPLA's annual conference is coming up and will also celebrate a 70th birthday bash for MPLA. Members of ULA can register for the conference at the MPLA member rate.
 - b. Elections just happened. Check with Joe for more information.
7. Committee / Round Table Communication (Joe Frazier)
- a. Last board meeting someone asked about using Wild Apricot as a discussion board with your committee. Joe was asked to look into it. He reports it's not really possible to use it as a discussion board. However, Rebekah and Dan say Barbara Hopkins recently learned how to create an event and then use it as the basis of a discussion. Barbara will share all this information.
8. ALA Intellectual Freedom Report (Wanda Huffaker)
- a. Public comments are all back from ALA's drafted meeting room policy. A vote will take place soon.
 - b. St. George book display update: Wanda talked with director Joel; his board has formed a task force to write a policy and Wanda will review it with him once they have finished it. Wanda clarifies that most libraries in Utah do not have a display policy. She hopes they will not begin writing one because ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee will soon write a new policy which can help our libraries with their own.
 - c. Direct any questions about display policies, meeting room policies, or challenges to Wanda.

Closing

Adjournment

Trish Hull makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Fong seconds the motion and it is approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.