Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel Meeting
Friday, June 3, 12:30 pm
The Point at Fells Restaurant, Baltimore

Present: Mou Chakraborty, Mark de Jong, Andrea Dowling, Michael English, Annette Goodman, Monica McAbee, Sarah Jane Miller, April Perlowski, Margie Rhoden, Leila Shapiro, Mary Somers (IF Officer), Barbara Webb, Dianne Whitaker, Linda Zuckerman

Minutes of April 2011 were approved.

Conference report.
Monica reported that 647 people attended and almost $9,000 was made on the auction. We discussed the success of the table talks (facilitated by Annette, presented by Linda, Mou, and one non-IFAP member) and the banned books program, %@#& This Book Says. Monica will forward her notes from reviewing the evaluations. Mary will make the full evaluations available to IFAP.

Suggestions were made for next year’s conference:
- tweet the table talks
- publicize the table talks better and maybe have them out in the open instead of in a room
- continue having lots of academic programs
- have a call for proposals
- don’t have all the awards on one day
- publicize the criteria we use for picking a venue – is there an alternative to Ocean City?
- Margie suggested soliciting table talk subjects based on research being done by librarians, students, or professors. The table talk discussion could then be a source for input on those research topics, and this might draw more academic librarians to the Conference.

Monica or Mary will pass these on to Carrie Plymire at the next Conference Committee meeting.

Action items update – updating our web page.
The events/meeting page needs to be updated. Several months’ worth of minutes need to be added. Monica will send Bob Kuntz the minutes; from now on Mary will send him any updates as she adds them to the Wiki. Monica will make sure any program announcements get added. Mary will send him any current meeting updates needed. We should credit people who are revising the IF Manual and note that it’s “under construction” (being revised). Mary will be sending in the Annual Report next month.

Possible fall program.
We decided to skip a fall program and concentrate on a Conference program. April suggested training library staff to promote IF & collection diversity to the public. Mark suggested calling it Intellectual Freedom Literacy. Can we use a different phrase since Intellectual Freedom is not well known to the public? One person mentioned Information Freedom. Make program relevant to all types of libraries – academic, school, special. Mark asked if we could do an “Intellectual Freedom Institute” and hand out certificates to those who complete it. Program should be a preconference and will probably need several presenters. 9 of us immediately volunteered
(Annette, April, Barbara, Dianne, Leilia, Mark, Monica, Mou, & Sarah!). Address the perception that IF is a “luxury” in hard economic times.

**Recruitment possibilities.**
Have an open forum in October to draw in new people; central location such as Catonsville? Columbia? Later, hold at least one meeting in an area accessible to western Maryland people.

**New Business.**
Pat Guyton, our IF blogger, is now retired. Margie and Andrea volunteered to coordinate an open Facebook page which will take the place of the blog. (We’ll still continue the Wiki for our own discussions/updates.)
Annette noted that we might get messages from her under her middle name, Byril.
Natalie Edington (Legislative Panel) asks that we make a statement regarding FOIA. Mary will draft one [we have since dropped this idea].

**DISCUSSION TOPIC**
Barbara Jones’ keynote presentation for the Conference was discussed. Interesting international perspective.

**NEXT MEETING:** To be determined; will be a Wednesday in August, possibly a river cruise?? Andrea will research possibilities. Note that Hemingway’s is once again available!

Monica McAbee