

WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes, June 22, 2022

Approved August 24, 2022

Welcome

The meeting was held at Bridgeport Public Library. Kate Van Auken called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. There were 16 attendees at the meeting and 12 attending via Zoom.

Introductions

Kate, Director of White Pine Library Cooperative, asked attendees to introduce themselves by stating their name, library, and city.

Approval of Agenda

Erin Schmandt moved, and Jeanette Morrish seconded to approve the Agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Jeanette Morrish moved, and Charlie Mitchell seconded to approve the April 27, 2022, Advisory Council minutes. The motion was carried.

Director's report

Kate presented her report. Some topics included MCLS & Rides delivery; the MI Library is Now campaign; collection development & e-material policies; State library budget updates; MCDA appointed Kate Van Auken as treasurer; LSTA Grants under review; TechSparks session 3 updates; VOX book order updates; interest in Comics Plus through TLN; member contact info; use of the \$300 grants; WPLC board training program; MLA Awards. See the Director's Report for more details and further explanation: https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/director_reports/director-report-june2022.pdf

Office Manager's report

Alison Blattner presented her report. Some topics included a phishing scam targeting WPLC members; ILL request updates; MARC record request updates; review of the WPLC Personnel Manual; TechSparks session 3 rescheduling; upcoming review of other WPLC policies; WPLC website redesign and hosting changes; updates to business hours and contact info. See the Office Manager's Report for more details and further explanation: https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/office_report/office-report-june2022.pdf

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

MLA Dues Reimbursement 2022-2023.

Since the Rural Library Conference is not scheduled to happen for the next several years, Kate proposed reimbursing the cost of membership to MLA for any members who were interested in joining. If every member joined MLA, the cost would be approximately \$19,000. Many WPLC



members reported already being a member of MLA and would benefit from the reimbursement. John Clextton, Gladwin County District Library, reported that the cost of MLA membership is a barrier for entry; Christian Dunham, Bullard Sanford Memorial Library, seconded this notion. Kate Van Auken discussed updates to the dues structure in MLA and how staff participation is still an additional cost. Amber Hughey, Bridgeport District Library, suggested that a staff scholarship be made available as well as grants for attending the Spring Institute. Kate will discuss this with the Board at their meeting.

Kovels on Overdrive \$1,250/year

Kovels, the antique guide, started a subscription service through Overdrive. Subscribing for the year would cost an additional \$1,250. Members were polled for interest, and none was expressed. It was decided not to pursue this option.

Public Comments/Membership News:

John Clextton, Gladwin County District Library, discussed the Association for Rural & Small Libraries and how impactful membership has been for him. The organization has provided a critical network of connection for rural libraries who often feel out of place when attending large ALA/PLA conferences. The ARSL conference is scheduled to take place in Chattanooga, TN, from September 14th-17th, 2022.

Other

MI Right to Read

Dillon Geshel, Superiorland Library Cooperative Director and MLA's MI Right to Read Intellectual Freedom Task Force Chair was with us to explain what the MI Right to Read initiative is all about. There are three parts to the groups approach to challenges.

1. Toolkit. Make sure you have good collection development and reconsideration policies in place. They will also have templates to use as well as Trustee tools.
2. Rapid Response. If you find you need help with book challenges, request support via their website.
3. Coalition Support. In person support for Board meetings or help with letters to the editor.

Dillon also mentioned they are using positive messaging rather than provoking the situation. There is also the MLA Advocacy Resource Fund which can help provide funds for attorney fees or presenters on IF.

Free to Read Rochester

The group watched a video prepared for White Pine members about Free to Read Rochester and their efforts to combat book challenges in their local schools. This video will be available on our website for those who would like to watch it.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is set for August 24, 2022. Location TBD.

