

WAAL Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 29, 2021  
2:00PM-3:30PM  
Teleconference via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Sarah Bakken (WAAL Secretary), Michael Doylen (acting past chair), Maureen Olle-Lajoie (Chair), Elisabeth Kaune (Conference Co-Chair), Kate Otto (Conference Co-Chair)

Call to order at 2:04

- I. Approval of April Meeting Minutes
  - a. Doylen move to approve; Sarah second; all in favor.
- II. WAAL Chair Report
  - a. Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Liz Kaune agreed to fill this role. Thanks Liz!
    - i. For next election we will need vice-chair/chair elect
    - ii. **Action Item:** Maureen will contact Sheri to confirm appointment of Liz for this position.
    - iii. **Action Item:** Everyone brainstorm and encourage potential candidates to run for vice-chair/chair elect
  - b. Conference Committee 2022: we have 7 people who agreed to serve so far; we need to figure out on a chair
    - i. **Action Item:** Need to arrange a site visit at conference location in Brookfield.
      1. For the last in-person conference, this happened in July.
    - ii. **Action Item:** Maureen will move conference planning information to the dropbox.
  - c. What members want: at the conference people spoke up a bit about what they wanted from WAAL and a theme that came through was networking. What sort of networking opportunities can we provide beyond the annual conference?
    - i. Board will look at options for a casual networking event to host this fall. There was a consensus, people are burnt out on formal virtual professional development which is why something more “fun” seems like a more appealing option.
    - ii. **Action Item:** Sarah will do research to brainstorm some networking ideas
- III. WLA Board/Past Chair Report
  - a. WLA 2021 Conference
    - i. Overall, expenses and revenue nearly met its target. WLA was happy with conference. In comparison to past conference targets,
      1. Suspect virtual conference will not generate as much revenue, which is important information for WLA.
      2. For conference committee, note that sponsorships have been an increasingly important part of meeting revenue for WAAL conference.
      3. In the future, committee may want to explore process for sponsorship outreach. Look at potentially doing outreach with all academic libraries in the state of Wisconsin rather than just those who have regularly participated. **Action Item:** Follow up with Ann Vogel on the committee about this.

- ii. **Action Item:** Committee should follow up with those who registered as non-members to encourage membership.
    - b. WLA Board Update:
      - i. WLA financially doing okay
      - ii. Tom is pursuing a monthly payment option for memberships.
      - iii. Large focus on Fall WLA conference. They are recruiting a WLA conference liaison being short staffed with Plumer's absence and a staff retirement.
      - iv. Exploring to amend presenter agreement form to agree to WLA code of conduct.
        - 1. **Action Item:** We will want to follow up and make sure we use the same form going forward.
      - v. Maureen is wondering if WLA has a standard adapted land acknowledgement to do this at conference going forward. Michael suggests as a board, this is something we should initiate.
        - 1. **Action Item:** Maureen will get a motion and language together to pass this for next meeting.
      - vi. Executive director search is happening right now. 30 applicants all together with 4 in-person finalists; one dropped out; in person interviews happening in Madison this week; with the process moving along quickly, hoping a candidate is selected within the next few months
      - vii. WLA will have a liaison on the Wisconsin Civic Health Steering Committee.
- IV. 2021 Conference Wrap-Up
  - a. Overall, the group feels the conference went well and the committee did a good job adjusting with all of the circumstances. Much thanks for everyone on the committee for making this happen.
  - b. Kate feels the one area for improvement would be with the poster presentations to provide more guidance and support for virtual session.
  - c. Survey Results
    - i. Main feedback was that they did either did not enjoy virtual conference or loved it.
    - ii. 38 responses total for survey; 35/38 expressed wanting a virtual option in the future.
      - 1. Liz suggests before adding virtual component, we need more specific feedback on what should be virtual. Kate also adds we need to know if not having a virtual option would be a deal breaker for attending.
      - 2. Maureen notes virtual poster option was more accessible for viewing.
      - 3. **Action Item:** For future conference, reach out to WAAL members to seek more specific feedback on virtual conference options.
- V. 2022 Conference
  - a. We have 7 volunteers already, but still need a chair.
  - b. **Action item:** Maureen will reach out to those who expressed interest in volunteering post conference to recruit more.

- c. Something to consider for the conference: To engage more early career librarians, committee could consider a sponsorship event for networking for early career librarians/anyone. Name ideas suggested by Michael: navigator program; buddy program, etc. Important to distinguish from mentorship program.
- d. **Action Item:** Kate will look at some ideas for networking from a past conference she attended, [the Library Collective](#).

VI. Next meeting set for August 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

Meeting adjourned 3:25pm.