

WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
BOARD MEETING
Minutes, March 2, 2022
Approved April 27, 2022

A meeting of the White Pine Library Cooperative Board was held on March 2, 2022, at the White Pine Library Cooperative offices.

Present: Lorrie Taylor, Jessica Little, Charlie Mitchell, Barbara Butch, Pam Williams, Corey Goethe, Ann Trierweiler, and Jeanette Morrish. Also present: Kate Van Auken and Alison Blattner. **Absent:** TJ Smith and Jamie Paille.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:57 am.

Agenda: Barbara Butch moved, and Ann Trierweiler seconded to approve the agenda. The motion was carried.

Minutes: Pam Williams moved, and Charlie Mitchell seconded to approve the December 1, 2021 board minutes. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the financial reports and checklist.

Pam Williams moved, and Ann Trierweiler seconded to approve the financial reports and ratify the bills for November 2021. The motion was carried.

Charlie Mitchell moved, and Barbara Butch seconded to approve the financial reports and ratify the bills for December 2021. The motion was carried.

Jessica Little moved and Lorrie Taylor seconded to approve the financial reports and ratify the bills for January 2022. The motion was carried.

Directors Report: Kate presented the Director's Report for February. Some topics discussed included an update on Alison's first 3 months with White Pine; intellectual freedom challenges and resources offered through the WPLC website; auditor Carmen Schepeler trying to change White Pine from still being listed as a Saginaw county business; current segregation of duties in the White Pine office; interlibrary loan (ILL), making requests in Peabody, and how to join ILL through White Pine; MARC records requests; ARPA funds, the current schedule for digital content purchasing, and MLA's upcoming marketing campaign in May.

More details can be found at: https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/director_reports/director-report-feb2022.pdf

Old Business

MLA Advocacy Day

MLA advocacy day was held on March 1, 2022. It was held virtually due to the increase in COVID cases reported the past several months. It included 129 attendees, 4 of which were members from WPLC. State Senators Jim Stamas and Wayne Schmidt spoke on the importance of getting to know your congressperson outside of times when you need something from them. They informed attendees that most legislators should be in their home districts between Friday and Monday each week; the suggestion was made to contact them during those times and invite them to library events or even just for coffee. They also spoke to the importance of educating not just people who don't know what libraries do, but those who think they know but do not actually have a full understanding.

It was also noted that over half of all Michigan state reps will be new following the 2022 election cycle due to term limits, redistricting, etc. Kate commented on the importance of continuing to tell the stories of our libraries and advised that directors brush up their 5 minute elevator speech.

An Intellectual Freedom Taskforce was also announced by MLA. It is currently in the process of forming.

Open Meetings Act

Legislation has been introduced to potentially amend the Open Meetings Act and allow for remote participation by boards. It is unclear whether it will go anywhere in the legislature due to a number of factors including partisanship, the upcoming 2022 election, and school boards wanting to meet in person.

New Business

Kevin Daley in Millington

Kate Van Auken and Alison Blattner traveled to Millington on February 28th to attend State Senator Kevin Daley's townhall meeting. Kate thanked him for the increase in state aid, expressed hope that it would be further raised in the future (or at least kept at the current amount) and discussed what ARPA funds were being used for. She additionally brought up the issue that library funding via penal fines has decreased due to the decriminalization of marijuana in Michigan and raising state aid to account for that and the rate of inflation would be beneficial to libraries. Daley spoke to Michigan's upcoming election, changes in representatives due to the recent redistricting process, and his concerns about current government spending rates.

Member Updates & the Role of White Pine

Kate expressed hope that she would be able to start travelling to member libraries again. She reported that her goal of encouraging general engagement from members seems to be going well, but she still hopes to improve member participation in library advocacy.

Public comments There were no public comments.

Announcements

Brown City Director Search, Elsie Chart of Accounts & QuickBooks, and Alma's Budget & City of Alma issues.

Adjournment: Barb moved, and Ann seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The motion was carried.

Next Meeting: April 27th, 2022, at Fleschner Memorial Library in Birch Run.