

Rainbow Round Table Executive Board Minutes

Friday, December 4, 2020

Present: Rae Anne Montague, Kathleen Breitenbach, Megan Drake, Shira Pilarski, Jessica Jupitus, Lea Wentworth, Deb Sica, Anne L. Moore.

Guests: Ann Symons, Karen Schneider

1. **Call to Order:** Rae called the meeting to order at 3:03.
2. **Approval of Agenda & Minutes:** Rae Anne Montague
 - Action: Approve **agenda** for December Executive Board Meeting
 - Approve the **minutes** of October Executive Board Meeting

No discussion on minutes. Both approved.

3. **50th Anniversary Update:** Ann Symons – (report attached). Board agreed to the recommendation to hold ‘gala’ as free social when ALA is in Chicago in 2023. Also agreed to keep deposit with MCA. Monica will followup with MCA. Committee will stay on, as it is (ad hoc).
4. **RRT Award/RRT Website:** Ann Symons – Would like website to be updated to list all of the award winners.
5. **Liaison Reports:** Rae Montague – Shira: Membership Committee – email list updated. Not sure what else they should do in this virtual environment. Rae asked if we could have membership host breakout rooms during the midwinter social. Lea – web Committee – meeting in January to discuss updating website. Anne provided an update on the archive Project Ad Hoc Committee. Rainbow had trouble getting books due to COVID shutdown. That has been resolved. Having difficulty finding a chair for next year. Rae will follow up on that. Rae noted she has had a healthy response for volunteers for book committees.
6. **Treasurer’s Report:** Ben was not able to attend but sent a brief update by email: He has received the financials from March. Our only expenses were upkeep with bank fees and fixed ALA charges. Our income is quite healthy from memberships, donations, and seals. But these are best looked at over a longer stretch of time. The financial situation of the RRT is such that the board could commit financially to a one-time expense, such as a celebration.

7. **RRT Councilor Report:** Deb Sica (report attached) Forward Together meeting yesterday – 2 issues affecting round table – 1% threshold and universal bylaws. After midwinter, Deb will have action updates.

8. **Announcements/Adjournment/Other business:** Rae Anne Montague

-Update from Karen Schneider (given at the start of the meeting) – Mid-winter registration is open. Karen is part on the fiscal analysis of Forward Together. ALA has extended the timeline for this work. BARK met and is updating financials. Working on reducing the lag time for financial updates.

-Monica – midwinter. Rae will be participating in the MLK event from 10:00-11:00. Carla Hayden will be the ‘call to action’ speaker. Event will be a tribute to the late Congressman John Lewis. This is an open event (does not require registration to midwinter).

-ALA Connect – listservs will shut down beginning in May 2021. Groups need to figure out date for their listservs to be ‘sunsetting’. Need to figure out a date when RRT would shut down listserv. Training available on setting up Connect. Board will need to approve non-members having access to RRT Connect page.

-Connect also has ‘library spaces’, which can be used to archive material from the group. The board discussed having a Connect training for the RRT membership after mid-winter. Monica will find dates (likely a Wednesday) and send out times to the Board membership.

-Rae: Zoom social 7:00-8:00 on Sunday night during midwinter. Will include announcements of the book award and lists.

-Monica will set up time for the RRT Executive Board meeting during Mid-winter. Nothing is in the schedule at this point.

-The meeting adjourned at 3:55.

Rainbow Round Table Gala Report - 2020/2021/2022/2023

To: Rae-Anne Montague, Chair Rainbow Roundtable

From: Ann Symons, Chair RRT Gala

Recommendation from 2020 - 2021 Gala Committee

Bottom Line/Our Recommendation : "Gala" be held in 2023 in Chicago at MCA as a free social, if we can move our deposit to 2023.

With thanks to the RRT for your confidence in our committee. I joined the committee as a member in July of 2017, became chair in July of 2018. Before the pandemic shut down the country in March 2019, our committee had the work well in hand and was ready for the final steps before Chicago Annual 2020.

Because of the low registration for 2019 Annual as well as minimal Gala ticket sales. the RRT Gala Committee recommended to the RRT Board that the Gala be rolled over to 2021 and combined with the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Book Awards. We were able to keep the "same dates" in 2021. ALA staff worked with the Museum of Contemporary Art to move our deposit to a June 2021 date.

While ALA has not made a decision about an in-person 2021 Annual Conference, our committee had concerns about potential attendance at an in-person Annual 2021 due to Covid, lack of vaccine, regulations about travel restrictions by libraries and states, and now the fact that there are new statewide restrictions in place for many states which may be extended throughout the winter. Event and meeting space is closed in Illinois.

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/all-of-illinois-to-enter-tier-3-mitigations-this-week-gov-pritzker-announces/2373619/>

We do not see Washington DC in 2022 as viable for a Gala, although there should definitely be a RRT social.

Bottom Line/Our Recommendation : "Gala" be held in 2023 in Chicago at MCA as a free social [with or without dancing], if we can move our deposit to 2023.

Again, the majority of the work is done and the current plan can easily be modified into a social. We re-worked the budget several times and feel comfortable that we can make a free social work.

2023 is a way off - we also recommend that our committee disband OR those who want to stay be reappointed and just keep a low profile for now. Work would not need to begin until after annual 2022.