

Friends of WMRLS Executive Board Meeting
July 24, 2009
WMRLS Headquarters, Whately

MINUTES

Present: Toni Golinski-Foisy (President), Dick Floyd, Faith White, Lynn Coakley, Mary King, Linda Wentworth, Louise Kanus

Absent: Lisa Wenner, Deborah Doulette, Sue Crowther, John Ramsay

Call to Order: Toni called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 12, 2009 meeting were read and approved with one change. In the treasurer's report, 3 donations were mentioned, and Dick said he would write letters of acknowledgment and thanks. The correction states that Toni will do so instead. Mary said that in future she will write the letters for any donations that are \$100 or more.

WMRLS Administrator's Report: In John's absence, Mary delivered a brief report. The Falcons, a Springfield hockey team, have agreed to be one of our road race sponsors, though no other details are forthcoming yet. Regarding the bookmobile, Mary said that the vehicle will continue running on a limited schedule this summer, bringing just books on CD and Large Print materials, plus the Honor Someone Special children's books purchased for the bookmobile. Under consideration as a source of funding for the bookmobile is a subscription program whereby libraries may donate \$50 to \$500 to support the bookmobile program. This is optional for the libraries, however.

A legislative committee has been formed to consider overrides to the Governor's budget regarding the regional systems' 2010 budget. It will meet later this summer.

President's Report: Toni reported that the \$5000 check from Big Y had been received and is being used toward the painting and refurbishing of the new used delivery truck purchased by WMRLS. She thanked Lynn for her help with so many details of the Friends' business. Toni passed out the organization's certificate of exemption (for tax purposes) to those who may require one.

Treasurer's Report: Dick reported our bank balance to be \$21,692.03, with no outstanding bills. The substantial increase was due to the Big Y's grant and the \$1,495 received in new membership dues. With this healthy balance in mind, it was immediately moved and seconded that we donate the Big Y's grant of \$5000 to the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. In addition, it was proposed that the remainder of the Honor Someone Special funds in the account, now \$536.49, be donated also. This was approved as well.

Membership Committee: Lynn reported on behalf of Sue. She said that dues were way down so far this year, almost ¼ down from last year, and very slow coming in. Sue sent a copy of the most recent membership list, and there appears to be some problem. The number of members last year was 403, while in 2009 so far there are only 128. The names of some persons who have paid do not appear, and others who have been very faithful members in the past are also missing from the list. Toni asked Lynn to organize a meeting of Sue, Deb and Lynn as soon as possible to discuss the problem.

Fundraising: Linda reported on progress of the planned Oct. 3rd road race. The committee has been meeting every two weeks to plan the details. The projection is that there will be at least 150 registrants and an income of registration fees and corporate sponsors of \$4250. The estimated cost to us is \$2000 for T-shirts, posters, prizes, insurance, ambulance, etc. The Board approved the motion to give the committee \$2500 for road race expenses. Linda was congratulated for doing an outstanding job steering this project and covering the many aspects that need attention. The poster design and size (10x15) was discussed and WMRLS agreed to deliver by truck 5 posters to each public library. 800 posters will be printed. Other publicity discussed was the press release written by Linda and the web site home page (<http://friends.wmrls.org/>) with the link to the registration form. Thanks to Janet Eckert for her help with the web site. Mary Ann's T-shirt resource will be given the job of producing 200 shirts with printing on front and back at \$5.00 each. Letters to the potential sponsors with donation forms have mostly been mailed already by committee members. Mary King will open letters to the Friends to collect the road race registrations and forward them to Louise, forwarding any checks to Dick. She will also note any responses from our potential sponsors. We decided not to send any post cards or other acknowledgment to race registrants.

Newsletter: Sue said, by way of Lynn, that she would be willing to do the newsletter again this year. Articles need to be sent to her by mid-August. It was suggested and agreed that Debbie Bruneau of Adams P.L. be the interviewee this year. Included also will be an article on the change of the membership year, a legislative article, something from John, the road race story, an agenda for the annual meeting in Sheffield.

DVD Cleaning: Lynn showed a letter from CMRLS on their procedures, upkeep costs and charges for cleaning libraries' DVDs and CDs. The cleaning machine that WMRLS purchased for the "Together We Thrive" grant will now be available for all member libraries (and perhaps non-members) to use. Friends of WMRLS volunteered to do the cleaning as a fundraising project. Dick and Louise will find out how the work is done. Some discussion of what to charge was tabled until John has an opportunity to give his input.

Facebook: Lynn showed us some Facebook pages on the laptop and explained how it would work if Friends of WMRLS had a presence on that social network, noting that CMRLS had already done so. The Board agreed that we could try this also as a means of getting our information out.

Annual Meeting: Nancy Hahn, director of the public library in Sheffield, has agreed to host the Annual Meeting in October. We discussed the proposal that Governor Patrick be invited to be our guest speaker, and decided that it was worth a try. Toni will draft a letter of invitation.

Brochure: Lynn presented us with some figures detailing the costs of producing a new and re-designed brochure. It was fairly expensive. We decided that much of what is currently in the brochure could remain, with some updating where necessary. We reviewed the necessary updates and left it to Lynn to take care of getting the new brochures printed.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2009.