

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, September 20, 2024

Remote Meeting on Zoom – 1:30 pm

Present: Krishna Brodigan, Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace, Lisa Fitzmaurice, Daniel Frett, Dan Glauber, Martha Iwan, Terry Kirchner, Deborah Nelson, Elaine Provenzano, Renee Rauch, Anthony Reda, and Gillian Rothchild

The meeting was called to order at 1:39 pm.

A motion to approve the June 2024 meeting minutes was made by Renee Rauch and seconded by Krishna Brodigan.

President's Report

- Gillian Rothchild opened the meeting by thanking everyone who completed the WLA survey and explaining the importance of establishing clarity on what WLA would like to achieve this year.
- Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace mentioned that some of the current committees can be consolidated, such as Events Planning and Professional Development Committees overlap.
- Elaine mentioned having a spreadsheet with ideas for programs with the goal being 4 professional development workshop per year – 2 in the fall and 2 in the spring
 - The program spreadsheet was used in the past and very successful to keep track of possible events
 - Committees should be meeting regularly aside from the monthly board meetings to strategize
 - Elaine can send an eblast to everyone
 - Gillian suggests offering more hybrid events so members can attend virtually or watch the recording later
 - Elaine suggested sending information about upcoming programs to the people who registered for the Disabilities workshop in september
 - Giovanna can forward information to St. John's University and Gillian will send to LIS students
- Thanks go to Dan Glauber and Krishna Brodigan for dealing with the WLS website's malware issues
 - Dan noted that there is still a malware issue and we either pay \$200 to fix the problem or rebuild the website on a new platform, such as SpringShare or LibGuide
 - Krishna explained the WLA website was infected with malware and that WLS IT recommended a new site and that the site needs to be updated in any case.
 - Elaine has worked with LibGuide at Manhattanville College and recommends it, and Krishna noted the Greenburgh Library uses LibGuide for its homepage, as does the Ramapo Catskill Library.
 - Giovanna inquired if a college or graduate student at Manhattanville would be willing to help WLA create the new website.

- Elaine noted that we will need to manage and build the website. Tuckahoe Library had LibCal when it was free. One other option is SquareSpace for \$300 annually.
- Martha agreed we need a new and functional website to keep membership current.
- Krishna has been registering participants on the WLS calendar.
- Dan agreed WLA should move on from WordPress to a website that integrates with the calendar more readily. He will inquire about the process of creating a new website, which may not be straightforward due to the malware situation.
 - We may need to recreate content.
- Giovanna asked if membership is affected on the website since we can't update information.
 - Membership fees cannot be updated
 - The form is on the website but the PayPal button is not working
- Gillian suggested creating an interim set up that the board can moderate
- WLA's Facebook is active, but we could consider Instagram and LinkedIn to post updates
- Elaine emphasized the importance of the website and that it would be best to start from scratch
- Dan receives a permissions error when trying to update anything on the website. The malicious code keeps regenerating.
- Elaine suggested Square Space (\$330 per year), which is used by Manhattanville and the Tuckahoe Historical Society.
- SpringShare is another option, but it is inconsistent.
- Dan wants to make certain the website integrates well with the calendar.
 - He does not have the WLA credit card details to pay to have the website fixed.
- Martha Iwan will ask the Mount Kisco Public Library what they are using for their new website.
- Giovanna asked if we should spend the \$200 to fix the current website and then migrate the content. Martha also agreed with this approach.
- Krishna also suggested a cleanse of the malicious code and conducting a security audit. He will check with the WLS IT team for recommendations.
- Gillian suggested creating a QR code to take members to the new website page.
- For the June Business Meeting and Annual Conference, Gillian suggested the theme of Alternative or Creative Career Path, including prison libraries, private collections, academic, and public libraries.
 - Krishna suggested Corrina Leone as a possible speaker.
 - Another idea is to invite directors to speak from an administrative point of view on how decisions are made and the process for allocating resources.
- Gilian would like to expand WLA's outreach efforts.
 - Giovanna suggested having a WLA representative at upcoming events, such as the Battle of the Books. Krishna recommended attending school library conferences. Martha enjoyed visiting food pantries with Krishna.
- Deborah Nelson mentioned bringing in non-librarian professionals who work in libraries, such as circulation staff.
- Giovanna noted a segment on Civil Service would be interesting.

