

**MINUTES
SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007
BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

- I. **Call to Order** – Wendy Smith called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
- II. **Determination of Quorum** – Quorum established
- III. **President's Report** - Smith reported on a meeting with the RAD Library Committee concerning development of a revised formula of distribution of RAD funds. The Committee made the following observations:
- A. The formula should be simpler and easily understood by all members.
 - B. Population should carry a greater emphasis and distressed communities should not be penalized.
 - C. The formula should not pit library versus library. Instead, a separate pool of funds should be set aside to reward improved service.
 - D. The formula should be linked to State standards.
 - E. The member libraries should be financially invested in the process to ensure success of the outcome.
- IV. **Questions For Consideration**
- A. *Does the Membership wish to adopt the recommendations of the consultants as presented or with any adjustments?* Northland expressed opposition, indicating that the consultants had gone beyond the scope of the original contract. However, most libraries expressed support for the Olszak plan. MOTION made by Mt. Lebanon and seconded by Northern Tier to adopt the process as recommended in Olszak's final report. MOTION carried, Northland voting no, CLP abstaining.
 - B. *Does the Membership wish to adopt the draft Request for Proposal as presented or with any adjustments?* Sharon Bruni of South Park Township Library suggested the consultant selected have experience in modeling formula scenarios in order to determine the long-term effects of the formula. Other revisions would include development of a specific communications plan, reference to RAD's role in requiring the first study, and reference to the three phases as outlined by Olszak. MOTION made by Community Library of Allegheny Valley and seconded by Penn Hills to adopt the draft with the recommended revisions. MOTION carried, Northland and CLP abstaining.

C. How should the process be funded if adopted? Smith noted four options for funding the study:

1. RAD to pay the entire cost.
2. RAD, ACLA, and the Member Libraries to split the cost.
3. Grants from foundations.
4. A consultant from outside the organization on a pro bono basis.

Smith noted that the Library Committee had strongly indicated that the libraries themselves should bear at least a portion of the cost of the project in order to ensure that they be fully invested in the process and the outcome. A model was presented that would have RAD cover 34% of costs (\$30,000 based on Olszak estimate) and ACLA and Member Libraries paying remaining 66% (\$60,000 over two fiscal cycles, based on % of total operating expenditures in 2006). MOTION made by Northern Tier and seconded by Crafton that ACLA amend its 2008 Budget Request to include additional funds to pay 100 percent of the cost of the consultant. A roll call vote was taken. The MOTION was defeated by a count of 6 in favor, 25 not in favor, and 2 abstaining.

After further discussion the Members concurred that they should share the cost with RAD. Consensus was expressed on several points: that outside funding should be investigated but not at the expense of slowing down the process; that pro bono facilitation might not produce a reliable result over such a long period of time; that the cost to individual Libraries was bearable if spread over two years.

MOTION made by Wilkinsburg and seconded by Homestead that a recommendation be made to the Member Libraries to adopt the model presented with costs split between RAD (34%) and ACLA and the Member Libraries (66%). The Members would be asked to vote electronically and expediently, as a communication should be made to RAD no later than Friday, September 28. Discussion ensued in which suggestion was made to provide a range for the Board to operate within.

MOTION made by Mt. Lebanon and seconded by Whitehall to amend the above MOTION giving the ACLA Board authority to negotiate within a maximum 50 percent and a minimum 30 percent of the funding from RAD with the remaining costs distributed evenly among ACLA and the Member Libraries. ACLA and the Member Libraries' portion would be determined as a percentage of the whole based on 2006 total operating expenditures. MOTION carried with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Northland Public Library abstaining.

D. What next steps would be required?

1. Proposals for the Request for Proposal need to be submitted by October 15, 2007 and would be available to the Members for comment.

2. An electronic vote will be requested from each of the Member Libraries authorizing the ACLA Board to amend its funding request for 2008.
3. Regions should begin to identify candidates for the Formula Committee as outlined in the Olszak report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence Farrell, Board Secretary