Session/Meeting Name: Public Policy Committee  
Date, Time: Fri. Mar. 30, 2012 12-1pm

Moderators: Roger Lawson and Carmen Orth-Alfie (Co-Chairs)
Recorder: Marsha Stevenson

Present: Co-Chairs Roger Lawson and Carmen Orth-Alfie; members Nancy Duff, Sonja Staum-Kuniej, and Marsha Stevenson (recorder)
Absent: James Rout, Executive Board Liaison (excused), Patrick Tomlin (excused)

Introductions

Meeting observers included Sandy Brooke, Dan Lipcan, Daniel Payne (incoming Executive Board liaison), and Sara Rubinow.

Old Business

Minutes from the 2011 Annual Business Meeting in Minneapolis were approved.

Endorsements

The Association of Research Libraries’ Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries and the Intellectual Property Rights Committee of the Visual Resources Association’s Statement on the Fair Use of Images for Teaching, Research and Study had been reviewed earlier, with recommendations to endorse both forwarded to ARLIS/NA’s Executive Board.

The Public Policy Committee (PPC) also had proposed that the Executive Board endorse the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz’ Recommendations for the Preservation of Analogue Photo Archives (a.k.a the “Florence Declaration”). At this meeting, however, it was learned that the Visual Resources Association (VRA) has expressed some concerns about the statement, including the issue of 35mm slides, its emphasis on analog rather than digital images, and fair use. The PPC agreed to review the Florence Declaration again, giving special consideration to these issues, and asked that the Executive Board hold off on making a formal endorsement. It was noted that signatories to date have largely been limited to private individuals and European institutions. Individual members of ARLIS/NA can be encouraged to sign the Declaration while the PPC continues its review. Carmen will draft a new statement for distribution to the committee members.

Communications

At last year’s Business Meeting there was discussion of developing a template for reviewing issues brought up by members. Patrick was willing to work on this to help bring structure to discussions.
GoToMeeting has been used by the PPC for its regular web conferencing with reasonable success, but there have been some glitches as well. The Education Committee has been using Basecamp much as the PPC has used Google Docs. Basecamp is available in both a free version and at various levels of pricing with added features, and Carmen uses it through the University of Kansas’ subscription. ARLIS/NA, or TEI, could consider an organizational membership if a proposal were prepared for the Executive Board. Other options include Adobe Connect and PBworks.

**CIP Membership**

The PPC has discussed membership in the University of Maryland’s Center for Intellectual Property (CIP). A limited membership is available at no charge, with an individual membership for $60 and an institutional membership at $500 annually. Roger signed up for a free membership and spoke with the CIP about whether ARLIS/NA could join as an institutional member. They seem willing, although all other current institutional members are universities. (Sonja is her campus’ institutional contact for Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis’ membership.) Benefits include discounts on workshops, conferences, and symposia. Some practical questions remain unanswered, however, and Roger recommends that these be settled before the PPC makes a recommendation to the Executive Board. This could be an attractive benefit, of interest to the Membership Committee. ARLIS/NA’s Annual Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in 2014, which could be an opportunity for a program presentation featuring the CIP.

**Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2011-2015 mentions the PPC in a primary role for seven objectives (I.A.1, I.C.1, I.C.2, III.E.1, III.E.2, IV.D.1, IV.D.2) and in a secondary role for four others (I.C.3, I.D.3, IV.A.1, IV.C.1). A few questions have been raised about which committee (Public Policy vs. Communications & Publications) should be assigned as the primary agent for certain items. Further discussion should clarify these roles.

**Policy G-16 Revision**

The Executive Board (EB) reviewed the proposal submitted by the PPC giving options for the term lengths of its members. The EB voted to select the second option, which specifies that the Chair would serve an initial two-year term, followed by yearly renewal for a maximum of four consecutive years in that office. The Vice-Chair would be appointed for one year, renewable once for a maximum of two consecutive years in that post. Members would be appointed for one year, renewable twice for a maximum of three consecutive years of service. At least two members are to be carried over from the previous year, and the PPC is to include at least one Canadian member.

The PPC agrees that this plan provides appropriate continuity. Few topics with which it becomes involved are settled within a single year, and it takes time to become familiar with the issues. Now that the EB has accepted the PPC’s proposal, its new wording will be incorporated into the Policy Manual.

The PPC’s proposed Policy N-7, Advocacy, was approved by the EB on November 17, 2011. Roger had developed this wording using a model at the College Art Association’s website. ARLIS/NA wants to be proactive, but also not to jeopardize the organization. The EB wants the PPC to serve as an initial review group for appropriate policies and/or requests for endorsement. Advocacy can arise from any group, and should be directed to the PPC for initial review, after which this committee will make a recommendation to the EB. The PPC needs to advertise to the various internal groups that this is the preferred method for
moving issues through the ARLIS/NA organizational structure. Roger will announce this at Monday’s meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee.

New Business

2012/2013 Committee Roster

The PPC will have an opening as Roger leaves this committee. Carmen is the new PPC Chair and Patrick has agreed to serve as its Vice Chair. Continuing members are Marsha, Sonja, and Nancy, who recently joined as the group’s Canadian member. Daniel Payne is the new EB liaison.

Procedures for new appointments, and the demographics of membership, were discussed. It was agreed that balance in type of library was desirable, so a member from a museum could be sought to fill Roger’s vacancy. Other desirable characteristics include geographic spread and diversity in size of library. Certain issues debated by the PPC also might be viewed differently in a for-profit environment, so an individual from such setting might be a good choice for a future appointment. A preference for members from diverse environments is not stated in the Bylaws, however, and it is important to be transparent in appointment criteria.

Conference Program Ideas for ARLIS/NA 2013 (Pasadena) and 2014 (Washington, D.C.)

A call for conference proposals will be issued soon for the 2013 conference. Its theme is “Crafting Our Future.” PPC members should give some thought to desirable programming, and these can be discussed during one of the committee’s quarterly conference calls. Carmen will send out a query to determine preferred meeting times. Google Docs will continue to be used at this time as the repository for committee documents, but an alternative will be sought.

Special Funding Requests

Suggestions included CIP membership and Basecamp. The PPC can consider whether to make a recommendation about either of these requests before the funding deadline. This is likely to be early in September, before the EB’s midyear meeting which will be held in New York City on the 14th.

Assignments for Monitoring Organizational Resources

It was agreed that guidelines should be developed describing the types of materials likely to be of interest to the PPC and/or the ARLIS/NA membership at large. It is likely that some ARLIS/NA members also belong to some of the organizations whose publications have been identified for monitoring. Perhaps these assignments should be shared by people who are not official members of the PPC.

It might be helpful to set up a listserv, open to all members of ARLIS/NA, where issues of public policy could be shared. This would allow interested individuals to participate in discussion and analysis of the issues. Such a listserv would provide an educational function and could stimulate interest in membership on the PPC. This also could help to spread the work of monitoring activities of other organizations, using the power of crowd sourcing.

Conclusion

Before adjourning the meeting, Carmen extended thanks on the behalf of the PPC to Roger for his long and distinguished service as its chair.