

Friends of WMRLS Executive Board Meeting
June 12, 2009
WMRLS Headquarter, Whately

MINUTES

Present: Dick Floyd, Faith White, Toni Golinski-Foisy, Lynn Coakley, Linda Wentworth, John Ramsy, Louise Kanus

Absent: Lisa Wenner, Mary King, Deborah Doulette, Sue Crowther

Visitor: Suzanne Rohde

Call to Order: President Toni Golinski-Foisy called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.. She introduced Suzanne Rohde, a WMRLS volunteer, former director of the Pelham Public Library. Suzanne may be interested in working with Friends of WMRLS as it pursues its various projects.

Minutes: Louise made a correction to the minutes of the May 1, 2009 minutes. (See 2nd paragraph of President's Report.) The sentence beginning "The purpose of extending membership . . ." now concludes with ". . . *has to do with changing the membership year from the present calendar year (Jan. – Dec.) back to the original October 1 – September 30 year.*" The Board voted to accept the minutes with this correction.

WMRLS Administrator's Report: John discussed the MBLC's budget which is soon going before the Legislature. Coming through the Legislature's conference committee, the regional systems account stands to receive an increase of 14%, while the Library of Last Recourse suffers a 57% cut. This is a very unusual situation, since the LLR usually fares much better. It is anticipated, however, that Governor Patrick will cut the regional account, perhaps by 3% or so. This is still relatively good news for the regions.

WMRLS has applied for two grants for the replacement of its worn out delivery vehicles. The grantors are the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and the state Department of Energy Resources, a source of federal stimulus money. The emphasis of the grant proposal is "going green," i.e., purchasing an energy-saving vehicle – a hybrid, for example. The Community Foundation awarded WMRLS \$15,000, allowing a used truck, not necessarily a hybrid, to be purchased. The other grant is still pending. Senator Olver has been helpful with this project. WMRLS located a very suitable used truck in Indiana and purchased it with its own funds, but will now have to have it retrofitted, painted and "logo-ed." The Board voted to give WMRLS the \$5000 we are receiving from the Big Y to offset the cost of the Indiana truck, plus an additional \$1500, toward the retrofitting.

Treasurer's Report: Dick reported that the current bank balance is \$16,736.55, with no outstanding checks or bills. Much of this is from incoming memberships and donations. Friends of WMRLS has received 3 donations recently: 1) \$200 from the trustees of the Adams Free Library, director Debbie Bruneau, 2) \$110 from the adult book group of the Gaylord Memorial Library in South Hadley, director Chris Quigley, and 3) \$20 from David C. Morrell of South Hadley, in memory of Carl Golinski. Dick will write letters of acknowledgment. The Board expressed appreciation at the thoughtfulness of the donors.

Louise asked if the remaining \$516.49 in the Honor Someone Special fund could now be turned over the WMLRS, since the project is ended. John asked that we hold it until there is more

certainty about WMRLS' ability to continue to buy supplemental materials or run the bookmobile in the next fiscal year. The subject was tabled.

President's Report: Toni noted the error in the membership letter than went out mid-May regarding the extension date for the membership period. The correct date is September 2010, not December. Follow-up reminders will be sent out via email on August 1.

Brochures: More of these will be printed, giving us an opportunity to make necessary changes, deletions or additions. The new membership year, our logo, a list of our recent accomplishments and some new quotations were suggested changes. Toni asked that we think about any further changes and bring them to the July meeting. It was also suggested that membership prices be printed on a separate sheet to be inserted rather than on the brochure itself.

Annual Meeting 2009: Date will be October 9. Suggested site is the Bushnell-Sage Library in Sheffield, Nancy Hahn director. Nancy will be contacted to assess her interest in hosting this meeting.

Cleaning DVDs and CDs: Very briefly we discussed the feasibility of Friends of WMRLS taking on the job of doing the cleaning on the machine housed at WMRLS as a fundraising project. Mary and Louise will talk about how this might be done. This would start in December.

Fundraising Committee Report: Linda reported on the planning for a 5-mile road race to be held in Whately on Saturday, October 3. Eric Poulin of GCC has joined the committee and has been very helpful. A route must be worked out with the assistance of the local police and signs along the route will promote libraries. Many people will be needed to execute this project, and a call for volunteers will go out on the regional listserv. Active runners with experience in road races are especially sought. Prizes will be awarded. The committee is enthusiastic and will work throughout the next few months to make this an enjoyable and profitable public event.

Newsletter: Sue offered to do the newsletter again. Her school schedule is such that she will have to have it completed by mid-August. The Board discussed a number of topics that could be included in this fall issue. Toni asked that we come with more ideas at our next meeting. In particular, we should think about who will be the subject of the "Spotlight" article this year.

TV publicity: Toni reported that NBC had done a segment on the importance of libraries during this recession and the marked increase in library usage. She was personally contacted thereafter by Channel 22 in Springfield to get a local slant on the same story and this was shown on the local news.

Facebook: Lynn noted that the other Massachusetts regional library systems have established a site on the social networking system, Facebook. She wondered if the Friends of WMRLS might think about doing the same as a means of publicizing what we do to support libraries, how to join, etc. This may be for future consideration.

Adjournment: Toni adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Kanus, *secretary/clerk*