- Terry Kirchner suggested talking with Beth Bermel, the director of the Scarsdale Public Library, to discuss Civil Service and the progress the committee has made.
- Krishna is thinking about the structure of library systems from the state down in New York – Resource councils and Metro Library Council. Where does Westchester County fit within the larger realm in NY?
 - Elaine suggested including a blurb about the various organizations in the WLA newsletter and noting that in addition to professional development options, we have access to other groups through WLS, such as Non-Profit Westchester.
- Gillian brought up future Meet and Greet hosts and getting more libraries involved in hosting a gathering. A Behind-the-Scenes tour of different libraries might be interesting.
 - Anthony Reda can ask Wanda McDermott about a tour of the WCC library and the Lady Bird Johnson Native Plants Garden
 - Krishna suggested the Supreme Court Library in White Plains
 - Terry can recommend some possible sponsors for future events.
- Elaine would like us to consider holding the June conference at WCC.
 - Anthony noted the point person for rentals, Alexandra, is booking events months in advance.
- The proposed date for the spring conference is Friday, June 6, 2025.
 - Elaine will share the 2020 Conference Budget. That year the conference was held at WCC.

Vice President Report - Open Position

Treasurer's Report

- Krishna reported that there have not been any expenses or income since our last meeting.
- At the moment, the Membership Committee consists of Krishna, Gillian, and Renee Rauch.
- A new website will help with recruitment of new members.
- Gillian will draft an email to the Public Library Director's Association (PLDA) to invite libraries to renew their organizational membership. Terry noted the next PLDA meeting will be held on October 17 at 9:30 am.

Section/Committee Updates

Youth Services – Lisa Dettling

- Lisa will inquire with this year's Battle of the Books (BOB) committee as to whether they will be requesting sponsorship this year.
 - Terry Kirchner suggested we provide custom bookmarks to the participants this year.
 - Gillian suggested having a WLA table to inform librarians about what we can offer in terms of professional development and continuing education credits.

Academic & Special Libraries - Mayra Cabrera / Anthony Reda

- Anthony Reda reported on some events happening at WCC, such as the Classic Car Show on October 6, and a soccer game for Hispanic Heritage Month. WCC is looking to hire two librarians now and has a third line in mind for next year. Enrollment is up 30%.

Archives - Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace / Elaine Provenzano

- Giovanna will contact Barbara Davis about sending WLA board meeting minutes to the Westchester County Archives

Professional Development – Deborah Nelson / Daniel Frett

- The workshop on Developmental Difference and Inclusion will be held at WLS on Friday, September 27, at 9 :30 am, and the Professional Head Shots will take place on Friday, October 18, from 3 to 7 pm, also at WLS. The Banned Together film screening is scheduled for November 15 at the Harrison Library.
- Deborah, Daniel and Krishna plan to meet soon. A Meet & Greet was suggested for November 7, but this date coincides with this year's NYLA conference.

BOCES - Joe Mannozi

No Report

Legislation Committee – Dana Hysell

No Report

Website - Dan Glauber

- Covered in the President's Report.

Membership - Krishna Brodigan

- Covered in the President's Report

Newsletter – Elaine Provenzano / Miriam Saphra

- Elaine reported that Miriam had a baby boy on September 18, named Solomon. Giovanna will be sending a gift on behalf of WLA. Anyone who wishes to contribute can contact her directly.
- Gillian would like to introduce a blog on librarianship and publications. The blog could also highlight related topics and send out a request for submissions.
 - Giovanna suggested including quotes from the recipients of WLA's Professional Development Award.
 - Elaine noted there should be a President's introductory message at the beginning of the fall newsletter edition.
- Terry suggested including new staff and promotions in the newsletter. There is a new director at WCC and New Rochelle Public Library.

Vendors/Conference - Martha Iwan

No report

Youth Services - Lisa Fitzmaurice

- Lisa reported that no one on the BOB committee has asked for support this year, but she will keep us posted.
- Gillian inquired about having a table at BOB. Lisa will ask.
- Terry mentioned that WLS is offering a workshop on careers in libraries.

New Business

- Congratulations to Renee for her new position as the Head of Children's Services at Somers Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace

Upcoming Board Meetings: Friday, November 22 @ 1:30 pm (rescheduled from November 15, 2024)