

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2015

10:30 A.M.

Meeting Called by: John-Bauer Graham

Type of Meeting: Business

Secretary: Tamara Dean (APLS)

Attendees: John-Bauer Graham, Chair (ACHE)

Vicky Ohlson (DPSE)

Bryce Thornton (APLS)

Denise Oliver (ASA)

Meg Lowery (ADE)

Melvin Davis (ACHE)

Michelle Wimbish (DPSE)

Ron Leonard (NAAL)

Tamara Dean (APLS)

Gina Frady (ASC)

AGENDA TOPICS

Call to order

10:39 am

John Graham

Welcome and Introductions

John Graham/Council

John welcomed the Council. He introduced our newest member, Bryce Thornton (APLS), and Council members introduced themselves.

PRESENTATIONS

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Discussion: Minutes were reviewed. Michelle Wimbish requested that the location of the ALLA conference be changed to read "Point Clear" rather than "Fairhope."

REVIEW OF BUDGET

Discussion: Denise Oliver did not submit a formal report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion: John Graham thanked everyone for their efforts with the legislators. The AVL Council went twice to the Capitol during the month of April. Those present concurred that the efforts were successful. The observation was made that many of the people that were spoken to do not understand exactly what the AVL is and does. One great point to make is that the AVL is the only organization that reaches everyone in Alabama – it is the only bill that affects all.

The final budget determination will be made tomorrow, Tuesday, May 19th. The most current information from the Legislators is that the AVL budget will be cut \$822,627. John Graham encouraged the Council to contact anyone that has a connection to a legislator today before tomorrow's final vote.

A discussion on the terms used in the budget to describe the AVL was made. The words, "Virtual Library Project" is used; the Council's thoughts are that the term "project" signifies something that is short-term and meant to be a trial.

Suggestions were made concerning greater awareness of AVL: put the recent videos made by children on the web site as well as the Facebook page; link to pages on Facebook where comments from voters are shared regarding the budget cut; tag legislators and representatives to these comments.

The Council all agreed that the video promotion was very successful. At some point we will need to decide if this will be used as an annual marketing event.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Publicity: Meg Lowery suggested we make buttons, "Save the AVL" for distribution at conferences.

Database Review/Selection: Ron Leonard reported that Gale offered to "lobby" on behalf of the AVL. Discussion followed. Everyone seemed to agree that although that was a "nice" offer, it seems to be a delicate situation; the Council ethically should not pursue this method of promotion. Since the budget is to be cut, the public will be closely scrutinizing how we decide to spend the monies. Our mission is to be good stewards of the dedicated funds.

Further discussion followed regarding the budget cuts and possible solutions, perhaps some that have not been considered before.

New Business

Discussion: Gina Brady discussed some of the changes coming from vendors such as EBSCO, Gale, and SIRS Discoverer. The Council decided to host the old and new information until mid-July and then do a "hard cut" on all three vendor databases.

Discussion was held regarding planning a special meeting to discuss database eliminations. The Council agreed that a good idea would be to host a meeting, perhaps in the Birmingham area, and invite librarians from all the agencies to participate in the discussion on the database elimination. The details of this event will be announced in the future.

It was noted that the decision on the timing of this meeting should be made quickly.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

The next meeting will be held on July 20 at 10:30 am, in the same location.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS