

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2020

Present: Jan Resnick, Andrea Bernard, Mike Moran, Katherine Hand, Wendy Pearson, Mary Kronholm, Joe Rodio, Nora Blake, Lisa Downing, Lynn Coakley

Call to Order by Nora Blake at 10:05 AM.

Minutes

The WMLA Board needs to approve the minutes of June 5, 2020 and September 10, 2020 and should do so at an upcoming meeting.

Annual Meeting

WMLA Board Members had a general discussion about holding the WMLA Annual Meeting. Katherine Hand suggested having an open meeting with no formal training, Jan Resnick suggested having an open conversation amongst participants on COVID-19 and library services. The group noted that there are other venues such as those provided by CW/MARS providing supportive services. Antonia Golinski-Foisy suggested holding a focused and concise meeting of approximately one hour guided by an agenda with specific time limits for each topic.

WMLA Board Members also discussed upcoming term limits. Both Joe Rodio and Lynn Coakley will be stepping down at the annual meeting, Joe Rodio will provide a list of current board members and their term limits. Joe Rodio will also send the term limits to Katherine Hand, Nora Blake, and Antonia Golinski-Foisy. The WMLA will need a treasurer, vice president, and vice president elect. Katherine Hand is currently the only member of the Membership Committee and will seek and accept names for WMLA Board Members at large. Katherine Hand has already had several suggestions for new board members and will reach out to them to introduce the WMLA and their potential role.

The group identified October 29, 2020 from 10 AM to 11 AM as a potential date and time with an agenda to include an Introduction to the WMLA, the introduction of current officers, the election of new officers, and items of new business. Nora Blake will provide a speaker for a short time (15 - 20 minutes) to round out the meeting.

MBLC and FY 2021

Nora Blake raised the issue of many libraries using curbside pick-up as one primary service provision to patrons during this time of COVID-19 response. However, the MBLC does not currently count curbside pickup towards meeting state requirements for being open to the public. Nora Blake requested that Jan Resnick and Mary Kronholm seek additional action from the MBLC on the need to update or change the definition of the requirement and to encourage the MBLC to make an emergency declaration for FY 2021 similar to that of FY 2020.

MBLC Succession Planning

Jan Resnick asked for a discussion of succession planning to the MBLC as both she and Jan Kronholm are completing their terms. Jan Resnick asked for recommendations of potential candidates, particularly diverse candidates, who can represent western Massachusetts on the

MBLC. Mary Kronholm recommended Vicki Biancolo, Miss Hall School Librarian. Nora Blake suggested the person who ran the Holyoke Legislative Breakfast and will get the correct name. Jan Resnick will send an email to two potential candidates from Springfield. Lisa Downing will reach out to the Jones, Holyoke, and Greenfield libraries for potential candidates.

Joe Rodio and Lisa Downing will share diversity statements with the group.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.