

FLA Board Special Meeting: Lobbyist Contract

August 30, 2017

Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

(VM=Voting Member)

FLA Staff:

Dawn Pollock, Interim Executive Director
Karen Layton, FLA Administrative Assistant

Voting Members:

Robin Shader, President (VM)
Sarah Hamill, Vice President, President-elect (VM)
Tina Neville, Secretary (VM)
Donna Vazquez, Treasurer (VM)
Elana Karshmer, Past President, ALA Councilor (VM)
Ava Ehde, Region 2 Director (VM)
Anne Marie Casey, Region 3 Director (VM)
Phyllis Gorshe, Region 4 Director (VM)

Non-voting Members:

Laura Spears, Advocacy and Legislative Committee Chair

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Voting Members:

Jorge Perez, Region 1 Director (VM)
Shaney Livingston, Region 5 Director (VM)
Renaë Rountree, Region 6 Director (VM)

Non-voting Members:

JungWon Yoon, USF Representative
Amelia Anderson, Planning Committee Chair
Leila Gibradze, FSU Representative
Amy Johnson, State Librarian
Kayla Maurer, Board Intern
Leah Plocharczyk, Board Fellow
Bernadette Storck, Parliamentarian

Called to order at 1:01 by President Robin. A quorum was present.

The lobbyist proposal workgroup consisted of Laura Spears, Robin Shader, Sarah Hamill, Tina Neville, Donna Vazquez, Gene Coppola, and Dawn Pollock. They have met several times during the last few weeks to go over the 5 proposals that were received. Two firms were interviewed on August 23, 2017. The workgroup unanimously agreed that the top choice was Gray Robinson. All members found them to

be very professional and well spoken. They have experience lobbying for Orange County PL and Orange County is very pleased with their work. Several questions came up after the interviews. Dawn checked with Gray Robinson and shared their responses with the FLA Board. Dawn mentioned that the lobbyists also wanted to clarify that the contract is for lobbying only, not for attorney services. Lobbyists use discretion but are not bound by confidentiality. We have also elected not to have a reception at library day to save expenses and since it didn't seem particularly beneficial in the past. If we have any kind of extra event it will be training. Laura commented that the firm seems to be very interested in sitting down and having discussions about what we want to get out of the partnership with them. Feels their fresh approach along with their varied experience will be a benefit to FLA.

The total annual contract with Gray Robinson should come to \$31,500 with the cap on expenses.

Donna Vazquez moved to go forward with the contract with Gray Robinson and hire them for lobbying services with the agreement to add the cap on expenses of \$1500 into the third paragraph. Elana Karshmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Robin gave Dawn permission to sign the contract to expedite the process. There will be a meeting on Sept 8, 2017 at the firm's office in Tallahassee to meet them and begin discussions on concerns and going forward. Dawn will send the issues for review prior to the meeting.

Other business:

The slate of nominations for new board members will be presented to the board at the next full Board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.