

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Remote Meeting on Zoom - 9:30 am

Present: Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Diana Lennon, Elaine Provenzano, Joanna Rooney, Kim Stucko, Krishna Horrigan, Susanne Markgren, Kathy Palovick, Terry Kirchner, Lisa Dettling, Martha Iwan, Joseph Mannozi, Allison Robbins, Mayra Cabrera, Anthony Reda, Catherine Riedel

Excused: Kathy Beirne, Maxine Grandison, Z. Baird, Dan Glauber, Oz Coto-Chang, Kathryn Feeley, Eleanor Friedman, Christa O'Sullivan

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am. Elaine made the motion to pass the January 2021 Meeting Minutes, and Diana seconded the motion.

President's Report

- **Virtual Mid-Winter Conference Review**
 - The conference had a low budget so the sponsorships from WALDO and WLA were not needed. They will sponsor the annual conference.
 - 64 people attended the Mid-Winter Conference. Megan and Krishna followed up with a survey. Krishna said 21 responses and 14 comments were received, and feedback was positive. Some comments: Breakout rooms transitioned too quickly. They enjoyed our conference more than ALA's conference. Some of the tech talk could have been enhanced with practical examples.
 - Discussed how long to leave the video up on the website. Krishna noted that Zoom has an issue with storage space, whereas Youtube does not.
- **Library Author Talks with WLS & Book Ya Ya (Pamela Paul)**
 - 135 registered, about 75 people attended. No upcoming events at this time.
- **Roundtable discussion with former WLA presidents** (since 2015) was held on February 4, 2021. In attendance were Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Elaine Provenzano, Diana Lennon, James Trepasso, Liz Anastasi, and Sara Rodgers Bramble. Terry Kirchner was invited to join the next meeting.
 - Committee was formed to revise the bylaws. In the meeting it was discussed what it would mean to become a subsection of NYLA. Liz Anastasi is going to reach out to Jeremy in regards to NYLA. The committee is going to try and meet every month. The pro bono lawyer we are working with suggested our bylaws be updated.
 - Elaine pointed out some of the benefits of being part of NYLA, such as insurance for events, accounting, and general housekeeping.
 - Elaine said our insurance bill went up a few hundred dollars this year. CNA would give us a rebate if we decide to go with NYLA. The invoice for the insurance is \$814.33, due on 2/25/21. Kim made a motion to pay the amount, and Krishna seconded. All present at the meeting were in favor of the payment.
- **Election Ballot for 2021-2022** should be available a month prior to the annual meeting.

Secretary position is open for next year. Joanna is going to work on Public Relations with Christa. There needs to be a ballot prepared by April 1. Allison suggested sending out an email asking membership if anyone is interested in running for the positions for next year.

Vice President Report (Kim)

- **Update on non-profit status and Pro Bono Partnership agreement**
 - Jayne and Kim signed an engagement letter and it was sent back to the lawyer. Allison has everything to send the check, which was approved in November 2020. We have about 3 months to change/update the bylaws. It will take 12 to 15 months before WLA's non profit status is reinstated.
 - Allison asked how being part of NYLA would be an advantage. Jayne said that these questions are outstanding and Liz Anatasi is looking into it for us.

