

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)**  
**February 14, 2022 via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome-** Lisa calls the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

**Roll Call:** Lisa Downing, Antonia (Toni) Golinski-Foisy, Wendy Pearson, Vicky Biancolo, Karen Traub, Jan Resnick, Lynn Blair, Misha Storm, Mike Moran, Anna Lawrence, Rebecca Schmidt

**Approval of [minutes](#) from January 10, 2022-** Mike makes a motion to approve, Wendy seconds. Jan suggests an edit for page two to say MBLC bylaws and that the app for collecting donations is SquareSpace. Misha adds that it should be called Square. Lynn will make the edits. All in favor of approving minutes as amended.

**Treasurer's Report:** submitted by Wendy Pearson

WMLA January 2022 Treasurer's Report

Florence Bank Balance on 2/14/2022 - \$6,823.96

02/11/2022 Deposit(via Square)      \$33.38

Last Statement date - 1/31/2022

Beginning balance: \$6,866.61

Deposits: \$23.97(via Square)

Withdrawals: \$100.00

Ending balance: \$6,790.58

Motion to approve made by Toni seconded by Mike. Approved.

**Membership Report:** submitted by Natane Halasz

Natane reported that there were no new memberships or renewals in January.

**Board Members-update**

- 1. Discussion of sick leave for part time municipal employees-**  
Anna brought this to the attention of the board. Anna suggested we address this as a group and connect with our legislators. Misha adds that municipalities can also opt out of meeting minimum wage requirements. Toni states that in West Springfield there is a union that allows paid sick time. Anna adds that this affects

Western Massachusetts to a different degree because of the multitude of small libraries. Jan chimes in that this has been an ongoing issue. In many small libraries, the directors are often part time. Mike agrees with Jan and Anna and wonders about the MA Municipal Association- they can advocate for municipal employees. Mike suggests reaching out to them. Vicki asks if there are other municipal offices that have many part time employees. Lisa adds recreation departments. Rebecca adds that she works for an academic library. Small towns have many part time employees. Jan adds reaching out to CMLA to see if we can get their support before going to MMA. Jan suggests bringing it up at the MBLC Board meeting. Anna will do more research in the meantime. Vicki is going to a CMLA meeting and will mention this discussion and will raise at the next MBLC Board meeting. Lisa will reach out to Senator Comerford and Representative Sabadosa. Jan suggests Mike bring it up to the MLA Legislative Committee and Mike agrees to.

**Legislative Breakfast Recap-** Lisa thanks everyone for their support and encouragement. Lisa discusses the benefit of the Zoom format- it is very easy to attend, it is less costly. Jan is writing thank you notes to eighteen legislators! Mike notes that we add a thank you to Lisa's Forbes Library staff members- Molly and Faith who assisted.

**MLA Legislative Committee-** Mike sent minutes from the earlier of two meetings. At last week's meeting, it was announced that the Worcester Public Library is rescheduling their breakfast to March 11- in hybrid format. The bill on ebook pricing for libraries was due to be reported out of committee on February 2. An extension was filed until June 1- a work in progress. Library Legislative Day is coming in April- four hour long sessions spread over three days. They will be organized by region of the state. WMLA would kick off on April 5 at 10am. Mike would like to report to MLA on two co-chairs. He suggests Senator Comerford and Rep. Smola. Jan suggests Rep. Oliveira. We agree on Senator Comerford, with Senator Hinds as a backup, and Rep. Smola with Rep. Oliveira as a backup.

**MBLC-** Jan reports there was much discussion on the budget, construction cap. ALA will not be having a Library Legislative Day. There will be training offered on how to make library services more accessible, funded by ARPA. The database procurement is going well. Recommendations from committee out by the end of the month. There was an environmental monitoring program offered. Shelley Quezada and Michelle Eberle working on a program with Boston University having social work interns in libraries. Jan attended a webinar on the trauma of working in libraries ("We Are Not Okay") and a webinar through MMA on cybersecurity. Vicki and Karen will discuss who wants to be the next liaison.

**Summer Reading Prizes-** Misha adds there is not much to report. She will be sending out the asks for prizes in March. Anyone with ideas of new organizations can send ideas to Misha.

**New WMLA Logo-** Anna met with Seth Gregory, a designer. Seth wants to make sure the logo represents us. What are our goals? Do we want a logo to have a logo or what is the purpose of rebranding (i.e.- new board members, expanded membership, etc.)? What is our goal as an organization? Anna thinks it would be a good idea to have a conversation first on what we are and what we want to do- we need to decide what's important to us now vs. long term. Lisa asks if this is something we can do on our own. Anna thinks the conversation is something we can have among ourselves. There is a different branding process for a business vs. nonprofit but there are nonprofit branding grants we could apply for. Lisa will connect with Anna. Jan suggests offering a branding exercise to our members as well.

**Adjournment-** adjourned at 3:02pm.

**Next meeting: March 14 at 2 PM**