Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel Meeting
Wednesday, August 3, 12:30 pm
Hemingway’s Restaurant, Stevensville

Present: Mou Chakraborty, Andrea Dowling, Michael English, Annette Goodman, Steve LaBash, Monica McAbee (chairing for Mary Somers), Ann Reed, Gaylord Robb, Leila Shapiro, Barbara Webb, Dianne Whitaker

Minutes of June 2011 were approved.

IF Manual and other online issues.
Michael reported that the links have been checked and are good.
Mou sent website updates to Mary.
Dianne will resume updating quotes on the Wiki.

Preconference planning.
We scrapped the idea of a workshop on doing IF programs for the public. There were strong opinions that “the public” isn’t interested and we should concentrate on training librarians to respond to challenges one-on-one and to educating our colleagues about IF issues (supervisors in schools, IT people, other staff who don’t get any formal training or exposure to IF issues). Ann is especially interested in attracting school media specialists to the Conference – include content relevant to them and send letters to their supervisors urging them to support their attendance. Monica will email everyone the “Defending Access” powerpoint. We can tweak and update it. There was also interest in doing Social Networking and Privacy Issues. Have a 2-part preconference? Defending Access/Social Networking. Another topic brought up was collection diversity and the issue of selecting for balance while still ensuring that you adhere to the selection policy (accuracy, authority, currency…). An intriguing topic especially for collection development people.

Old Business.
Andrea created a public Facebook page for MLA Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel. She showed us a printout and encouraged those w/artistic skills to design a logo. It will take the place of the blog. Mary, Margie, and Andrea are administrators for the page. Link it to MLA’s Facebook page; announce its existence to Executive Board.

New Business.
ALA’s “Intellectual Freedom Summer School” still has 4 sessions left (see Mary’s email, July 26). Anyone who attends one, please report back to IFAP.

DISCUSSION TOPIC
We ran out of time to discuss the banned books in prisons issue.

NEXT MEETING: Possibly Friday October 7 – at Broadneck Grill in Cape St. Clair? Monica will send out a Doodle poll.

Monica McAbee