- **Annual Conference & Business Meeting on Friday, May 7 - 8:30-2:30**
 - Update on speakers - 2 possible keynotes, Michael Schein (*The Hype Handbook*) and Damon Centola, author of *Change How To Make Big Things Happen*.
 - Laura, the vice president at LARC expressed an interest in becoming a co-sponsor for the annual event. Kim asked for feedback. Elaine is concerned that if we are doing a Zoom meeting, we may go over 100 participants. Diana asked about the advantages of co-sponsoring. Kim said sharing costs of speaker(s). It was decided based on previous experiences with LARC that we will not be co-sponsoring with LARC. WALDO and WLS have agreed to help sponsor the annual event.
 - Poet Laureate of Westchester – BK Fischer has agreed to read a poem at the conference. Jayne and Kim will be meeting with her on February 23 to discuss the agenda for the event. There is a possibility WLA can commission a poem. There is an online, ArtsWestchester symposium on March 4, which will be moderated by BK Fischer.
 - Panel Discussion on Librarianship and Transitioning Roles - possible breakout session or panel based on the survey. It was discussed whether there is enough time for more than four presenters and the planned duration of the conference. Each speaker can talk for about 20 minutes and then go into breakout rooms. Kim asked for volunteers to help put the panel together. Krishna and Kathy offered to help.
 - *Balancing Change: Libraries and New Concepts in 2021* is the theme for the conference It was the most popular theme in the survey.
 - Jayne shared a tentative Annual Meeting schedule based on past conferences.
 - The fee for the conference needed to be decided. A possible pricing structure was discussed and whether there should be a different price from Mid-winter to indicate that this is our big conference. The proposed registration fees are \$20 for retirees and students; \$25 for members, and \$30 for non-members. Allison said with PayPal it is easy to offer the different fees.
 - Discussed whether we should include a book in the fee. Allison noted it would be too involved. Krishna suggested raffling off some copies. WLA will donate a copy to each WLS library for circulation.
 - Discussed if we get close to over 100 participants we can switch to the Zoom webinar. Noted: Find out if we can do breakout rooms in a webinar format.
 - Suzanne typed in the chat box “The ACRL/NY fees for their annual conference were free for members, \$10 for nonmembers, and \$5 for students, retirees and unemployed/job seekers.” This opened up additional discussion on the conference fee. Allison said we won't go higher than \$30 and the conference committee will make the final decision.
 - Kim asked for WLA Ambassadors - volunteers to moderate breakout rooms for the

annual meeting. We are looking for a social media group to create hashtags. The next board meeting next month will include other conference volunteers outside of the board members.

Treasurer's Report (Allison)

- This month membership checks/PayPal payments were included. Midwinter registrations also have been coming in, and there are still a few more payments that are outstanding.
- PayPal fees were paid in January. More activity is expected next month.
- The current total in the WLA bank account, as of the end of January, is \$33,437.14.

Section/Committee Updates

Newsletter (Diana and Elaine)

- Diana and Elaine had to leave the meeting early, but indicated in the Chat that anyone with a write-up for the newsletter can send it to them via email.

Reference (Kathryn) - No report

Youth Services (Oz & Lisa)

- Lisa said an email went out about the Battle of the Books Summer League. The sign up is until June 30 and there is no cost associated. There will be 6-7 weekly programs, as opposed to one day. BOB will be on presented Zoom.
- Z still runs the YA monthly book club

Support Staff (Maxine) - No report

Academic & Special Libraries (Anthony and Mayra)

- Anthony informed the board that the Westchester Community College Campus will become a second vaccination site for Westchester County.
- Myra commented that time spent working in the WCC library is a precious commodity.

Professional Development (Megan and Krishna)

- The speaker for March 1 is all set. Questions can be asked ahead of time.
- No applications have been received yet for the Professional Development award.
- Anthony asked if we have ever discussed raising the award to \$1,000, suggesting it might create more motivation to apply. Jayne said we would need to vote to raise the award for next year.

Legislation Committee (Kathy P.)

- Kathy is reaching out to legislators and drafting a letter to the Governor's office to invite them to speak at the Annual Conference.
- 9:15 am is the planned time for the legislators to speak at the annual conference. The time is subject to change.

Public Relations (Christa) - No report

Website (Dan) - No report

Membership (Kathy B.)

- The current membership list has been updated and was sent to Jayne.

WLA Archives (Catherine & Elaine)

- Elaine has received WLA documents from Patricia Perito and will have more to report at our next meeting.

Outreach (Kim & Martha)

- Martha does not have anything new to report on the sponsors.

WALDO (Susanne)

- The WALDO board decided they would not hold their annual symposium. Last year they held it on Zoom, but decided not to this year.
- They recently hired an accountant. They also lost non-profit status.
- WALDO just partnered with LYRASIS, a large consortium, to offer a pilot program for professional development to twenty people for a year. It received a quick response and they are looking for other opportunities.
- Kim shared information on how to resolve non-profit status.

BOCES (Eleanor & Joe) - No report

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Rooney

Future Meeting Dates:

Wed, March 17 @ 9:30 am on Zoom

Wed, April 14 @ 9:30 am on Zoom

Wed, May 12 @ 9:30 am on Zoom