

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 13th, 2021
Zoom

Present:

Mayra Cabrera, Virginia Dunnigan, Kathryn Feeley, Megan Fenton, Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Krishna Horrigan, Dana Hysell-Alongi, Martha Iwan, Diana Lennon, Christa O'Sullivan, Kathy Palovick, Lynn Parliman, Elaine Provenzano, Renee Rauch, Anthony Reda, Allison Robbins, Kim Stucko, Melissa Victoria

Excused: Joy Alter, Lisa Dettling, Joanna Rooney

Absent: Z Baird, Kathy Beirne, Oz Coto-Chang, Eleanor Friedman, Daniel Glauber, Maxine Grandison, Terry Kirchner, Joseph Mannozi, Tracey Wong

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am. Allison Robbins made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 15th meeting with one revision to correct the name of the newly purchased software to "MoneyMinder"; Elaine Provenzano seconded. The motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

WALDO:

- Two new board members were introduced, Virginia Dunnigan and Lynn Parliman, who are replacing Susanne Markgren as the board's WALDO representatives.

Treasurer's Report:

- Two budget reports were emailed to the board- one detailed and one concise. These two versions will be sent out before board meetings from this point forward.
- The President and Treasurer are currently working on the upcoming budget along with the Executive board. It will be brought up for approval at the next board meeting.

Newsletter Committee:

- Any pictures or screenshots of past WLA events should be sent to the committee asap.
- The upcoming newsletter will include a recap of the 2021 annual conference.
- The newsletter may be able to go out next week but may be delayed to later in the month.

President's Report:

- A formal announcement to all members regarding the board's decision to not become a NYLA Roundtable needs to be sent out. It was decided that an e-blast would go out rather than via the newsletter since the newsletter will not go out until the end of the month. The Secretary will provide the Public Relations committee with the board's statement to be sent out via email.
- The next Bylaws meeting is scheduled for October 21st at 11 am and the board will be updated at the next meeting on the progress.
- A suggestion was made to put a call out to the membership to see if members would be able to provide translations of "Libraries Embrace Change" in other languages, in addition to Spanish.
- It was suggested that we continue to use the theme of "Librarians Embrace Change" as we are still in the middle of a pandemic. A brief discussion as to whether this would be the conference theme and/or a part of WLA branding (a permanent tagline) followed. It was suggested that a tagline should be separate from the conference theme.

Mid-Winter Conference:

- Ossining Public Library could potentially host our Mid-Winter conference if we choose to have it in person and are holding the date and time. However, a virtual backup plan may be necessary if we get a high number of registrations.
- The format will remain the same as last year with one speaker.
- The committee is meeting tomorrow (10/14) with Rory Mir of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, as a potential speaker and to discuss possible topics for the conference.
- The committee is still finalizing the theme for the conference

Reference Section:

- Pat Wagner of Patternworks was recommended as a potential speaker. Possibly as a professional development program or as a standalone program sponsored by the Reference section.

Youth Services Section:

- Representatives are not present.

Support Staff Section:

- Representatives are not present.

Academic and Special Libraries Committee:

- Looking into hiring a colleague, Don Simmons, Jr. as a potential speaker on “critical librarianship” who has presented this topic to SUNY Law and WALDO
- The presentation could be incorporated into the conference or as a standalone program

Professional Development Committee:

- Has reached out to photographers for the “Photo Headshot Day” program but was disappointed in the responses. Only Christopher Pope responded and his fee would be \$1600 for 5-6 hours, with ownership of the photos.
- A co-sponsor would be needed who could split the cost. WLS was mentioned or perhaps a larger library. Plan to reach out to Terry at WLS.
- The program would occur on one day, perhaps a Saturday or an evening with a discount provided to WLA members. Concern that target date of February was too far and November would be preferable.
- Ocean Morrisset, a photographer in Peekskill was mentioned as a possibility for the program. She has photographed the staff at the Field Library and city officials.

Legislation Committee:

- Nothing to report. Currently attending budget forums to keep up to date on legislation and where the need is for library advocacy.

Public Relations Committee:

- Representatives not present.

Website Committee:

- Representative not present. The website has been updated.

Membership Committee:

- Representatives not present.

Archives Committee

- In possession of a box of archive materials and the committee will work on creating an outline of the next steps.
- Anyone who has older documents from WLA should reach out to the committee.

Outreach Committee:

- Nothing to report.
- Trying to get sponsorships for the Mid-winter conference, which has not been done in the past since expenses may be higher this year
- Need suggestions of potential new sponsors and vendors.

BOCES:

- Representatives were not present. Need to reach out to representatives to see if there has been a change regarding who will be the board representatives.

New Business:

- People have been registering for our next Meet & Unwind on Sunday, October 24th at Boscobel from 11 am to 4 pm. The board was asked to share any upcoming library programs that could be potential WLA Meet and Greets. Harrison has an in-person program and Mount Kisco has a virtual program that were mentioned as possibilities.
- In 2022, WLA will celebrate its 85th anniversary. A suggestion was made to plan something during the annual conference to recognize this achievement. Perhaps a historical perspective?
- The question was raised as to whether we want Legislators to attend the mid-winter conference. Although not done in the past, may be beneficial if there is upcoming library legislation. The conference also precedes Library Advocacy Day and may provide good publicity. May depend on whether the conference is in person or virtual as the government likely be in session at the time.
- The Workers Writers School was recommended for a poet/spoken word opening conference act. WLS hosted an event with them and a recording is available.
- A reminder was made regarding outreach with PLDA. The President and Vice President would typically address them at their November meeting, which is scheduled for November 18th. Andrew Farber, the Chappaqua Library Director is the current PLDA President and can be contacted to make arrangements.
- Future meetings are scheduled for November 10th and December 8th at 9:30 (the 2nd Wednesdays of the month). The question was raised as to whether to continue meeting on Zoom for the December and January meetings or to offer a hybrid format. Possible locations mentioned include WLS, Scarsdale Library, Croton Free Library, and Mount Kisco Library, which has a large meeting room available. The importance of having the technology available to allow for participants to Zoom in was mentioned. It was noted that the January board meeting (scheduled for January 12th) is typically a working meeting if the mid-winter conference is in person. Mount Kisco Library offered to host this working meeting if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Victoria

Next Board Meeting:

Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 on Zoom at 9:30am