

WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes, June 28, 2023

Approved August 23, 2023

Welcome

The meeting was held at Columbia Township Library in Unionville, MI. Kate Van Auken called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. There were 19 attendees at the meeting and 11 attended via Zoom.

Introductions

Kate Van Auken asked attendees to introduce themselves by stating their names and their library.

Approval of Agenda

Jeanette Morrish moved, and Nicole Markel seconded to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was carried.

Approval of Minutes

Jeanette Morrish moved, and John Clextion seconded to approve the April 26th, 2023 Advisory Council minutes. The motion was carried.

Director's report

Kate Van Auken presented her report. Topics included news regarding the State of Michigan's upcoming budget; proposed changes to the Open Meetings Act; MIHI updates; upcoming book challenge workshop; lockdown policies and procedures; Michigan Activity Pass updates; VOX books purchases; 2023 mini-grants; library association membership reimbursement; Hoopla; the Plan of Service survey; RLA updates; recent board trainings. See the Director's Report for more details and further explanation: https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/director_reports/director-report-june2023.pdf

Office Manager's report

Alison Blattner presented her report. Some topics included Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Peabody updates; MARC record requests; MCLS cataloging certification; WPLC website updates and error resolution; the WPLC policy manual; WPLC office security updates; upcoming events on the WPLC calendar. See the Office Manager's Report for more details and further explanation: https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/office_report/office-report-june2023.pdf

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.



Public Comments/Membership News:

John Clexton commented on the increased participation in the WPLC listserv in recent times. He expressed how exciting it is to see cooperative members collaborating and sharing resources. He also discussed the upcoming ARSL elections, in which he is running, and he appreciates the votes anybody casts for his candidacy.

MDHHS-DEH Presentation

Shelly O’Henley spoke to members about the services and resources offered through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services’s Division of Environmental Health. She spoke about her section’s commitment to cultivating relationships with local community leaders, the Community Education and Outreach Section's programs, and the group’s goal of reducing and preventing exposure to environmental hazards where Michiganders live, work and play. Pamphlets and other resources are available upon request as well as speakers for library programming. Follow-up information would be forwarded to members after Wednesday’s meetings.

ThinkSpace 2023 Scholarship Recipients

John Clexton and Sarah Rick spoke about their experiences at MLA Think Space. This year’s theme was “Holding True to Our Values and Staying Strong,” focusing on issues surrounding First Amendment, developing an action plan for your library in the event of intellectual freedom challenges, caring for your staff throughout the process, and demonstrating the value that libraries continue to hold in the present day.

Sarah spoke about the value she found in getting a variety of new perspectives, including ones that didn’t align with her viewpoints, and being able to engage with them in a safe space. She particularly appreciated the policy workshop during which directors had the chance to identify good policies as well as identify their weaknesses and strengths. She also appreciated the discussion about MLA’s recent survey results and spoke about the importance of educating patrons on the segregation of duties between library directors and their Boards.

John found Think Space’s workshop portions extremely useful, particularly the opportunities to roleplay real-world problems with other directors. It was a great opportunity to identify and prepare for the questions a Director may receive that initially catch them off-guard or are difficult to respond to. The ability to interact with people of differing viewpoints within a safe space was also something of great value and helped to humanize others that it is easy to initially believe one may share little in common. The social media training offered was also a very practical skill to build. The chance to meet and connect with other directors and build one’s network of library professionals was also a huge boon, and John mentioned how nice it is to know he has more people to call if he needs advice or help.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is set for August 23, 2023, location TBD

Other Important Dates: Annual meeting on October 4th, 2023, will be held at Trillium in Saginaw, MI. Signup and schedule of events to come.

