

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2020

Present: Jan Resnick, Andrea Puglisi, Andrea Bernard, Mike Moran, Katherine Hand, Antonia Golinski-Foisy, Wendy Pearson, Mary Kronholm

Call to Order by Antonia Golinski-Foisy at 9:40

Minutes

WMLA Board Members reviewed the meeting minutes from January 23, 2020. Suggested corrections for typing errors were made and the board members voted to accept the amended minutes.

MLA Legislative Committee

Mike Moran reviewed the highlights of the most recent meeting of the MLA Legislative Committee. A table is available for WMLA at Library Legislative Day. WMLA needs a display and handouts. Katherine Hand will contact libraries who expressed interest in a new round of trading cards to let them know there will be no new trading cards this year. Katherine Hand will provide information about WMLA to the MBLC for the conference packets.

MLA Legislative Committee is providing a session at the MLA Conference on Monday, May 18, 2020 in the late afternoon. The MLA Legislative Committee is not sure if legislators will be available to participate.

MLA agreed that they will provide support at Library Legislative Day to any participants from regions having no other organizations to set up appointments with legislators. An MLA sub-committee has formed and is meeting weekly to monitor registration and survey responses. WMLA Board Members discussed the lack of a clear registration confirmation from the survey and the re-direction by Survey Monkey to a political survey.

WMLA Board Members agreed to contact senators and representatives to set up appointments prior to Library Legislative Day.

- Antonia Golinski-Foisy offered to contact Senator Welch and Representative Finn
- Katherine Hand offered to contact Representatives Blais, Comerford, and Sabadosa and Senator Hinds.
- Nora Blake previously offered to contact Representatives Carey and Velis
- Mike Moran offered to contact Representative Smola and Senator Gobi
- Wendy Pearson offered to contact Senator Lesser and Representative Pignatelli.
- Andrea Bernard offered to contact Representative Mark.

Katherine Hand reminded us to offer to provide a list of meeting attendees to the legislators one week in advance and to invite them to the conference lunch. The MSLA President, a Library Caucus Member, and the MLA President will speak briefly during the lunch.

Terry McQuown, MLS Consulting & Training Services Director to attend WMLA March Meeting

Terry McQuown is coordinating continuing education and supervising MLS consultants. The WMLA Board Members suggested discussing a continued outreach effort to small libraries and especially to new directors to provide information and education about services offered by the BPL and the MLS. WMLA Board Members need a better understanding of the current MLS outreach efforts. And, WMLA wants to coordinate with MLS to help with personal outreach to librarians. WMLA Board Members also want to discuss the current, everyday issues faced by small libraries such as isolation, safety, wellness, and cybersecurity. WMLA Board Members also want more information about the MLS decision making and planning process for continuing education workshops as well as scheduling. Finally, WMLA Board Members would appreciate learning more about Terry McQuown's vision for MLS continuing education and outreach.

Idea Share Breakfast

Katherine Hand will confirm the date and time of the Bluebonnet Diner reservation with Lisa Downing.

WMLA Board Members reviewed the agenda for the Idea Share Breakfast which includes a time to network and socialize during breakfast, a formal welcome of distinguished guests and opening remarks by Nora Blake, WMLA President, and the roundtable discussion activity for participants.

WMLA Board Members brainstormed potential discussion topics for the activity including:

- technology and privacy,
- safety, security, and privacy in the library (e.g. having an evacuation and an active shooter plan, balancing the use of security cameras with the need for patron privacy),
- creative community collaborations,
- creative library fundraising and marketing ideas,
- time management issues and solutions,
- most successful program, and
- a table to meet and talk informally with attending MLS and MBLC representatives.

Wendy Pearson offered to make a flyer.

New Business

Jan Resnick has begun reaching out to summer reading program sponsors. She has a standard letter that is sent to potential sponsors which she will share. WMLA Board Members brainstormed a list of new summer reading program sponsors.

- Wendy Pearson and Andrea Puglisi will reach out to Tanglewood, Jacob's Pillow, Mass MoCA, the Berkshire Museum, and Hancock Shaker Village.
- Katherine Hand will get in touch with the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, Amelia Park, and the Holyoke Children's Museum.
- Mike Moran will reach out to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra.
- CMLA contacted Jan Resnick for information about recruiting summer reading program sponsors and they will reach out to Worcester County venues.

Mary Kronholm reminded WMLA Board Members that there are upcoming vacancies on the MBLC and nominees need to be put forward for consideration. Katherine Hand knows a current trustee who is interested in becoming a commissioner and will coordinate with Mary Kronholm to provide more information to the trustee. Jan Resnick raised the need for more diverse representation on the MBLC.

The Joint Ways and Means Committee in meeting on Monday, March 3 at 11 AM at Berkshire Community College. Senator Adam Hinds is hosting. The meeting is open to the public and attendees can sign-up to speak at the meeting or leave a prepared statement.

WMLA Board Members reviewed the Treasurer's Report provided by Joe Rodio and are reminded that there is a need for fundraising on behalf of WMLA.

Katherine Hand is on a small libraries conference planning committee. Please feel free to reach out to her with ideas and suggestions for the conference.

Antonia Golinski-Foisy adjourned the meeting at 11:17 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Bernard, MSLIS
WMLA Clerk