

## Minutes for Warner Trustees meeting May 2, 2023 at 6PM

Agenda: Meeting called to order at 6:15PM.

**Trustees Present:** Alison Thornton (Former Chair), Sheila Simollardes (Events), Billy Salter (Treasurer), Michael Kilian (Chair, co-Publicity, co-Secretary), Steve Peisch (Publicity). Billy was selected as Acting Secretary, since Mike was test-driving being the Chair.

1. Reviewed and approved of minutes for WFL Trustee meeting of April 4, 2023. Alison moved to accept, Billy seconded, unanimous vote
2. We discussed the Welcome Wagon Brochure drafted by Mike. A few small suggestions were made: Change “three year” to “three-year”; change “interest in adding your assistance to” to “interest in helping”; add a brief statement about how events always provide for audience questions and a chance to interact with the speaker after the talk.
3. We briefly reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. The only outstanding bill is for \$112 or so from Steve Peisch for publicity-related expenses.

We also discussed the issue of possible donations. We have previously decided not to have a donation jar. But we don’t know if we are able to accept donations from members of the public; Mike will investigate to determine if we may, and, if not, if that can be changed. We agreed that depending on the income from The Trust as our sole possible source of income is a potential risk, since we are now totally dependent on revenue from the Trust principal of \$30,000; such revenue can decline and the Trust assets may lose value. We have no discretion in how that money is invested.

4. We finalized our schedule as follows:

Bob Mumgaard, Commonwealth Fusion: 9/15/2023

Roxana Trabulsi: 10/27/2023

John Hanson Mitchell, 1/12/24

Suzanne Buell: 2/9/2024

Barbara Berensen: 3/22/2024

Dudley Laufman is scheduled for 4/12/24 but would like an earlier date. This may not be possible; Steve will discuss it with him. Note that he would be the sixth speaker, so not essential.

This led to a discussion of the ideal number of speakers per year. Mike checked the info on his work-in-progress website and found that in most of the past 10 or so years we had five speakers – once six and once four (due to a late cancellation). We agreed that five was fine though it would also be fine to go to six.

We also discussed concerns from one of the speakers about using Silver Unicorn to supply books for sale at events. The speaker noted that there had sometimes been

problems scheduling them, and Sheila noted that they sometimes showed up at the very last minute. Billy observed that for a bookstore owner to spend a couple of evening hours selling a couple of dozen books may not be that financially appealing. He also observed that some writer friends of his bring their own boxes of books to readings; since they typically get them from their publisher for 40-50% off the cover price, selling a couple of dozen copies – particularly since they're going to be there in any case – can be well worth the hassle. We may wish to suggest this to speakers.

For each talk we need a photo, a very brief write-up (20 words or so), and a brief paragraph (40-60 words) by June 5.

Steve, with Sheila's help, will do a piece for The Press about next year's speakers.

5. Mike has put together a draft website; we should all review it and send him comments.
6. The next meeting will be on June 6 at 6:15, ideally in person.
7. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:13.

Respectfully submitted by Billy Salter, Acting Secretary.