Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

December 14, 2017

Hatfield Public Library

Minutes – DRAFT

Members presents: Deb Kern, Mike Moran, Mary Anne Antonellis, Mary Kronholm, Katherine Hand, Nora Blake, Lynn Coakley, Dan Paquette, Betty Johnson, Eliza Lanhans

Absent: Jan Resnick, Damon Vorce, Joe Rodio

Minutes: August accepted with some minor name spelling corrections, September accepted with minor corrections, and November were accepted as submitted. Katherine took minutes at the November 9th meeting which were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer report:

Balance: November $8,503.55

$1,495 memberships

C/WMARS gave $100 towards breakfasts

Checks for $21.70 meeting with Greg

Check for bus deposit $200

Balance - $9,876.85

Massachusetts Library System board meeting, Monday, December 11th

Betty and Joe attended.

Meeting went longer than usual.

Good discussion about how the MLS is not fulfilling the roles of the regions and they do understand that. Since our meeting with Greg and Sarah they have done a draft policy on how they will only schedule one visit per library for strategic planning. They are staying firm in their conviction that they can only provide one visit.

Mary asked if there was an MBLC board member at the meeting. Betty said Frank was there.

Patrick from Bourne mentioned that there are a lot of small libraries on the Cape and in South Eastern Mass and they are feeling the same way we are.

Project SET was discussed.

MLS seems to have a focus of creating a culture of “co-creators” instead of providing accessible services to members. If we are discouraged from reaching out to MLS will MLS become obsolete?

There was discussion about being more proactive about actually visiting member libraries and promoting services.

Discussion about email response from Greg.

How should we respond?

Lynn said she would follow up after today’s meeting.

After the meeting with Greg and Sarah, Mary felt as if there was some possibility of positive movement on MLS’ part. But it now seems as if there is nothing concrete that will come from the meeting. Perhaps we need to attend the next MLS meeting and MBLC board meeting.

Perhaps we should consider an annual meeting with MLS to continue the discussion.

Lynn will contact Becky about attending the Central Mass advocates meeting in January.

Legislative breakfast

Chicopee Comp school – greater Springfield area library legislative breakfast – Hummason, Lesser and Welch. February 2nd.

Lisa Downing is working on a breakfast in Senator Rosenberg’s district at the Forbes – mid to late January.

Joe will contact MLA with info about the breakfasts.

Lynn had an email from Alex in Pittsfield asking if we would send a representative to North Adams. Jan will go. Lynn will attend on behalf of WMLA. Dan will attend on behalf of C/W MARS. Dan will speak on behalf of WMLA.

Jan suggested taking photos of each Senator and making bookmarks and then gifting them to each Senator at Library legislative day.

Deb will send an email to the list serve to see if someone has the “READ” software.

Jan will contact Stan Rosenberg’s office about dates.

Legislative Day

MSLA pays for breakfast. MLA pays for lunch.

MSLA and MLS pay for the rental of the great hall.

Do we want to help pay for the costs. Is there something we could sponsor?

Dan made a motion that we pay up to $800 for the breakfast. Katherine seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Eliza will make an 11x17 poster for behind the table. Nora will get the posters printed and mounted on foam core.

Membership

42 membership renewals out of 177 letters that went out.

We need membership forms to take to the legislative breakfasts.

Eliza and Mary Anne are working on getting minutes up to date on the website.

Tim Spindler has planned a series of area director’s round tables.

1/24 – 10 am, Pittsfield and 2 pm in Stockbridge

1/25 Ludlow – 1 pm

1/30 – 10 am Sunderland

Joe will attend Ludlow.

Betty and Nora and Katherine and Deb will attend Sunderland.

We should encourage directors of libraries that are holding the C/WMARS events to invite their neighbors.

January meeting, third Thursday – 18th at Sunderland

February – 15th – we will ask MLS if we can use their meeting room. Betty will contact MLS.

March 15th - Westfield

April 19th – spring breakfast – Bluebonnet – Mary Anne will contact

May 17th – Bay Path

We need membership forms and bus forms for the breakfasts.

Mike asked if WMLA should send a letter to Governor Baker regarding the MBLC legislative agenda.

Members expressed concern about how the legislative agenda points out the “highs” compared to current funding.

Mike will draft a note on behalf of WMLA to the Governor.

Jan and Mary met with Mike Knapik on October 4th.

Deb wants to discuss delivery. Her driver works three days a week.

He only gets paid 21.5 hours and if he doesn’t finish in time he doesn’t get paid. He also doesn’t get paid to load and unload.

Deb will bring up to Greg tomorrow.

Eliza made some changes to the website so now the homepage is a Facebook feed.

Libby Post – Mary Anne will coordinate with Greenfield and invite Libby Post for our October meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29