

SustainRT Business meeting -- ALA Midwinter 2018 (Denver, CO)
February 10, 2018
3pm - 4pm MST

Present:

Amy Brunvand, Briana Jarnagin, Noah Lenstra, Karen Selden, Mary Beth Lock, Mary Galvin, Lisa Kropp, David Selden, Uta Hussong-Christian, Beth Filar-Williams, Andrew Peters, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, René Tanner, Traci Vesnescki

1. Introductions of all around the table
2. Lessa Pelayo-Lozada provided talking points for ALAMW
 - a. Organizational effectiveness--opportunities to participate
 - i. Planning and Budget Assembly 1-2:30 Sunday CCC-201
 - ii. Council II session, 10am-noon CCC, Four Seasons Ballroom 3-4
 - iii. Through ALA Connect
 - b. Reinvesting in ALA--ensuring alignment of structures and revenue streams
 - c. Strengthening the value of conferences, and a strong emphasis on advocacy this year.
 - d. ALA Policy Corps-new initiative from Jim Neal to provide reps in Washington on key policy issue like reaffirming funding for IMLS (need to advocate to ensure it is continued beyond the 2018 budget year.)
 - e. Executive Bd- Mary Ghikas-interim exec director will continue into 2020.
 - f. The question of whether an exec director will need an MLS will be determined by vote which requires 25% of the membership to pass. Also proposing a small dues increase of between \$1 to \$5 per year dependent on Consumer Price Index.
 - g. The number of paid ALA memberships increased over 800 this year.
3. Peter Hepburn came and gave a short speech on his candidacy for ALA president and his interest in continuing to push forward sustainability initiatives. He encouraged individuals to write testimonials on his website. After he left a question was raised about whether SustainRT could support his candidacy. We learned that roundtables cannot support a candidate, though individuals can. A forum between the two candidates, Peter Hepburn and Wanda Brown was held @ 4:30 in Council session Ballroom. Voting for ALA president opens March 12 and runs through April 3, 2018. Christina will be asked about requesting a blog post from both candidates for SustainRT blog.
4. Committee reports
 - a. Governance:
 - i. Rebekka, David, Uta. Social Responsibilities Round table- working with them on the Resolution for Socially Responsible Investments. Brought to executive board. Three items: 1.) New investments should be fossil free. 2.) Make progress to the removal of fossil investments in socially responsible instruments. 3.) every year, provide a report to ALA that demonstrates progress on these issues. To be brought to ALA Council in June.

- ii. Special Task Force on Sustainability. Proposed plans to make conferences and symposium planning more sustainable.
 - b. Programming: reported on programs at ALAMW
 - i. Sun 1:30-3:00 Crisis in Community: How can ALA support libraries in communities that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change
 - ii. Mon 10:30 to 11:30am Sustainability Strategies for Librarians.
 - iii. Mercury Cafe SustainRT social: Saturday @5:30
 - c. Membership:
 - i. Increased membership to over 500, up 114%. (with free student memberships)
 - ii. UNCG faculty member suggested that we encourage students to have a program on SustainRT, message only student members, related to professional education Perhaps present at Annual on initiatives.
 - iii. Ask students to write blog posts as a payback for their free membership.
 - d. Online education: No report but mentioned the webinars that have been conducted this year.
 - e. Outreach:
 - i. Keep Social media active and interesting. Desire to use facebook, twitter, ODLOS newsletter to promote the webinars and other SustainRT info better. Perhaps having a person responsible for monitoring the promotion through each channel. Refresh the “charge” for committees to include this responsibility.
 - ii. How to get new ideas for American Libraries to promote sustainability ideas? Perhaps a form on the SustainRT website where people that have a good idea for a story could submit, and we could forward to Tara.
 - iii. Hope for better pacing of the articles so they aren’t all published in a short timeframe.
 - iv. Appeal to each candidate for our board to give a 200 word pitch as to who they are and what they’d like to do for SustainRT
 - f. Environmental Scan Group:
 - i. Clearinghouse for sustainability related info: books, articles, projects. Needs to be searchable
 - ii. Barter? Skills swap? As we provide info on making LITA a more sustainable conference, perhaps they provide us with some skills to make our database searchable.
5. Task Force on Sustainability: Rebekka and Rene
- a. Executive Board Report: White paper that will increase adoption of sustainability principles in the association, the profession, and in libraries
 - b. Recommended reading list
 - c. Agreement on what is meant by sustainability: Triple bottom line: environmental stewardship, social responsibility, economic feasibility
 - d. Developed guiding principles
 - i. Future focus and advocacy

- ii. Inspiring: chocolate effect
- e. Brainstorming: three themes
 - i. Libraries that lead the way
 - ii. Libraries that activate their communities
 - iii. Libraries contributing to resilience (economic, social disruption, climate change)
- f. To be delivered in June
- g. Next steps:
 - i. Survey
 - ii. Four forums (one to be sponsored by SustainRT but not all since the idea of Sustainability needs to be 'owned' by many groups.)

Meeting adjourned at 4pm