

Warner Free Lecture Trustees Meeting

Monday, September 13th, 2021

In Person at Harvard Town Hall

Trustees present: Lisa Foley (Chair), Pat Jennings (Treasurer), Sheila Simollardes (Events), Steve Piesch, Billy Salter and Alison Thornton (Secretary).

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

Review of Minutes of June 14th Meeting: Lisa moved to accept minutes as written. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Minutes of June 30th Meeting: Pat moved to accept minutes as written, Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss possible change of venue for Sept and Oct Programs:

Discussion of upcoming fall presentation, due to a delay in installation of library's new sound system, the library is not allowing in-person use of its hall until after the fall and continued concerns about Covid. It was agreed to continue with virtual presentations for the Sept and Oct Programs.

Upcoming Presentations:

Start time for presentations will be 7:00pm for all of this season's presentations, both virtual and in-person. Alison will reach out to Eric J. Dolin (Sept) and Lisa will reach out to David Vermette (Oct) to let them know about the switch to virtual format. Pat has check for Eric J. Dolin's fee which will be mailed following the presentation.

Update on joint publicity with Harvard Historical Society

Lisa shared her draft of the marketing materials she has created for the 2-part joint series featuring David Vermette (WFL) and Joe Terriot (HHS). Lisa will share with HHS to get their approval. HHS and WFL will split the cost of the joint marketing.

Finalize Press ad for fall 2021-2022 season

Discussed timing of WFL season press release. Lisa to tell press tomorrow (9/14/21), about Eric j. Dolin, and will also tell Carlene Phillips that it is a Zoom event. Lisa will reach out to Carlene to confirm an article about David Vermette.

Lisa is finalizing the release for the season to send to the press. Looking at ways to limit space on press release while providing balance to all presenters. Pat emailed Cheryl Faye and is waiting to hear back to provide updated marketing material.

Discussed ways to sign up for events: Facebook, EventBright link and by emailing WFL.

Virtual event will begin at 7:00 pm

Steve will send out an email blast and post on NextDoor Harvard.

Steve moved to submit press ad in next week's Harvard Press. Sheila seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Lisa will be putting up the WFL sign on the common, after getting it back from Jeff.

Review August Financials

We are in good shape financially at the moment. Partnerships with other organizations help keep costs down. If we want to do a big-ticket item in the future, there is a possibility. The town seems on track with our account.

Other Business:

Discussion of potential presenters for future seasons. Pat suggested James Jeffrey Higgins and will look into that. He is a Bromfield graduate who has retired from the CIA and written 3-4 books.

Sheila mentioned T.A. Baron, another former Harvard resident who wrote the Merlin series.

Discussion of crime solving, use of forensic evidence as a potential topic.

Discussion about ways to choose upcoming events. How to expand our demographics while maintaining our current appeal.

Pat left the meeting at 6:58.

Our next event, with Eric J. Dolin, is on Sept 24th.

The HHS event is in-person at the Meeting House on Oct 8th.

Our October event, with David Vermette, is on October 22nd.

Next WFL Trustees Meeting will be Tuesday, Oct 12th at 6pm.

Plan is to finalize details for upcoming presentations.

Sheila moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Thornton (Secretary)