

Marcellus Free Library (MFL) Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2019

Annual Meeting

Board members present: Martha Lollis, Rachel Hendricks, Katie Reilly, Kyle Tierney, Deb Abbott, Pat Dailey

Also present: Jake Widrick (MFL Director) Audrey Kearney (MFL Friends President) Stephanie Moncavage, Cheryl Ferris, Robin Browning-Bolewski, Sara Randolph, Bob Piekiet (MFL Staff), Beth Piper, Gary Germain (incoming Board Members), Karen Pollard, Tammy Sayre, Sally Tallman, John Curtain, Phil Coccia, Phil Dean, Michele Merwarth, Whitney Lash-Marshall, Paulette Quinn, Ed Kochran, Rebecca Doss and approximately five other visitors from the community

Call to order and approval of Agenda: Meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Martha Lollis. There were no changes to the agenda.

To start “Part 1” of the program, Martha Lollis introduced tonight’s guest speaker Jill Hurst-Wahl, Professor of Practice at the Syracuse University iSchool. Ms. Hurst-Wahl discussed the iSchool’s Public Library Initiative, an effort to collect data from public libraries. Libraries have been charged with taking on “the emotional work of responding to the diverse needs of our communities”. To do this, they really have to know who it is they are serving. Libraries need to measure their activities, collect statistics, and connect to stories showing the value of their services.

Director’s Report: Jake Widrick reported. He thanked OCPL for their services. Jake went over the Annual Report flyer. He highlighted MFL’s increased foot traffic statistics, successful summer reading program and the library’s collaborative projects with Baltimore Woods: the Story Walk last fall and the Community Read event this spring. Speaking to projects of the New Year, Jake outlined a plan to replace library lighting with LED versions and other security and infrastructure projects. Staff members introduced themselves to the audience and gave descriptions of their jobs and projects they have undertaken.

Board President’s Report: Martha Lollis reported. Martha explained the responsibilities of the Board and noted the Board’s focus on sustainability, in terms of both the library facility, but also updating and installing policies and procedures to give the Board continuity as members come and go. The Board sees the library as a “community information partner” with its patrons and we

are looking forward to building even more partnerships and doing more outreach and assessments so that the Marcellus Free Library can “Live long and prosper”

Board Treasurer’s Report: Pat Dailey reported. Pat shared with the audience charts explaining the breakdown of library funding sources. He gave a brief summary of the tax levy, the bond that funded the “new” library through 2027 and the budget process.

Introduction and Welcome to New Board Members: Martha Lollis introduced and welcomed Beth Piper and Gary Germain, who will officially join the Board at its next meeting in March.

“Part 1” of the Annual Meeting concluded with time for refreshments and conversation in the Café area of the Library. Participants were encouraged to fill out evaluation sheets for the Board.

“Part 2” of the Annual Meeting reconvened at 7:30pm.

I. **Secretary’s Report:** Martha Lollis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2018 meeting. Katie Reilly moved. Rachel Hendricks seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved without revision.

II. **Friends of MFL:** Audrey Kearney reported. The Friends met on January 23, 2019. They read the shelves. Money from “Books in Gift-Giving Condition” took in \$1505 this year. The Friends made plans for February as it is “Library Lovers Month”. There will be a raffle for the Rosamond Gifford Lecture series, and possibly a selfie photo booth for patrons. Library advocacy was also encouraged this month to combat budget cuts from the State. NYLA has invited the Friends to participate in another webinar. The Friends currently have 155 members. The next meeting is February 27, 2019.

III. Committee Reports:

Development:

Annual Fund Drive Status: Pat Dailey reported. So far the drive has generated \$16,000. We had budgeted \$15,000. The average gift is up from previous years. Jake noted that we received many

enclosed notes with gifts for the first time. It was generally agreed that the addition of personal notes from Board members was a positive one.

Spring Dinner: Martha Lollis reported. The spring dinner should be in April, before the vote. We need to generate ideas for a theme, silent auction items. Possible venues include Tuscarora and Sunset Ridge.

Action item: Please email Martha with ideas for themes and auction items before the next meeting.

Treasurer/Finance: Pat Dailey reported. The Library's operations remain favorable to the budget with some reconciling to be finished.

Personnel / Policy: Martha Lollis and Rachel Hendricks reported. The policies on Freedom to Read, FOIL and Vulnerable Adults were reviewed and will be voted on next month. The Claims Audit policy will be examined further before a vote.

Bylaws Committee: No report this meeting.

Building and Maintenance: No report this meeting.

New Business: Bob Piekielek reported on LED bulb change out. Bob recommended that new fixtures be included in the proposed lighting grant.

IV. Adjournment: Martha Lollis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Hendricks made the motion. It was seconded by Katie Reilly and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Next meeting will be March 7, 2019 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Abbott