

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2020
9:33 am, Remote Meeting via Zoom

Present: Kathy Beirne, Mayra Cabrera, Oz Coto-Chang, Giovanna (Jayne) Fiorino-Iannace, Maxine Grandison, Diana Lennon, Dan Glauber, Martha Iwan, Bonnie Katz, Kathy Palovick, Elaine Provenzano, Christa O'Sullivan, Anthony Reda, Catherine Riedel, Allison Robbins, Joanna Rooney, Sharon Rothman, Kim Stucko, Z Baird

Excused: Gina Bell, Amelia Buccarelli, Eleanor Friedman, Terry Kirchner, Susanne Markgren, James Trapasso, Maureen Clements, Joseph Mannozi, Kathryn Feeley, Joseph Mannozi, Patricia Perito

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am by Elaine Provenzano.

Diana moved to accept the minutes from the board meeting that took place on April 30, 2020. Catherine seconded the motion. The motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

President's Report:

- Elaine reported Terry Kirchner's most recent update on reopening and briefly reviewed the NYLA statement and list of library reopening guidance.
- Elaine asked the board to share their libraries' reopening initiatives.
- Annual Business Meeting: Kathy Palovick introduced a document that Elaine and she drafted to send to legislators as a request to attend our virtual annual meeting. Elaine also shared the letter she drafted for Governor Cuomo, requesting his presence if possible at the annual meeting.
- Various staff members reiterated the importance of being visible to state and county legislators, particularly as we are facing possible budget cuts.
- Elaine discussed the agenda for the upcoming Annual Meeting.
 - Approval of minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting
 - Legislator's comments (time to be determined)
 - President's Report
 - Organizational Membership Report
 - Professional Development Awards
 - Youth Services events
 - Website and Publicity/newsletters
 - New Committee CHairs
 - Treasurer's Report
- Elaine introduced the idea of inviting Karen LaRocca-Fels, as PLDA president and Terry Kirchner, Executive Director at WLS, to come and speak at the Annual Meeting.
- Catherine noted that the Annual Meeting would be an ideal opportunity to discuss the reasons for libraries to be members of WLA.
- Jayne discussed the Meet & Mingle that took place on May 14th, 2020. 25 people attended. Informal discussion took place regarding library plans to reopen as well as some positive poetry and library-related content. Feedback was positive and attendees asked for more to be held.
- Elaine and Jayne spoke with New York Presbyterian Medical Center about the possibility of having two programs: one on mental health tips while working in isolation and another on mental tools to manage stress and anxiety while preparing for re-entry.

- Catherine noted that Johns Hopkins is currently offering a free course on contact tracing.
- Anthony noted that WCC has already been contacted by the county to provide a space to conduct contact tracing.
- Electronic ballots for the board election will be sent to members only. Elaine proposed that WLA purchase a \$19 subscription to Election Buddy to facilitate the electronic voting. Catherine moved to approve the subscription, Martha seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Elaine noted that Kathy Beirne and Sharon will reconcile membership and finances by June 30th.
- Elaine discussed the need to amend the bylaws to include provisions for special circumstances, particularly for canceling or changing the annual conference and business meeting. Sharon noted that notice must be sent out to the membership for approval, with 30 days notice.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's Report is included at the end of the minutes.
- Martha moved to approve the April 30 Treasurer's Report. Kathy Beirne seconded and the motion was passed.
- Elaine shared the 2020-2021 proposed budget, which should be finalized in May.
- Jayne has reached out to Alexandra at WCC again and is awaiting a response regarding the return of our deposit for use of WCC's space for the now canceled Annual Conference.

Reference Section:

- No report.

Youth Services Section:

- Z noted that YA Book Buzz is still meeting virtually through Google Meet. The next meeting is on June 12, 2020. Joining information will be posted on the WLA website and included in the next e-blast.
- Z also informed the board that the Westchester One Read committee is encouraging events and participation for the One Read books.

Support Staff Section:

- No report.

Academic & Special Libraries Section:

- No report.

Professional Development Committee:

- Martha noted that we should consider offering some professional development related to unemployment and how libraries can help
- Kim developed a shared document of support resources with information related to reopening during the pandemic. The intention is to upload this to the WLA website.
- There are currently no applicants for the professional development awards.

BOCES

- No report.

Legislation Committee:

- Kathy Palovick has been following the governor's updates.

- Kathy will be reaching out to legislators to see if someone can attend our annual meeting on June 12.
- Kathy noted that there is mental health support available through NY State via a hotline staffed by mental health professional volunteers.

Public Relations Committee:

- No Report.

Website Committee:

- Dan reported that WLA now has a new email account that we will use to upload WLA programs and events videos to YouTube.

Membership Committee:

- Nothing to report.

Newsletter/Outreach Committee:

- The newsletter went out and included the WLA Board ballot and annual meeting information.

Exhibits Committee:

- No Report.

New Business:

- Elaine thanked the board for their commitment over the past year and asked that if any board member cannot continue in their position for the following year, that they notify Elaine and Jayne as soon as possible.
- Elaine opened the floor to comments and discussion about reopening.
 - Anthony noted that WCC had purchased some safety equipment for their service points and cleaning and offered to share the purchase information.
 - Catherine noted that the County Center is now doing antibody testing in addition to COVID-19 testing.
- On Tuesday, June 9, via email, Catherine Riedel made a motion to approve that the \$1,000 in sponsor funds, received for the 2020 business meeting to be held virtually, be allocated to pay for support programs over the summer. Martha Iwan seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- On Wednesday, June 10, via email, Diana Lennon made a motion to approve using SLA funds for a third professional development award, in addition to our 2 regular \$500 WLA awards. Kathy Polovick seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Robbins

Upcoming Meetings:

June 12: Remote via Zoom