



Wethersfield Library Board Meeting

February 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

UNAPPROVED Minutes

Meeting Began at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Martha Conneely, Chair, Rosalynn Bravo-Cavoli, Michelle DiPaola, Tracy Gionfriddo, Vice Chair, Kristen Michaels, Secretary, Laurie Wrona

Also Present: Brook Berry, Library Director, Polly Moon, Friends of the Wethersfield Library President

Absent: Shannan Roach, Terry Santapaola

Public Comment

None

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes: Library Board – Jan 24, 2023

Laurie Wrona moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Rosalynn Bravo-Cavoli.

Ayes: Martha Conneely, Rosalynn Bravo-Cavoli, Tracy Gionfriddo, Kristen Michaels

Abstain: Michelle DiPaola

Motion carries.

Friends of the Library Report

Polly Moon reported that the Friends received many donations and new members in just this past month. Their puzzle pop up sale on Feb 18 and 19, earning \$829. They will plan to do that again in the future. They are also considering other new fundraisers, possibly a mini golf event. They are also working on redesigning their logo and membership materials.

Town Council Liaison Report

None

Chairman's Report

Martha Conneely is stepping down as Library Board Chair after this meeting. She has served on the Board for 9 years and expressed her appreciation for all that Brook and the Board have worked together to accomplish. Brook and the Board also expressed their gratitude towards Martha for her exemplary leadership.

Library Director's Report

Brook reported that she is still pricing out a new public use copier, quotes so far have been much higher than expected. She will report back on this in the future.

Programs have been well-attended lately, including teen programs which are drawing 10-12 kids each week and the Take Your Child to the Library day. Upcoming programs include Internet Safety for Teens, Introduction to Beekeeping, and Nature Journaling for adults.

Brook will be meeting with the Library's IT company, NOVUS, to discuss their proposed pricing increase for 2023/2024.

Brook informed the Library Board about recent advocacy on behalf of the CT Library Association regarding unfair e-book pricing for libraries. The pricing is getting too high for most libraries, but there is also concern that if there is pushback the publishers will stop selling to libraries altogether. The Wethersfield Library may have to eliminate Hoopla. Brook plans to reach out to our state legislators.

The repairs to the lower level are still in progress, carpeting is about four weeks out. Brook is hopeful that the lower level will re-open to the public sometime in April, even if it's not fully complete.

The next Library Board meeting will be March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Governance Committee Report

The board reviewed final language for the updated Displays & Exhibits Policies as set forth by the Governance Committee. Tracy Gionfriddo moved to approve the revised policy, Laurie Wrona seconded. All voted in favor, motion carries.

Finance Report

Brook reported that this year's Operating Budget is currently about 65% spent. The Schwab accounts are finally showing a slight improvement, but it's too soon to know if we will be able to make a withdrawal this year.

The CIAC Committee did not approve funding for RFID upgrades and enhancements. Brook is hopeful that some of the remaining Town designated ARPA funds can be allocated for this.

Brook submitted a revenue projection of \$5,000 to the Finance Dept. Brook also met with the Mayor in January, and then also met with the Finance Director and Town Manager to review the Library's Proposed FY 23-24 Budget, it was then reviewed by the Library Finance Committee who made some minor adjustments. Overall, it is a 1.5% increase from this year's adopted budget. The lines that saw the most increase are wages, technology support, and programming. One staff member retired in the past year, some staff have had their hours increased as a result of the retirement, and there is a significant community demand for programs. There is also an increase in technology support. The programs

increase was based on previous actuals, and more funds will likely be needed when the lower level reopens. The Board commended Brook on her meticulous work preparing the budget once again.

Michelle DiPaola motioned to approve the Proposed FY 23-24 Budget, seconded by Tracy Gionfriddo. All voted in favor, motion carries.

Nomination(s) & Election of Officers

Laurie Wrona nominated Kristen Michaels for Library Board Chair, seconded by Tracy Gionfriddo. All voted in favor, motion carries. Kristen Michaels will be resigning as Board Secretary, the Board will vote for a Secretary at the March meeting.

Adjournment

Tracy Gionfriddo motioned to adjourn, seconded by Laurie Wrona. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Michaels

Secretary