

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

January 17, 2019

Gaylord Library, South Hadley

Minutes – Draft

Members present: Katherine Hand, Joe Rodio, Mary Anne Antonellis, Jan Resnick, Toni Foisy-Golinski, Dan Paquette, Mike Moran, Lynn Coakley, Deb Kern, Andrea Bernard

Guest: Eric Poulin

Call to Order at 9:35 by Katherine

Minutes – September 2018 & December 2018 both sets approved unanimously (motion Rodio, second Golinski-Foisy) with abstentions from Coakley and Moran

Treasurer's Report current balance is \$7,885.53

Membership Report 35 renewals and 3 new memberships in January, good success with mailing to public libraries via delivery

Branding Committee Report no report

Update from MLA Legislative Committee Mike Moran gave update on MLA & MMA communication & efforts to include libraries as an MMA priority; Jan Resnick says libraries are mentioned in the MMA Legislative Priorities to be approved at the upcoming MMA annual meeting; Jan also discussed the importance of reauthorizing the library construction bond bill.

Jan reported that the MBLC executive board has been discussing how libraries used to be on the MMA priorities list and have dropped off with no reaction.

Jan has been contacting libraries currently on the waiting list for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program to encourage them to advocate for the \$250 million construction bond request and the proposed increase on the spending cap from \$20 million to \$25 million. Jan will send talking points regarding the bond to the WMLA board.

MLS Director Search update from Katherine. There are nineteen applications.

Andrea Bernard asked if the search committee had considered using a professional recruiter?

Legislative Breakfast

Katherine will attend the Berkshire breakfast and speak on WMLA's behalf.

Joe will check in with Jean from Longmeadow – breakfast on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – and arrange for a WMLA speaker if necessary.

The Amherst breakfast is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Library Legislative Day at the State House is March 6<sup>th</sup>. Lynn will coordinate with the bus company. Katherine will make a flyer and promote at breakfasts. Eric recommended a student discount, \$10 for students and retirees. Joe, Mary Anne and Jan will try to collect prizes for the bus. WMLA will share a

table with CMLA. WMLA will create library trading cards. We will host the table instead of paying for coffee this year.

Dan will gather data for CWMARS trading card.

Each WMLA board member will invite a neighboring library or two to contribute data for a trading card.

We will also create a WMLA pen. Katherine made a motion to spend up to \$250 on pens. Mary Anne seconded the motion. Motion passed successfully. Dan and Toni will work together to choose a pen.

Joe will create a poster for the table and find a printer for the trading cards.

Dan made a motion to empower Katherine to make a decision regarding the printing of the trading cards. Joe seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### New Business

The address on the WMLA Facebook page needs to be updated.

MLS listening sessions: Lynn attended in Pittsfield. Joe, Deb and Andrea attended in Northampton. Mary Anne attended in Worcester. Joe will forward notes from Northampton meeting. Advocacy for delivery was discussed at the MLS meetings.

Spring meeting at the Bluebonnett. April 25<sup>th</sup>. Mary Anne will book with the restaurant.

Next meeting, Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at West Springfield.