

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2021

11:00am - 12:30pm AKST; 12:00-1:30pm PST; 1:00-2:30pm MST; 2:00-3:30pm CST; 3:00-4:30pm EST

MINUTES

Members Present:

Kristin Anderson, Audrey Barbakoff, Stephanie Barnaby, Jeremy Brett, Ellie Diaz, Martin Garnar, Johanna Genett, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Trish Hull, Rebecca Moorman, Steve Norman, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Shane Roopnarine, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez. **Guest:** Ed Garcia.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Huffaker called the meeting to order at 2:03pm CST. A quorum was established.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

We introduced ourselves, amid occasional updates on the events unfolding at the Capitol.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Barbakoff moved to approve the agenda. Helmick seconded. The motion carried, and the committee voted to approve the agenda.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hull moved to approve the [meeting minutes](#) from December 9, 2020. Vazquez seconded, and requested that her name be spelled correctly in the minutes. The motion carried, and the committee voted to approve the minutes with the correction.

V. ED GARCIA, Candidate for ALA President

Ed is the Director of the Cranston Public Library in Cranston, Rhode Island, and a [candidate for ALA President](#). He asked to meet with us to introduce himself and his platform.

Garcia believes that intellectual freedom is a core value of our profession, and we need to protect the rights of everyone to access information, the freedom to read, and to use the library without fear of reprisal and surveillance. His most recent work in intellectual freedom has been as part of the Intellectual Freedom Committee's Facial Recognition working group, which is presenting a resolution at the upcoming Midwinter conference.

Garcia worked outside libraries for many years, completing an MLIS in 2008. A diversity scholarship recipient, he became involved in ALA very early in his library career. As a member of ALA's Executive Board, he helped guide ALA through hiring a new executive director, sale of the headquarters building, and moving conferences to a virtual platform during the pandemic.

As president, Garcia would focus on bringing more accountability and transparency to our finances, he would focus on member engagement, effective governance, and continuing the work of transforming ALA to a more responsive, sustainable, and modern association. He feels round tables are an important way for members to engage. Although not an IFRT member, Garcia belongs to five other round tables and disagrees with the membership threshold recommended by Forward Together. He is interested in seeing more alignment among round table bylaws and dues structures.

VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. Chair: Wanda Huffaker

- i. Enjoyed holding the first IFRT Happy Hour, where we discussed whether or not the classics belong in schools. Looking for another issue where she is "of two minds" as a prompt for our next happy hour discussion.

B. Chair-Elect: Sam Helmick

- i. Thought it was fascinating to see the blog statistics for the year. Privacy issues were popular, and looking at what other posts have been popular might generate ideas for Happy Hour topics.

C. Treasurer: Steve Norman

- i. Meeting next week with Huffaker, Helmick, and Pekoll to draft a budget for next year.
- ii. Meeting with IFRT Membership Committee about subsidizing memberships for students.

D. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson

- i. Been working on the newsletter for the PubComm. Please contact [Anderson](#) or [Vazquez](#) if you'd like to appear in a member spotlight.

E. Director at Large: Stephanie Barnaby

- i. IFC met December 11, and [Barnaby's report](#) is on Connect.
 - ii. Next meeting scheduled January 14, and all are welcome.
- F. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
 - i. Nothing to report
- G. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
 - i. Nothing to report, except I'm sorry I misspelled Amanda's last name!

VII. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Martin Garnar

- A. Council has not met since our last meeting, but Garnar announced that he will serve on the ALA task force developing resolutions to bring the Forward Together recommendations forward in some actionable format. The group will be looking at the feedback gathered, including our recommendation to create the seven standing committees on professional values, where IFRT would exist in the new structure.
- B. Garnar shared a [call for abstracts](#) from IFLA for a special issue on intellectual freedom. Please distribute widely.
- C. Resolutions are being prepared on Facial recognition software and on making a permanent carbon offset fee part of ALA registration. Garnar will share on Connect.
- D. A resolution was referred to IFC and the International Relations Committee, condemning US media corporations for violations of free expression. Garnar doesn't think it will be ready for Midwinter, but for Annual.
- E. We will vote on resolutions at our Midwinter [meeting](#) on January 24th.

