

Legislative Committee  
Meeting notes  
Plains Hotel, Cheyenne  
February 7, 2007

Committee members present: Cynthia Twing, Boyd Broughton, Bill Nelson, Paul Heimer, Cathy Butler, Dail Barbour, Lynette Anderson, Carey Hartman, Dale Collum, and ex officio member Lesley Boughton.

Wyoming Library Association president Ara Anderson and vice president Brian Greene were also present as was WLA lobbyist Marian Schulz.

Committee Chair Cynthia Twing called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. She then asked that members review the minutes of past meetings. Cathy Butler moved that the minutes from the October 25, 2006, November 30, 2006 and January 4, 2007 meeting be approved. Paul Heimer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Twing then read a report from Legislative Reception Committee chair Elaine Hayes. Ms. Hayes stated that all was well with the reception and there were plenty of volunteers to assist with the function. She did mention that it was difficult to get people to let her know what they were bringing. She also stated that she would like another chair to be found to take over this committee for next year and that she would be willing to assist the new chair.

**Endowment Legislation**

WLA Lobbyist Marian Schulz then reported on the status of the Library Endowment Legislation. She stated that it passed the Senate with only two no votes, Sen. Cale Case and Sen. Jayne Mockler. She said that Sen. Mockler told her that she voted no because she is against trust funds and endowments in general.

Ms. Schulz reported that the legislation was changed in the senate so that the funding would be split with \$8.4 million provided in the first year and the remainder to be included in the Governor's budget. She also stated that there seems to be support in the House and that she feels the House Appropriations Committee will hear it as early as Friday.

Ms. Schulz was asked if having it included in the Governor's budget would negatively impact funding for colleges next year. She replied that she did not think so. Ms. Schulz was then asked if the new members in the house would be a problem. She stated that this legislation would be on a consent list and that it might pass 60-0.

Ms. Hartman asked if there were any other issues in this session that might affect libraries. Ms. Schulz replied that she will have a rundown after the session, but she does not see anything that is controversial and that she also feels that other entities are fighting some legislation that might have an effect and that she is saving her political capital for the Endowment Legislation.

Ms. Schulz then gave a possible timeframe for passage of the legislation, stating that after it clears the Appropriations Committee it will go to the Committee of the Whole and then it could be done by the end of next week. Ms. Schulz was then asked to send specifics of the legislation to Troy Rumpf so he could prepare a press release.

Ms. Schulz then stated that everyone should be sure to thank their Senators at the reception.

### **Foundation Building**

Ms. Twing then stressed that the Foundation building piece now needs to be emphasized. It was suggested that there be a meeting between the WLA Executive Board, the Legislative Committee and the State Library. Ms. Twing stated that the individual library Foundations needed to be assured that there was assistance available and that we would work together on this project.

Ms. Schulz stated that she has been contacted by the Wyoming Community Foundation and that would like to be involved. She stated that they also have political clout in the state. Mr. Heimer added that he also has been in contact with them and feels that they would be a good partner because it is their mission and it would also grow their organization.

Further discussion highlighted that the WCF has been having some problems within their organization and have not been able to issue financial statements over the previous two quarters. It was also mentioned that funds deposited there become their funds. It was stated that the WCF should be an option though. Other discussion included having education of foundations, and turnkey packets with sample policies available that could be used.

It was then discussed and decided that the scope of this enterprise is actually beyond the Legislative committee's mandate and that WLA, Foundations and Board Members need to be involved. An ad-hoc committee was appointed to draft recommendations for WLA's Executive Board. Paul Heimer, Bill Nelson and Cathy Butler agreed to serve on the Committee. It was also suggested the Jerry Krois and Debbie Sturman be included.

### **Legislative Committee Report to WLA Executive Board**

Ms. Twing distributed copies of her committee report to be given to the WLA Executive Board.

### **Committee Budget**

Ms. Twing distributed copies of the Committee's Budget.

### **State Librarian's Report**

Ms. Boughton reported that the President's budget would add about \$100,000 to LSTA funds. She then reported that Earl Kabeiseman was retiring and that A&I would have a new director, Ron Owen.

She then stated that another item of legislation in the Senate may have impact on the State Library's new facility as it would require State Buildings to meet energy efficiency goals.

**WLA President's Statements**

Ms. Anderson stated that there would be a WLA executive board meeting tomorrow. She also reported that they would be working on a strategic plan and that the contract with WLA lobbyist Marian Schulz has been signed. Ms. Anderson also mentioned that there might need to be language changes in the organization's bylaws.

**Member Recognition**

Ms. Butler asked that committee member Bill Nelson be recognized for being honored with a McMurray Community Service Award.

Ms. Twing adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.