Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel Meeting
Anne Arundel County Public Library Headquarters
5 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Wednesday, February 7 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM

MINUTES

Introductions

Julie Ranelli (Queen Anne’s County), Sara Brown (Baltimore County), Sarah J. Miller (Baltimore County), Monica McAbee (Prince George’s County), Nay Keppler (Carroll County), Gaylord Robb (Salisbury University), Mou Chakraborty (Salisbury University), Dianne Whitaker (Montgomery County), Hannah Wilkes (Frederick County)

Minutes

- December 2017 minutes were approved.

Reports

- Executive Board (Julie)
  - MLA and Citizens for MD Libraries will have a table at UMD for Maryland Day. If interested in attending, let Julie know.
  - MLA is reserving the location in Cambridge for the annual conference through 2020.

- Legislative Panel (Julie)
  - MD Library Legislative Day is on Feb. 20 in Annapolis. All are invited. There will be a legislative panel briefing in the law library, proclamations, and a chance to meet with representatives followed by a reception.
  - If anyone is interested in attending or needs more information, they can contact Julie.

- MLA/DLA Conference 2018 (Monica)
  - The session schedule has been released, including the three sessions sponsored by IFP.
    1. Library privacy session with Denise Davis, Erica Karmes-Jesonis & James LaRou- Thursday morning, 1st session
    2. Fake News in a Fact-Averse World with Andrea Boothby Rice - Thursday morning, 2nd session
    3. LGBTQ & YOU(TH Access) with Joy Fisher, Erin Snell, Nay Keppler & Hannah Wilkes- Friday morning, 2nd session
  - Poster Session:
    - Mou submitted the application. Once selected, Mou will work to create the final poster.
• Poster title- “MLA’s Intellectual Freedom Panel: Evolving with the Times.”
  o Silent auction basket- Nay and Hannah put together items for an “Out of Print Basket” featuring a tote bag, mug, socks, matchbox, and additional Banned Books swag for a total of $66. Panel members can contribute funds for the basket and reimburse Nay via PayPal.
  o Volunteer sign-ups are coming soon. Members are encouraged to help with registration or the book sales table.
  o Room hosts were assigned for all IFP sessions- Mou/Gaylord for LGBTQ & Youth session, Monica for Privacy session, and Julie Fake News session.

• Social Media (Sara)
  o After researching other states’ IFP Facebook pages, we determined that only 5 are still active (meaning they have posted since November, 2016). We were by far the most active.
  o Total likes- 250
  o Most popular recent posts- ALA is Offering a New E-Course on Privacy & Security and the post on New York prison inmates

• ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom (Julie)
  o Julie spoke with the OIF in January. They formed a focus group of 6 states to discuss handling book challenges/reporting. The focus group administered a survey to gauge whether libraries are seeing challenges to materials and the barriers they face in responding to these challenges. The results showed that not many libraries saw challenges/barriers and felt they had solid policies in place. There were 12 responses from Maryland libraries.
  o The IFP discussed the accuracy of this survey data and whether libraries keep track of the number of challenges resolved on service desks. The national figures only show challenges that have been lodged as formal complaints.

Old Business
• Review of work plan
  o Due March 1
  o Julie will send out next week for us to review before she submits

• LATI training – (Sarah Jane)
  o Sarah Jane and Jamie have been conducting trainings and used the updated materials from the IFP for the latest (January) training.
  o The IFP session covers:
    ▪ Censorship
    ▪ The balance between collection development and access
    ▪ Determining the difference between descriptive and prescriptive labels
    ▪ Handling complaints/book challenges as frontline staff, and the importance of having a policy to address these issues
    ▪ Knowing your hot buttons- preparing for those and deescalating situations
• The importance of acknowledging that a concern may be founded (i.e. if a material needs to be repositioned in the collection).
• Resources for MLA and ALA.
• The difference between a challenge and a hate crime
• Guidelines for working with the media
• Scenarios- handling book challenges, challenges with displays, etc.
  o The LATI participant feedback was that they asked to focus more on the practical tips.
  o The IFP discussed the possibility of offering this training on a statewide scale (beyond LATI). This could potentially be modified to become the fall webinar. Sarah will share the training outline with Julie to develop the objectives.
  o Monica reported that she is doing a similar presentation in March in her system and will use the LATI presentation resources as well.

• Book Challenges-
  o *Buck* was challenged at Digital Harbor High School. No IFP members were able to attend the school board meeting and are unsure of the current status.
  o *The Hate U Give* is back on school library shelves in Katy, TX. It is now available only for older students.
  o There was a challenge in Texas on a LGBTQ book display. The local government responded by saying that they need more oversight over displays and the library’s collection. The library responded by saying that they will create a display policy.

New Business
• LibGuide content and development-
  o The LibGuide could fill a need as an alternative to updating the handbook to become a manual with tips/resources
  o Mou showed the IFP members the current LibGuide hosted on the Salisbury University Library site. She said it should be updated to reflect current resources, and we can personalize the layout/content.
    ▪ Current Subtopics: censorship, banned books, internet filtering, net neutrality, data mining. These tabs should be updated with current resources.
    ▪ Proposed Updates: Add privacy subtopic and additional subtopics based on the headings and resources in the IF Manual, link to IFP Facebook page, Julie’s contact info, links to ALA toolkit resources, and the link to the ALA challenge reporting page.
  o IFP members must send content to Mou/Gaylord to update the guide
  o Julie will distribute a working document via Google Docs- IFP members should sign up for topics to contribute resources.
    ▪ Timeline- headlines due by the end of February (to create a framework/layout). March- Assign people/ small teams to each content section and add content.
• Additional Updates- Alex Supko is now a blogger for the ALA OIF blog. He is the official contributor from Maryland. They also allow guest posts, so if anyone is interested in writing, they can send a post to Alex.

Action Items
• Send money to Nay via Paypal for basket
• Julie creating Google Doc/ sending out link to begin work on LibGuide
• Julie sending out work plan for final review within the next two weeks

Future meetings
• Wednesday, April 4, AACPL HQ, 2:00-3:30
• Wednesday, June 6, Broadneck Grill for 12:30 lunch & meeting