

WLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6pm

Minutes of the Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held via zoom on Tuesday April 19, 2022 attended by Karen Zevin (Board President and Chair), Edris Scherer, Andrea Bober, Terry Kirchner and Francis Okelo. Karen called the meeting to order at 6.05 pm.

1. Karen began by urging all Committees to prepare and submit their minutes and reports to Terry in a timely manner so that these are made available to Board members and shared with those interested in the work of WLS.
2. The Committee was briefed by Terry on the latest situation with regard to the Mount Vernon Public Library. He said that WLS continued to work well with the MVPL Director and his staff toward the completion of the financial sections of the 2020 Annual Report to the State of New York, and the library's registration application. Although the Library's Board was becoming increasingly dysfunctional lately, WLS was committed to working closely with the Library Director and his staff toward the goal of successfully completing the financial report to the State, and the library's registration application process. Good progress was being made on these two fronts.
3. Terry also informed ~~that the~~ Executive Committee that WLS was working closely with the PLDA on the resolution to be considered and voted on by the WLS Board on April 26, 2022. This decision would formally entrust the interim central library to The Peekskill Field Library during the 2-year waiver period of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE). He noted that The Peekskill Field Library was fit and able to take on this responsibility.
4. The Committee then discussed a number of items that should form the contents of the President's regular reports to the Board, with a special reference to the next meeting of the Board scheduled for April 26, 2022. The items considered included the following:
 - a. The final report and recommendations of the Strategic Committee on the WLS mission and vision statements, and the strategic plan. The report would be formally submitted to the Board by Francis, as Chair of the Strategic Committee. After considering the report, the Executive Committee recommended that the Board should approve the report by a resolution.;
 - b. The Board should, on a regular basis, update itself by doing a comprehensive review of all WLS activities. Terry observed that this review could take place at about this time, in conjunction with the preparation of the annual report to the State, which WLS was currently working on;
 - c. The Board should also, from time to time, take stock and have a good overview of those WLS activities being supported by funds from the State and the County.;
 - d. The Board underscored the desirability of forging a close and mutually beneficial working relationship between the WLS and the boards of the member libraries. This

relationship should ideally be characterized by a steady flow of communication and exchanges of information between the two sides as regards their plans, activities and experiences. The Executive Committee encourages each WLS trustee to explore with the respective library/libraries how this goal could be best be achieved in the context of each individual situation;

- e. Lastly, the Executive Committee would recommend that the Board should regularly examine itself and take stock of its modes of operation in the light of its fiduciary responsibility. This is a healthy exercise as it would enable the Board to promptly make any necessary adjustments and improvement in its structure and the organization of its work.
5. Concluding the meeting, Karen drew the attention of the Executive Committee to certain worrying counter-culture trends, ideas and actions out there (e.g., banning of books, etc..) that are not only pernicious but run counter to the First Amendment of the US Constitution guaranteeing the freedom of speech and the right to receive information freely. Board trustees are advised to watch out for these dangers and guard our institution against them.
 6. The next Executive Committee meeting is planned for May 17, 2022, at 6pm. And there being no other business, Karen adjourned the meeting at 6.44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Okelo