Western Mass Library Advocates

September 21, 2017 DRAFT

Griswold Memorial Library, Colrain

Members present: Jan Resnick, Mary Kronholm, Betty Johnson, Deb Kern, Dan Paquette, Mary Anne Antonellis, Joe Rodio, Lynn Coakley, Mike Moran

Absent: Katherine Hand, Damon Vorce, Eliza Langhans, Nora Blake

Minutes: Tabled until next meeting

Treasurer’s report

$8,756.94 balance

One new membership since last meeting.

MBLC update

Mary is now serving on the MBLC executive committee.

Some MBLC staff salaries must be shifted to the line items in order to address the budget deficit.

Mary and Jan are trying to set up a meeting with Mike Knapic to talk about setting up a visit with the  Governor to discuss state support for libraries. Mary and Jan will invite Mike to the annual meeting next month.

James Lonergan sent out an email to Commissioners about doing a survey on the budget line items.

The Mass Center for the Book has not been included in the budget override so far. Staff has been laid off.

Mary went to MMA meeting in Stockbridge and reminded the legislators that libraries are a core service in the communities and need the fund.

There is another MMA 9/22 in Northampton.

We need to make the importance of libraries known to MMA so they will include libraries in their advocacy efforts.

Annual Meeting

Mary Anne made a motion to approve spending up to $150 on food for the annual meeting.

Deb seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Outside groups will not be invited to speak at the WMLA annual meeting. We may find a way to coordinate a future event to connect libraries to other public service organizations.

We could talk about common services, common goals, and common challenges.

This would be a great topic at our spring breakfast.

We can make a survey form of some kind that asks what topics folks would like to see discussed at the next meeting.

Joe has the minutes from last year.

Eliza has membership forms, the address needs to be corrected.

Lynn will coordinate getting membership forms to the meeting and will ask Eliza to make a flyer to advertise the membership forms on a table at the meeting.

We will ask Katherine to introduce the speaker.

Jan will make a sign-up sheet.

Joe will make a handout of the minutes, agenda, slate of officers and treasurer’s report.

WMLA website will be on the agenda for November meeting.

Old/New business

There is an online debate about summer reading incentives and maybe we should discuss it, since we are the group that provides the incentives.

Should the summer reading prize requests go directly to the coordinator of the program or should they go continue to go to the box?

Are there ways to make the system simpler?

Maybe we could just ask people to email us and not send envelopes. This could be on a future agenda.

Dan reports that Damon has a regular conflict on Thursdays. Damon has asked if he should resign. Discussion about changing the day? Discussion about finding a way for Damon to participation outside meetings? Are Damon’s meeting every week? Katherine also runs into this problem from time to time.

Greg Pronevitz sent Betty a note about WMLA’s concerns about MLS services that were shared with Jim Lonergan.

Discussion about dissatisfaction with MHEC. WMRLS saw their role as an ombudsman for their members.

MLS is payed a percentage of library MHEC sales - $60 thousand annually.

Discussion about Mass Center for the Book

Becky Plimpton is going to replace Betty on the MLS executive board.

It would be good if the MBLC could take a leadership role in discovering the reasons behind the dissatisfaction with MLS.

There is an increase in the number of phone calls to the MBLC.

We will reach out to others for specific examples.

Can we gather info together before the November meeting? Perhaps it would be better for us to meet one more time to go over out notes before meeting with Greg.

We will schedule and extra meeting, Nov. 9th at Sunderland.

Regular November 16th at MLS. Jan will check to see if the room is open.

Discussion about SLIN grant and C/W MARS assessment billing.

Discussion about anonymization in Evergreen.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.