

FLA Board
Special Meeting: 2019 Conference Location
October 30, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Present:

FLA Staff:

Dawn Pollock, Interim Executive Director
Karen Layton, Membership and Events Manager

Meeting Planner:

Jeanice Caskey

Voting Members:

Robin Shader, President
Sarah Hammill, Vice President, President-elect
Tina Neville, Secretary
Donna Vazquez, Treasurer
Anne Marie Casey, Region 3 Director
Phyllis Gorshe, Region 4 Director

Nov-voting Members:

Leila Gibradze, FSU Representative

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. Secretary, Tina Neville confirmed that a quorum was present.

Hotels under review:

- Marriott Renaissance at Sea World (Orlando)
- Doubletree at Universal (Orlando)
- Caribe Royale (Orlando)
- Tradewinds (St. Petersburg)
- Innisbrooke (Palm Harbor)

Jeanice's report:

- RFP went out to Orlando, Clearwater, Tampa, and St. Pete markets
- Current market has \$169-249 room rates for May or October and has high concession rates – 5 locations are possible for our consideration (listed above)
- Jeanice recommends the Marriott or the Doubletree. They are a perfect size as FLA would take over the space, plenty of room for meetings and breakouts, willing to meet all concessions and other items that would save money. Both are in good proximity for after-hours dining and entertainment with access to the I-trolley. These are contingent on a two year contract. Doubletree was recently remodeled and will have an over-the-road bridge to City Walk.
- Caribe would like our business again; however, the property is more spread out than the Marriott or Doubletree.
- In Tampa/St. Pete area it can be difficult to find a location that can handle the event size, including having the parking space available for day visitors. Tradewinds is only offering

November dates but is the only beachfront location. Innisbrooke is a golf property, similar to the Caribe with sleeping rooms in a different location from the meeting rooms. There are lots of free shuttles available but it is very spread-out. Would require driving to get food if attendees don't eat on the property.

Questions and comments:

- All but the Tradewinds have October availability as well as May
- Parking fees are waived for overnight and day guests
- Resort fees are waived
- Complimentary Wi-Fi in the sleeping rooms and the meeting rooms
- Covering cost of pre-planning Conference Committee meeting
- Marriott and Doubletree offered a complimentary President's reception for 30 people
- Most are proposing as a two year contract

Tampa/St. Pete or Orlando?

- If we stay with May, the Tradewinds isn't available
- Innisbrooke is very spread out which could cause issues with time and mobility
- The Doubletree has the dates, location, and the concessions that we want.

Dates—May or October?

- Annual public librarians meeting is normally mid-October in Tallahassee
- If we change to October are we planning to change permanently? Yes, that is the thought.
- May is normally better than October for academic librarians.
- Memorial Day weekend is not preferred
- Holiday event planning starts at some public libraries as early as October.
- Suggest that we add a question to next year's conference evaluation to see if members would be willing to move to an October date in the future
- Also suggest talking to FAME and other associations to see if they want to partner for reduced rates.

Sarah Hammill moved to continue with the May dates for the next two years. Anne Marie Casey seconded. Passed unanimously.

Day of the week selections?

- Some people won't give up a weekend date – although PLA and ALA do cover the weekends

Go forward with a two year bid instead of one year?

- Jeanice will follow up with the Doubletree to ensure that the 2020 dates are good.

Sarah Hammill moved to go forward with the Doubletree at Universal for May 14-17 2019 and for May 2020. Anne Marie Casey seconded. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.