Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

February 16, 2017

Sunderland Public Library

Meeting began at 9:36 am.

Members present: Lynn Coakley, Dan Paquette, Mary Anne Antonellis, Mike Moran, Nora Blake, Katherine Hand, Deb Kern and Eliza Langhans

Minutes January 19th. Mike made a motion to accept the minutes with Nora’s last name added and one typo corrected. Dan seconded, passed unanimously.

December minutes – submitted by Joe. Lynn will add names of people who attended the December 15th meeting in Northampton to December minutes. Nora moved to accept and Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s report

Previous balance $9,280.12

Memberships deposited - $1,990

Bus fee deposited -$20.00

Total deposit $2,010

Expenditures are listed on the google doc.

Current balance $10, 650.96

This does not include memberships and bus deposits received today.

We are still waiting to hear from three libraries who might require reimbursements for breakfasts.

Dan moved to accept the treasurer report, Katherine seconded. Motion passed.

Reports about breakfasts

Easthampton breakfast – good turnout with 43 people. Great participation with legislators too.

Berkshire – good attendance with 60+ attendees. Good attendance with legislators too. A child demonstrated a 3D printer.

Wilbraham – 25 people – Representative Angelo Puppolo attended.

Mike also attended a breakfast in Barre – Ann Gobi is the Senator. She attended and Steve Brewer, former Senator attended. A ten year old boy talked about what the library means to him. He was the star.

West Springfield – 25 people

We might think about doing one big breakfast in each county instead. Or maybe Wilbraham and West Springfield could be combined. The breakfast used to be at Umass. Maybe it could be there during the January term. Nora will contact a staff person at the DuBois Library to see if they are interested in hosting a large breakfast.

Personal invitations to the breakfasts is effective way to encourage people to attend. We should make greater efforts to include representatives from academic libraries in advocacy efforts.

Library Legislative Day

Setting up meetings with Reps.

Nora will ask Mary Kronholm to contact Senator Hinds.

Katherine will contact Kulik.

Lynn will contact Welch.

Mike will try to set something up with Todd Smola. He is the ranking member of Ways and Means.

Eliza will create a save the date flyer for Library Legislative Day and send them to each of us.

Deb will send the flyer to the representatives and the senators. Lynn will look up the addresses and send them to her. Katherine has extra stamps left over from the membership meeting.

Dan will set up the meeting with Humason but he cannot attend.

Books for prizes for bus riders

Mike has connected with Suzanne Strempek Shea, she and Tommy will contribute books.

David Durham, Roland Merullo, Paul DuBois Jacobs and Jennifer Swender have contributed books.

New Business – Mike participated in a grass roots advocacy group organized by Greg Pronevitz. Matt Berube was the other Western Mass library staff person who participated.

Mike will email notes from the brainstorming session.

Membership

55 memberships have been received so far.

Margo Malikowski is interested in joining the board. Katherine will invite the new director from Whately to join WMLA and join us on the bus.

There is also a new director in Longmeadow.

Governor’s Budget includes a one percent increase in each library budget line.

This is a symbolic gesture in support of libraries. We should thank the Governor and ask him to do more. Out costs have gone up more than one percent.

Joe and Betty administer the WMLA Facebook page.

Spring Meeting

Maybe we could have a program about Fake News. Either a journalism professor, or a newspaper editor, or a radio person.

Lynn will contact Chicopee to see if they can host the Spring meeting during the last week of April.

If Chicopee is not available Lynn will contact Lee and Pittsfield.

Dan made a motion to approve $500 for Matthew Dicks, Katherine seconded. Passed unanimously. His talk will be about storytelling and advocacy and we will book him for our fall meeting.

Mary Anne and Katherine will recruit a panel of journalists and educators.

Scholarships

John and Eric are on board to administer the scholarships. Deb will promote it once MLA opens the registration.

National Library Legislative Day.

Mary Anne makes a motion to fund a scholarship of up to $1,000 to attend National Library legislative day. Dan seconded. Passed unanimously. Katherine will attend.

Next meeting, March 16th 10 am in Lee.

Hatfield will host in May.

Nora made a motion to adjourn, Dan seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40