

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
September 10, 2015
Warner Library

Present:

Liz Anastasi, Sara Rodgers, Mallory Harlen, Martha Iwan, Donna Pesce, Maureen Petry, Rebecca Steere, John Torres

Excused:

Tim Baird, Z.B. Baird, Elizabeth Coppola, Dan Glauber, Terry Kirchner, Diana Lennon, Joseph Mannozi, Carolyn Reznick, Sharon Rothman, Linda Surovich, James Trapasso

The meeting was called to order at 10:00. Martha Iwan made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2015 Meeting as read (with a typo to be changed); John Torres seconded. The motion was passed and the minutes were accepted.

President's Report:

- Liz Anastasi began the meeting by discussing the Continuing Education event we plan on holding this fall. She has not heard back from Sharon regarding Laura's availability; she will follow up with Sharon this week. Martha wonders if charging \$10 for non-members is on the low-side; several people suggested \$20-25 for non-members, which could be used as an enticement for people to join WLA (i.e. "For the same price, you can become a WLA member and have benefits such as..."). Martha also suggested that it would be more beneficial to offer these kinds of workshops in the evenings. Liz will email the board to let us know where this event stands.

Treasurer's Report:

- Sharon was not present to provide her report, but reached out to Liz to tell her that we are still waiting on the check from Metro.

Membership Report:

- No report

Web Administration:

- No report

Reference Committee:

- Maureen reported that Bonnie Katz has expressed interest in joining the Reference committee

College Committee:

- No report

Youth Services Committee:

- No report

Support Staff Section:

- No report

Conference Committee:

- We still need a chair for this committee
- Martha said that she likes the theme of Community for this year's conference, as had been discussed at the August meeting. We discussed how libraries are community organizations and not just repositories and how there are many angles we could pursue with this theme: collaboration within the community, "Open Our Doors", "Welcome to the Community", etc. A possible panel could focus on how to implement community involvement and collaborate; attendees would be able to take home something tangible.
- We discussed offering a Legislator Workshop. This would give a legislator an opportunity to explain to attendees the process from their perspective and how they work to serve their constituents. This could be a very useful and very interesting program. Donna will reach out to Thomas Abinanti's office and Martha will reach out to David Buchwald.
- Another workshop possibility could be the use of library space and the ensuing noise levels; there is a tension between different library uses. We discussed the possibility of offering a Designing on a Dime workshop, where we could find out how to account for noise and work this into our libraries on a budget. We could invite a noise expert to speak; Martha will reach out to Terry to see if he has any suggestions on who to contact.
- Sara heard from the hotel regarding booking for the 2016 conference. We typically hold it in May to account for the college schedule and discussed the possibility of holding it on May 6th or May 13th. Sara will ask if there is any price difference between those two days.

Public Relations Committee:

- No report

Legislation Committee:

- No report

Professional Development Committee:

- This committee still needs a chair.

Vendor Committee:

- Martha liked the suggestions for the vendor survey from the August meeting; she can try to send emails to the vendors she contacted who were not interested in the 2015 conference. She noted that it is difficult to get vendors to come when they aren't getting any business.
- We also discussed whether we need a full conference every year? Should we hold one every other year? If we replace the vendor tables with seating, that wouldn't be pure profit. We could hold a half day conference with no keynote speaker, which would save money. We decided to send the survey out so we can get feedback on the conference and related issues. Liz suggests using Google forms rather than Survey Monkey, since it can compile information into spreadsheets.

Directory Committee:

- This committee still needs a chair.

LARC

- We revisited the idea of partnering with the Library Association of Rockland County (LARC), as had been presented at the April 2015 meeting by Liz and Sara. LARC is interested in partnering with WLA and would want a trial run: we would host a Westchester Conference that LARC members could attend and 2017 would be the first official joint conference. By partnering, we'd have a bigger pool of speakers, sessions, etc. to choose from; further, LARC has a bigger keynote budget than we do. The LARC conference is held in Suffern, so both locations are convenient for members from each organization.
- Maureen thinks collaborating is worth a try. We noted that not having a yearly conference would save us a lot of money and time for the WLA committee chair.
- John asked what inviting more people means, in terms of space at the Double Tree. If people were complaining about cramped rooms, what would more people mean? Maureen suggested having a maximum number of attendees: when we hit that number, there is no further registration. The same would go for workshops and closing each session when the maximum number is reached. Sara will find out the maximum number of people the hotel can accommodate.
- Martha said the vendors were excited by the prospect of this partnership, as they'd like to have a bigger audience.
- Sara will reach out to LARC and invite their conference chair to our next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by John at 11:13; Martha seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mallory Harlen

Upcoming Meetings:

September 10, 2015 at the Warner Library in Tarrytown

October 8, 2015 (TBD)