

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
September 14, 2017
Ossining Public Library

Present:

Kathryn Feeley, Eleanor Friedman, Alex Gaete, Martha Iwan, Diana Lennon, Joseph Mannozi, Mallory Marinaro, Elaine Provenzano, Sara Rodgers, John Torres, James Trapasso

Excused:

Liz Anastasi, Zahra M. Baird, Gina Bell, Pam Berger, Dan Glauber, Maxine Grandison, Bonnie Katz, Terry Kirchner, Kathy Palovick, Sharon Rothman, Daniel Sabol, Linda Surovich

The meeting was called to order at 10: 07.

President's Report:

- James welcomed everybody to the first WLA meeting of 2017-2018 and his first meeting as President.
- James asked to confirm that each committee has a chair. Elaine is waiting to confirm Christa DeFaber from Greenburgh as co-chair of the Professional Development committee.
- Ellen Tannenbaum from the John C. Hart Library and co-chair of the Anne Izard Storyteller's Choice Awards, was supposed to attend today's meeting to discuss the awards program scheduled for September 19th in Shrub Oak. James is planning to attend the event.

Treasurer's Report:

- Sharon will be sending board members a report via email.

Mid-Winter Conference:

- For James's first order of business, he brought up the Mid-Winter Conference, which will be held at the Ossining Public Library, on one of two tentative dates in January. The conference will be held on a Wednesday morning, since OPL does not open until 1:00 on Wednesdays.
- Any speaker ideas?
 - James suggested Jeremy Johansen from NYLA, who would be a draw for all kinds of libraries. If he is not interested, he may have suggestions for possible speakers.
 - The theme "Libraries Now" was suggested.
- The setup will be the same as years past, with breakfast in the hall and sign-in and raffle in the gallery.

Annual Conference:

- James and Diana have several proposals following their visits to three locations.
 - Tarrytown House: great location, beautiful, historic
 - Doral Arrowwood: beautiful, everything we want in terms of space and technology
 - Hilton Rye Brook: possibly further location than is ideal.
- James would like a Conference Committee with co-chairs and 4-5 committee members.
- Diana and James have potential theme suggestions.
- Elaine asked which is the best venue—Diana and James shared that while Tarrytown House is beautiful, you would have to leave the building for lunch, which would be problematic if it rained that day. Doral Arrowwood is more all-encompassing. The Hilton is the priciest. Doral Arrowwood is also offering hotel rooms at a discount (which would be great for vendors) and technology packages are included, with designated onsite technology personnel.

Professional Development Committee:

- There is a conflict with our October meeting (10/12) and the professional development workshop. The board agreed to move the meeting to 9:30 a.m. and hold it in Mount Kisco, immediately before the workshop begins at 11.
- If you have suggestions for a professional development program, please send them to Elaine.
- The October 12th event features Marlow Shami, an artist and healer, who receives excellent reviews. This will be a meditative workshop. She is only charging for travel time (128 miles round trip would be \$70). This kind of workshop is something different, with its emphasis on wellness and stress-free living.
- Sara suggested Ellen Flaks, who has done programs in Dobbs Ferry for drama and improv. Sara thinks that an improv workshop would be a great tool for librarians, in terms of relating to customers and colleagues, doing role-play for different situations, etc. It would also be a really fun activity. As customer service professionals, we are always on and you never know what the day will throw at you. Sara will follow up with Ellen and get particulars about her program, which she will then email to Elaine. If possible, we'd like to have a flier for this event ready for October 12th.

Legislation Committee:

- Kathy emailed James about the new assembly bill allowing for a gift to the *Love Your Library Fund*, which James made available to board members.

Academic and Special Libraries Committee:

- Sara received an email from Kim Stucko about the SLA Annual Meeting on October 19th, featuring Tim Powell, President of the Knowledge Agency. She stressed that SLA is a good organization to partner with.

Youth Services Committee:

- Alex relayed request from Rebecca Teglas for WLA to co-sponsor the librarian's breakfast at the Performer's Showcase, as we have done for several years. Sara motioned that WLA support this program; Diana seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed; WLA will co-sponsor the breakfast on October 24. Rebecca will email James the details.

Public Relations Committee:

- Who will be doing our social media postings? We should make our pages more active. James will email membership to see if anyone is interested in managing our social media.

New Business:

- The website has been updated by Dan. Let Dan and James know of any changes to the website that you may need.
- WLA will be having a table at the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival on October 14th. James asked if anyone would be interested in sitting at the table. It's a good networking opportunity. The event will be from 10-4 at Bell Middle School.
- James and Diana are very interested in building our membership. Kathryn suggested that organizational membership option would be very helpful, especially to small libraries. It would also be a good idea to have a flier to explain what we do and why it is beneficial to join, in order to ask directors to promote membership to their staffs; we will revisit in October.
- We are in need of a new, refreshed logo. James would like to eventually order canvas bags with a new logo on them. Kathryn will reach out to her contact and give the information to James.
- We need to revise our mission statement.

- Mallory will be going out on maternity leave in December and, per our bylaws, needs a current board member to replace her as secretary. Alex will think about covering this role.

A motion to adjourn was made by John at 11:00; Alex seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mallory Marinaro

Upcoming Meetings:

October 12th: MTK (*Special Meeting Time: 9:30*)

November 2: WLS

December 14: Ossining