VIII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. Be sure to preorder the 10th edition of the [Intellectual Freedom Manual](#).
- B. Virtual Midwinter
 - i. [IFRT Meeting](#) Sunday, January 24, from 2:30 - 3:30pm CST. Be sure to Favorite it in the scheduler once you've registered, and you'll find the Zoom information there.
 - ii. Other intellectual freedom meetings include: at least one [IFC meeting](#), Monday, January 25, from 10:00 - 11:00am; and a [Committee on Professional Ethics \(COPE\) Meeting](#), Saturday, January 23, from 11:00am - noon CST.
 - iii. *Practical Answers for Evolving Issues: Introducing the 10th Edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual*. The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom is

sponsoring [this on-demand discussion](#) that will address alterations to the latest edition to the Intellectual Freedom Manual. Some topics will include user privacy, minors' rights, and advocacy and social justice. Speakers include editor Martin Garner, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Kristin Pekoll, and Ellie Diaz.

- C. Humble Bundle “Be the Change” book campaign. The Freedom To Read Foundation is promoting this collection of ebooks that highlight creators of color and characters of color. the [FTRF Humble Bundle Marketing Toolkit](#) helps with teaching and promotional ideas.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Bylaws Committee: Trish Hull

- i. Results of task force meeting and bylaws change. First, Hull wanted to say the group all agreed how wonderful the *Education Committee* has been. It was a temporary committee created for one year in 2018, and they have stayed active, and it's important to recognize that and to keep those activities going.

The Bylaws Committee proposes we merge the activities of the *Program Committee* and the *Education Committee* into the *Programming and Events Committee*, and then have several subcommittees under that committee; as many as needed. We could have a subcommittee for conference programs, for educational webinars, whatever it is necessary to promote. We could recruit volunteers for specific events, for example.

The actual charge: “The committee works to ensure organizational programming and events meet the needs and strategic goals of the organization as defined by ALA.” Recommend we amend the bylaws to change the name of the *Program Committee* to the *Programming and Events Committee*. Norman moved to approve the resolution. Moorman seconded. The motion passed with none opposed and no abstentions.

- ii. All the bylaws amendments will be on the spring ballot in March. Once we get those results, the Bylaws Committee will help craft the handbook that designates the new *Programming and Events Committee*, and that committee will be established for Sam to recruit a committee chair and members for her term. Anyone on the existing committees whose term is not up will be able to continue on the new committees if they are interested.
- iii. Bylaws Committee will send a notice to membership in February explaining changes to bylaws. They will also have the notice ready for the IFRT meeting at Midwinter.

- B. Coalition Building Committee: Shane Roopnarine
- i. Nominations have closed for the Hodges Award. The committee received one submission, and they have begun a discussion of extending the deadline, in hopes of having at least two submissions to consider. Huffaker thinks the decision to extend the deadline lies within the committee; the Executive Board does not have to be consulted. Roopnarine will report back at our next meeting what the committee has decided.
- C. Immroth Committee: Cyndi Robinson
- i. The committee will be meeting soon. They also received only one nomination for the Immroth Award, but it is a strong submission.
- D. Membership Committee: Johannah Genett
- i. Committee hasn't met since our last meeting; they will be meeting Friday 1/8. They invited Treasurer Steve Norman to discuss reducing or eliminating membership fees in 2021 for students.
 - ii. They have begun planning the first online gathering of IFRT members, in Quarter 1 or Quarter 2 of 2021. Also discussing starting an active member list to identify members who could be tapped for volunteer opportunities.
- E. Nominating Committee: Kristin Pekoll
- i. Floated the idea of doing something to encourage higher voter participation. Voting numbers in the Round Table election always seem low.
 - ii. Ideas include virtual "I voted" stickers, promoting election on social media. Vazquez said PubComm has discussed some sort of swag giveaway, we stumbled over whether this is ethical. Pekoll will follow up with interested parties.
- F. Program Committee: Jennifer Steele
- i. Nothing to report.
- G. Publications and Communications Committee: Amanda Vazquez
- i. They have created an event planning checklist to help facilitate communication between the *Education* and *Publication Committees*.
 - ii. Created a standing set of Google Slides to display at the beginning of events, which will promote the next planned events too.

- iii. Quarterly newsletter coming out January 22. Please let [Vazquez](#) know about events in February through April.

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE

- A. Pekoll gave an update: protesters have breached the U.S. Capitol, someone was shot, and President-Elect Biden is speaking now. Time to step out of our bubble.
- B. [Next meeting](#) January 24, 2:30 - 3:30 CST, at the Midwinter Conference. Please read any messages from Martin, so we are ready to vote on resolutions.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Huffaker adjourned the meeting at 3:11pm CST.