



Wethersfield Library

Wethersfield Library Board Virtual Meeting (Zoom) April 28, 2020

Approved

Members present:, Dorene Ciarcia, Martha Conneely, Hannah Granfield,
George Kelly, Laila Mandour, Terry Santapaola, Laurie Wrona

Member excused: Peter Denegre, Mary Frazeur

Others present:

Brook Berry, Library Director
Gary Evans, Town Manager
Amy Morrin Bello, Town Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dorene Ciarcia called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

No report.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

Amy Bello reported on the last two Town Council meetings, which were virtual meetings. She also provided updates on the Town's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the budget process. She encouraged board members to speak in favor of the Library budget at the virtual public hearing on May 4.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dorene Ciarcia also encouraged participation in the public hearing, and at the Library's presentation of its budget to the Council, which is scheduled for May 7.

Dorene discussed some of the virtual Library events and presentations, which will be announced on the website.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brook provided an update on the pandemic's impact on Library operations. There is no timeline yet on reopening, which, when it does happen, will be tightly controlled process. She anticipates a significant increase in usage due to the state of the economy.

Everyone who currently enters the Library is being tracked to attempt to enable contact tracing. Books returned in the book drop are currently being quarantined for 28 days. The Town's BOE staff has been conducting thorough cleanings, and the contracted cleaning service continues to do regular cleanings.

Brook attends the Town's weekly Emergency Operations meetings, and has reviewed Library practices with the head of the Health District. As of this week there will be eight staff working from home. A limited number of employees are performing work inside the

Library that cannot be done remotely. Brook is in the Library Monday through Friday. Depending on circumstances it may become necessary to furlough or lay off some temporary non-union staff.

Book deliveries through the libraries' supplemental system are continuing, while Brook tries addressing logistical difficulties before resuming State Library deliveries.

The use of online resources has grown, as are the expenses associated with those services, particularly Hoopla. Agreements with two new providers, Creative Bug and Acorn TV, are being finalized.

Staff is rolling out online programming using Zoom and Facebook. Virtual programs include bedtime stories, educational programs, and book discussions. Brief book talks highlighting Nutmeg Book Award nominees will begin soon.

Brook also gave updates on the current and proposed Library budgets. The proposed Town budget, including the Library's portion, was published online today. The proposed Library budget reflects a 1.85% increase, all of which is due to pension and health insurance costs, over which the Library has no control. Dorene commended Brook for keeping all other expenses flat.

Motion to Authorize Request For Funding From the Friends of the Library

Hannah Granfield moved to authorize the Library Director to ask the Friends for a \$6,000 donation for the summer reading programs. Laila Mandour seconded.

Brook explained that this request is less than 50% of last year's, due the inability to provide in-house programming. Following discussion, all present voted in favor, in a roll call vote. The motion passed, 7-0.

Motion to Authorize the Expenditure of Funds Previously Withdrawn from the Sjoman Fund.

Laila Mandour moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$15,000 previously withdrawn from the Sjoman Account to be used for online resources. Martha Conneely seconded.

Brook explained that, consistent with the fund restrictions, this money would be spent on adult-oriented resources, such as Hoopla and Creative Bug. She proposed that, given the current market uncertainty, the funds remaining from last year's withdrawal be held for possible future use.

Following discussion, all present voted in favor, in a roll call vote. The motion passed, 7-0.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Hannah Granfield voted to adjourn. Martha Conneely seconded. All present voted in favor, in a roll call vote. The motion passed, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
George Kelly, Secretary