

# WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, December 13, 2024

Remote Meeting on Zoom – 1:30 pm

**Present:** Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Martha Iwan, Terry Kirchner, Kathy Palovick, Renee Rauch, and Gillian Rothchild

**Not Present:** Krishna Brodigan, Mayra Cabrera, Jen Cannell, Lisa Dettling, Daniel Frett, Dan Glauber, Joseph Mannozi, Deborah Nelson, Anthony Reda, and Miriam Saphra

The meeting was called to order at 1:43 pm.

A motion to approve the November 2024 meeting minutes was made by Gillian Rothchild and seconded by Renee Rauch.

### **President's Report**

- Gillian Rothchild suggested the extension of board terms from 1 year to 2 years.
  - Terry Kirchner agrees this is a good idea and could help fill open positions.
  - Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace noted that longer terms might deter members from taking a leadership role since their supervisors may not support the 2-year term.
- Renee Rauch has offered to fulfill the role of Vice President this year (2024-2025) as the role has been open for a while.
- Gillian would like to use Discord for the board and committee members to communicate. WLA has a page to which we can subscribe. It's similar to a WhatsApp community feature for networking.
  - Martha Iwan inquired about the benefits of Discord.
- A Mid-Winter Conference is being planned for February 2025 and will be held at the Ossining Public Library. James Trapasso at OPL has reserved the auditorium for this event.
  - Terry offered to send out emails on the behalf of WLA to help spread the word.
  - Gillian sent an email to the PLDA members with details about the conference and inviting the directors to participate.
  - Nate Hill, the executive director of Metro Council, will be the keynote speaker.
  - The previous plan to invite Rebecca Aldridge of Mid Hudson Library Systems has been tabled and will be revisited for another program.
  - Martha Iwan inquired about including a discussion on Civil Service as part of the conference.
    - It was decided to present that topic as a separate event.
- Gillian is planning on site visits to the WLS public libraries.
- The WLA Committees and Sections are being revisited and solidified for greater efficiency.
- Dan Glauber has requested website templates or examples to assist with the upgrade of WLA's website.
- Gillian suggested a Meet and Greet Happy Hour at a Westchester bar.
  - Giovanna noted the day of the week is key, as is the location, and parking.
  - Terry offered WLS headquarters in Elmsford, NY, as a meeting place since it is conveniently located. He recommended selecting a theme, such as a game night. Last summer, WLS participated in a Family Feud event with other teams that was popular. This could be arranged for next year.
    - One idea is to meet at the end of January on Thursday, January 30. from 6 to 8 pm. Attendees can bring their favorite book to discuss.

- It was decided to host an Unplugged: Gaming Night on Thursday, January 30, from 6 to 8 pm at WLS Headquarters.
  - Giovanna will create a flyer for distribution.

#### **Vice President Report - Renee Rauch**

- Renee Rauch has stepped in as vice president, a role she is very familiar with as a former WLA vice president and president.

#### **Treasurer's Report - Krishna Brodigan**

No report

#### **Section/Committee Updates**

##### **Youth Services – Lisa Dettling**

No report

##### **Academic & Special Libraries - Mayra Cabrera / Anthony Reda**

No report

##### **Archives - Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace / Elaine Provenzano**

- Giovanna heard back from Patrick Rafferty about sending WLA board meeting minutes to the Westchester County Archives. They are happy to receive them and suggested we submit a Deed of Gift for the material. This will need to be drafted along with a description of the documents sent to the archives.
- Gillian mentioned this would be a good digitization project for a library masters student to work on for WLA. Giovanna suggested the student could be a liaison for WLA as well as help to promote the organization and our events.

##### **Professional Development – Deborah Nelson / Daniel Frett**

No report

##### **BOCES - Joe Mannozi**

No Report

##### **Legislation Committee – Kathy Palovick**

- Kathy Palovick has agreed to resume her role as committee chair for the Legislation Committee.
- Library Advocacy Day is coming up on Wednesday, February 5.

##### **Website - Dan Glauber**

No report

##### **Membership - Krishna Brodigan**

- Gillian, Renee, and Krishna are working on the Membership Committee and plan to send out a call for membership and renewals as soon as possible

- Terry suggested sending a reminder to directors or organizational memberships. Elaine Provenzano can draft a short newsletter with the links to our membership page on WLA's website.

#### **Newsletter – Elaine Provenzano / Miriam Saphra**

No report

- Miriam Saphra joined the Zoom meeting to say hello with baby Solomon and to thank WLA for the baby gift.

#### **Vendors/Conference - Martha Iwan**

No report

#### **New Business**

- Terry suggested asking Metro to sponsor a WLA event, such as the upcoming conference to help cover expenses, such as breakfast.
  - WLS will contribute \$500 and encourage Metro to do the same.
- Martha will contact Beth Bermel about arranging a talk about Civil Services for Library Staff and can coordinate the event with Deborah Nelson and Daniel Frett.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace

**Upcoming Board Meetings: Friday, January 10, at 1:30 pm on Zoom**