Western Mass Library Advocates

Westfield Athenaeum

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Minutes

Members present: Joe Rodio, Dan Paquette, Katherine Hand, John Ramsay, Jan Resnick, Mary Anne Antonellis, Betty Johnson, Deb Kern, Eliza Langhans

Mary Kronholm also attended

Meeting called to order at 9:30 am.

Minutes from April meeting submitted by Betty and John, Dan moved to accept the minutes, Jan seconded, minutes accepted.

Nominating.

Jan, John, Eric, Mary Anne, Eliza, Sue and Betty’s terms will expire in October. If elected Vice President/President Elect you are automatically appointed to a new three year term when you begin as President. Board members are limited to two terms. Members can return to the board after one year’s absence.

Damon Vorce, new Lee Director will join the board.

Nora Blake – new Director in Easthampton will join the board also.

Mary Anne nominated Betty as Vice President/President elect. Jan seconded. Motion passed unanimously – effective immediately.

Mary Kronholm will join the board in October. Jan will be MBLC liason. Deb will be treasurer.

Continuing board members Katherine two more years, Eliza, new three year, Dan, new three year, Nora, first three years, Deb, one more year, expires 2017, Mary Anne, new three years, Damon first three years, Betty – two more years as President and past president, Joe will be past president.

Katherine – 2018

Eliza 2019

Joe – 2017

Dan – 2019

Deb – 2017

Mary Anne – 2019

Mary Kronholm – 2019

Nora 2019

It would be good to recruit an academic librarian and someone from a large library.

Treasurer and membership report.

Balance 9027.12

Membership 390 in new memberships.

Jan made a motion to accept the treasurer report, Betty seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

Advocacy

FY 17 State Budget

Center for the book not approved, administrative line was not approved, already in deficit.

Marlene Heroux and Bill Morton are retiring.

Ruth Urell is Cindy Roach’s replacement.

We are still waiting for word on State Aid and technology from the Senate Budget

Summer reading incentives

Jan has started processing requests.

Deb is going to put together a print and digital calendar of work we do over the year to ensure tasks are completed on time as the membership of the board changes.

July meeting will be in Sunderland – third Thursday, July 21st.

MLS West offices- Northampton

Staff will be moved in prior to July. They are just waiting for telecommunications to be hooked up.

Meeting room will be available in the fall.

October meeting – October 20th in West Springfield

Program on Social Media

Betty went to MLA for the first time thanks to a WMLA scholarship.

MLA was well attended.

It was a positive conference.

Jan attended a new director social. There were 10 -15 new directors. Jan passed out a hseet with a liust of things WMLA does, contact info and membership forms.

MLS has created a poster about WMLA to display at meetings and conferences.

Eliza continues to work on the membership brochure.

MBLC reports, retirements previously mentioned and Ruth Urell joining board, Board is concerned about the budget and how to run agency in deficit. In a lease for the offices which is arranged by the state – expensive location. Jan is on the strategic planning committee. They will offer a stake holder leadership summit in South Hadley on October 12th. These will be the folks who receive state funding for libraries. Talking Book, BPL, MLS, Networks, Center for the Book. The goal is to have these stake holders incorporate state-wide goals in to their strategic plans.

June 21st at 1 pm at Holyoke Public Library – hearing about proposed state aid changes.

Newsbank revoked their contract with BPL.

The Western Mass deal with Newsbank is separate.

Newbank will no longer be available through the BPL ecard.

The new director at UMass is coming from British Columbia this summer.

The Duration by Dave Fromm, a book from a western mass author provided by Adams media. Two books gifted to board given to Sunderland and Blandford.

New Business

Deb asked if MLS will have an open house and if WMLA should be involved.

Joe suggested we just ask to book the meeting room and have a WMLA social there.

Is there a way to make the WMRLS list serve more known and available to new people at libraries in western mass.

Katherine suggested we send an announcement about it to all regions.

We could send a print notice about it to new directors.

MLS open house at new office July 12th – tentative.

Next meeting - July, not meeting in June. Sunderland.

The MBLC is trying to get 10 people from each community to contact legislators about library issues.

How do we focus attention on the need for state funding for libraries?

Joe says we are doing such a good job with less that the state doesn’t see the need to give us more money since we seem to be able to do it all.

There is no vision of where statewide services could be and how we could got there.

Mary Anne and Eliza will be in touch to get minutes up to date on the website.

Betty motioned to adjourn, Kathrine seconded, motion passed. 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Antonellis, WMLA Clerk