

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting- Special Meeting
Friday, September 3rd, 2021 at 2 pm
Zoom

Present:

Megan Fenton, Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Christa O'Sullivan, Kathy Palovick, Elaine Provenzano, Allison Robbins, Kim Stucko, Melissa Victoria

Excused:

Joy Alter, Z Baird, Kathy Beirne, Mayra Cabrera, Oz Coto-Chang, Lisa Dettling, Kathryn Feeley, Eleanor Friedman, Dan Glauber, Maxine Grandison, Krishna Horrigan, Dana Hysell-Alongi, Martha Iwan, Terry Kirchner, Diana Lennon, Joseph Mannozi, Susanne Markgren, Renee Rauch, Catherine Riedel, Joanna Rooney, Anthony Reda, Tracey Wong

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm

New Business:

1. Should WLA halt the process of becoming a NYLA Roundtable?

- The meeting began with a discussion on whether there were enough board members present at the meeting to constitute a quorum so that a vote could be taken on any motions put forth.
- Diana Lennon provided her vote via e-mail but Kim was not sure if the by-laws allowed for an electronic vote prior to a discussion of the motion.
- After consulting the WLA website and calculating that we have 24 active board members, we determined that the 8 people present constituted a quorum and we could proceed to discussion.
- Kim opened up the discussion on whether to stop the process of becoming a NYLA Roundtable, which was approved by NYLA Council in May 2021. There is no financial or contractual obligation to proceed.
- Elaine read aloud the statement the Executive Officers wrote explaining the reasons why we felt that we should not proceed in becoming a NYLA Roundtable in light of the events that occurred during the August 5th and August 12th NYLA Council meetings that led to the resignations of the NYLA Executive Director, Jeremy Johannsen and 4 Executive Officers of the NYLA Council.
- Allison explained the financial concerns of joining NYLA, particularly how our WLA funds will go into the general NYLA funds and would not be kept separately.
- There were concerns that we do not have a written contract and that all we have is a verbal agreement with the former Executive Director.
- Melissa pointed out that choosing to halt the process of becoming a NYLA roundtable is not an indication that WLA does not support NYLA. Rather it is not in WLA's best interest to become a roundtable in the middle of this period of major changes and transition within the NYLA organization.
- Allison makes the motion for the following resolution: " WLA will stop the process to become a NYLA roundtable that began in May 2021. The motion is seconded by Elaine
- The motion is approved unanimously.
- Elaine reminded everyone to be kind to ourselves as we work toward moving forward as our own organization and that we should wait until we are absolutely sure before we revisit the idea of becoming a NYLA roundtable in the future.

- Allison explained that \$100 was already sent to NYLA to test out the wire transfer process. She makes a motion to make that \$100 a donation to NYLA. Giovanna seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

2. Approval of up to \$300 towards attending a Board Development Seminar

- Kim asked for approval for two executive officers and two board members to attend a board development seminar given by Pro Bono Partnership. Each registration would be \$30.
- Giovanna noted that the standard practice is for the individual to pay for the professional development and then the individual submits a request for reimbursement.
- Allison recommended that we should review the previous board minutes that discussed the professional development expense approval.
- There was discussion as to whether the seminar would be more appropriate for members of the executive board, Giovanna recalls that approval was on a case by case basis for professional development for the extended board and that reimbursement for professional development should be related to their committee assignments.
- Kim is hoping to encourage the extended board members' interest in an officer position in the future by offering them the opportunity to participate in the board development seminar.
- Elaine emphasized protocol and that new ideas should be brought up to the board first.
- Giovanna suggested that the information from the seminar could be shared by the executive board to the extended board members who are interested.
- Allison recommended at the next meeting to approve the 4 individuals to attend the training.

3. Confirmation of the date and time of monthly board meetings

- Allison stated the importance of a standing meeting day for Executive board meetings.
- It was decided that the next full board meeting would be on September 15th (the 3rd Wednesday of the month) however moving forward the board will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- Elaine explained the past process of the meeting dates and that the set dates for the board meetings should be sent to Dan.

4. Resignation of Catherine Riedel as Co-chair of the Archive Committee

- The motion to accept was made by Allison and Elaine seconded. The resignation was accepted unanimously.
- Elaine expressed her gratitude for all the contributions Catherine has made to WLA in her years with the organization.

A motion to adjourn was made by Allison; Giovanna seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Victoria

Upcoming Meetings:

September 15th at 9:30am on Zoom

October 13th at 9:30am on Zoom