Intellectual Freedom Panel Meeting Virtual Wednesday, February 3 at 2:15 p.m.

Introductions: Sara Brown (BCPL), Sarah Jane Brunson (BCPL), Monica McAbee (PCGMLS), Julie Clark (FCPL), Hannah Rosekrans (BCPL), Ashley Fedele (Harford CPL), Mou Chakraborty (Salisbury U)

Minutes

- December 2020 minutes approved without amendment. Thank you to Monica for filling in to take these minutes!

Reports

- Executive Board and Legislative Panel (Sara)
  - MLA Elections are happening now so we are encouraged to vote!
  - Legislative visits happened end of January. Talking points HB 518 (electronic book licenses, fair prices for libraries and not embargoing titles), HB 97 (digital connectivity act to ensure all Marylanders have access to internet), last year’s fine-free for minors/lifelong learning act, which was passed but was vetoed for budget concerns. Veto override occurred in house and will occur in the Senate early in February.
  - 2-page infographic of public interest poll regarding public libraries; Sara will share with listserv

- Conferences (Sara)
  - IFP’s last 2020 program was Dec 15, on privacy and threat modeling
  - Generally positive feedback on our first two programs, haven’t gotten the feedback on the second two programs yet
  - 2021 – 1 possible digital equity panel presenter has not yet confirmed but 4 are confirmed

Old business

- Appalachian Prison Book Project contact list
  - Librarian at Frederick County Adult Detention Center has asked for our/MLA’s assistance in pushing back against their ban on inmates receiving books from any outside source.

- Urban Reads donations
  - Sara has dropped off first batch, about 60 books, mostly ARCs
  - Most of the items Sara has received have fit the criteria the bookstore looks for, but some haven’t. Discussion of where to send those items that don’t fit Urban Reads’ criteria.

- FY22 positions
  - Secretary, conference committee rep, and IF Chair are all open for next year. Incoming MLA president appoints the chair, but we can recommend someone. Let Sara know if you have interest in any of these roles. Sarah Jane expressed interest in co-chairing.

- Winter Crab articles
  - Thank you, Monica and Krista, for the articles you submitted to the Winter Crab!

- Silent auction
  - Doesn’t seem like as many groups are gathering these this year; are we interested?
• We agreed we like the Out of Print basket and would like to do it if we haven’t missed the deadline. Hannah will contact Out of Print for donations, if we aren’t too late.

• LATI update
  o Most recent session on January 6. Over past couple years, questions have gotten more political, more discussion of appropriateness of library neutrality, credible information, race, etc.

New business

• Spring Crab articles
  o Hannah with support from Mou will do one on Banned Poets since April is National Poetry Month

• 2021 conference roles
  o Sara is checking with IF in prisons panel if they prefer presentation or Q&A. If Q&A, will ask for moderator
  o Let Sara know if you are interested in moderating digital equity panel or PAing IF in Prisons panel
  o Monica volunteers to PA Digital Equity Panel (5/4, 9-11)
  o Preconference 5/3, 9-3:30 and 5/5, 9-12; Sara can PA these but others are welcome to volunteer

• MLA Conversations
  o IFP scheduled for 4/16 to talk about our conference programs, also with Leg Panel and LAIG. Sara can do it, but this is open to anyone else who is interested.

Next meeting April 7 – virtual