

WiLS Board Meeting

April 17, 2020

Board Members, in attendance:

Peg Billing, Tomahawk School District
Barbara Brattin, Kenosha Public Library/Library System
Joe Davies, Burlington Public Library
Kris McCoy, Mineral Point School District
Steve Platteter, Arrowhead Library System

Jane Roisum, Fox Valley Technical College
Tasha Saecker, Appleton Public Library
Teresa Voss, Verona Area School District
Paul Waelchli, UW-Whitewater

Board Members, absent:

Kristin Vogel, St Norbert College
Martha Berninger, DPI
Nathan Dowd, Edgewood College
Heather Winter, Milwaukee Art Museum

WiLS Staff, in attendance:

Melody Clark, Andi Coffin, Sara Gold, Jeff Brunner, Melissa McLimans

Call to order; Changes/additions to the agenda

Chair T. Saecker called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Introductions

The group did roll call introductions.

Approval of meeting minutes

There were no edits to the December 2019 January 2020 meeting minutes. B. Brattin moved approval of the minutes; S. Platteter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Reports were provided in print and staff were available for questions and follow up. Reports were for:

CooPAC

It was asked if there were any ripples from the pandemic in terms of budgets yet. WiLS is currently seeing a sense that ripples are coming. Members expect that they will have less funds and WiLS needs to anticipate possible cancellations and try to mitigate impacts on members. WiLS is trying to share information about vendors that are offering free access at this time and there are some vendors committing to low or flat increases because of the economic fallout. Lexis Nexis will be at 0% increase in the next year, for example. July 1 is a major renewal date and more information will be known as that point nears.

The group discussed ramifications and impact on financial model changes and piloting that WiLS hopes to start. WiLS knows that in the next year or more, we will see a loss of subscriptions and economic stress on members makes business model changes more important than ever to align perception and reality better with our values and the interests of our members. Impacts will need to be assessed at each step of the way.

Ideas to Action

The board asked if there might be any Safer at Home impacts on Ideas to Action, in particular the deadline to apply. The committee decided to open up as usual and while the deadline is June 1, it will likely be extended, based upon number of applications received. The committee will likely need to discuss over Basecamp. A meeting will be scheduled shortly to

discuss materials and timeline.

2020 membership meeting

No discussion on this topic.

Treasurer's report/Finance

This report will be available in a couple of weeks. It will go to the Board and Finance Committee.

Approval of revised bylaws

Work on this started last August and the most current version had been shared with the Board prior to the meeting. Motion to approve revised bylaws was made by B. Brattin and seconded by J. Davies. Motion approved unanimously. Board chair recognized the efforts of the Board.

Discussion and action: Recommendation from the Core Committee

Committee put a lot of work into the selection process and recommends Jennifer Chamberlain as the new executive director of WiLS. All the candidates were strong, but her work with the technical colleges, OER, public libraries and academic libraries made her an incredibly strong candidate. She will be a great ambassador for WiLS and mentor for staff. The staff shared their appreciation for the work of the board in this search. Tasha in particular did a big part of the coordination and was recognized by staff and board for her contributions. Next steps will be to extend the offer contingent on a background check. Stef Morrill has offered to be available on a regular basis to answer questions of the new director.

Motion to approve core committee recommendation was made by P. Billing and seconded by S. Platteter. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by J. Davies and seconded by B. Brattin. Motion approved unanimously. Motion was adjourned at 1:30 PM.