

Town of Glastonbury
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board
Monday, September 9, 2019
Minutes

A meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, September 9, 2019, in the Friends Room. A quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm.

1. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Henry Hunt, Ellen Saunig, Jennifer Hudner, Jaye Winkler (Chair)

Other attendees: Barbara Bailey (Library Director), Don Kray (Friends of the Library), William Marut (Visitor)

2. Next meeting – May 13, 2019

3. Public Comments – William Marut present at meeting.

4. Acceptance of prior meeting's minutes

Accepted without comment.

5. Liaison reports

Friends of the Library (from Don Kray):

- The Friends hosted a successful book sale on September 7, 2019.
- \$16,925.00 raised will go into general funds, which generally goes entirely to the library.
- A comment was made that there is no current liaison to the Friends on the Welles-Turner Library Board.

Second Century Fund

- Met on June 18, 2019 to discuss status of renovation.

6. Library Director's Report

From Library Director Barbara Bailey

- New AV equipment, paid for by Friends of the Library, has been excellent. The only thing that is still needed is an Apple adaptor for an iPad. The Library may also want to consider Bluetooth, however, it would cost more money.
- Hoopla – three downloads per person/month. \$1,000/month for the library. On weekends, it is extremely popular. Even on weekdays, it is usually done by 10:30 a.m. It's primarily books on tape. Library is getting a subscription to Canope, which is essentially the library version of Netflix. Canope approached BB because they got comments from our (Glastonbury) patrons about why Glastonbury doesn't have it.
- Audio is more expensive to download than e-books. Can run \$4.99. E-books can run approximately \$2.99.

Statistical Report

- Henry Hunt commented that Acorn had a significant jump in the previous month.
- Barbara Bailey comments that unfortunately a lot of services are going now “pay per use”. It is a new service model that libraries are having to adapt to.
- Top 5 publishers, e.g., Penguin, etc. tend to limit availability on services such as Hoopla.
- Overdrive is another service that the library consortium offers. Consortium pools its money together to get bestsellers. However, it’s not unlimited access, because the publishers feel they are losing money and authors are losing royalties. Print versions of bestsellers are cheaper than the electronic versions.

Public comment:

- William Marut commented that there were a lot of library services being discussed at the meeting that he was not familiar with. This suggests that other members of the public may not know about it either. How do we make more people aware of it? For marketing, you could pick certain services to market, the affordable services. The list of services identified on the statistical report is much more extensive than what is on the website.
- Jaye Winkler suggested a monthly services update.
- Barbara Bailey noted that services are featured in the monthly newsletter.
- Jennifer Hudner noted that it’s important to keep the public informed and engaged, especially in light of the upcoming renovation. Barbara Bailey suggested that social media is probably the best way to go, due to low circulation of the *Glastonbury Citizen*.

Room usage

- Jaye Winkler discussed an article on the “ideal library.” It had a room like the “Friends” room – a meeting room. It continues to be part of the vision of libraries to offer a space where the community can come together. It unites the community and it can continue to be that place. The “ideal library” also had makers’ space.
- Glastonbury Room is used for a small meeting room. It contains Glastonbury history books. It’s a nice room to sit and read, study. Book discussion groups use the Glastonbury Room. A job search group meets there Monday morning.

Expense Report

- New fiscal year, so not much new information
- “Office supplies” charge of \$1,371.25 is from a vendor double-charging by accident.
- “Books and Media” includes the monthly charges of all the services used.
- Jennifer Hudner asked whether \$10,000.00 is sufficient for Programming. Barbara Bailey noted that Friends helps out some programs, such as music, and that last

year was the first year that we came close to spending the full \$10k budget. Also, a lot of groups will do programs free for libraries.

- Jaye Winkler circulated passed around a pamphlet from the Syracuse library regarding their speaker series. Obviously, Syracuse is a much bigger city, but it does give ideas about potential to grow speaker program.
- Barbara Bailey noted that the best draws with speakers is usually on a Sunday afternoon. Though BB does note that the music series last month on a Thursday night sold out.
- William Marut commented that there are speakers out of Manchester community college, for example, that would definitely speak on a Sunday afternoon.
- Some local authors do not charge. Bigger-name authors do charge, sometimes several thousands of dollars, to speak.

Poet Laureate

- The Poet Laureate, Dr. Lepore, has done a lot of work at the senior center. He publishes in the *Citizen* a lot and also features other offers. However, he has not done special events at the library. He has done special events and a poetry class at the senior center. He also works with the high school. He also does a number of readings at The Riverbend Bookshop.
- Our current poet laureate tends to be out in the community a lot. When the previous poet laureate would have events, they would often be almost 90 people. So, there would be a space concern if we did something at the library.
- Barbara Bailey noted that at some point, the Friends room may have to be used for storage during the expansion. Once the expansion happens, a speaker would be a good way to introduce the public to the new room. Barbara Bailey does not recommend large-scale events right now with the expansion pending.
- Parking may be a concern, if the lot is closed for a period of time during the renovation.

7. Board Committee reports

None.

8. Old Business

Library renovation and expansion

- Barbara Bailey requested input from the Board on a potential change to the plan for the expansion. The architect selected for the project is not the same architect that did the feasibility study (which was also done 5 years ago). The feasibility study is based on data from FY 2013-2014.

- The new architect has recommended a change to the renovation plan. The original plan called for a separate, 500 sq. ft addition to the children's area. The architect is suggesting that we scrap the idea and, instead of building the addition, work with existing space and move the children's area. In lieu of the 500 sq. foot addition, the children's section would be raised level with the lobby. There would be doors to extend onto the terrace. The teen room would still almost double in size. We would lose the digital media section. The only new construction would be the makers' space area.
- The change to the plan would have to be approved by the Town Council, because the expansion went to referendum on a different plan. The State library doesn't see it as a major change.
- Ellen Saunig asked Barbara Bailey why the architect recommended the change. Barbara Bailey stated that it be more efficient, let in more light, and be more aesthetically pleasing.
- The change would have to go through Town Council, Town Planning & Zoning, and other relevant boards and commissions.
- We would not lose more parking. The only major change would be that there is no new built-in space for the new children's area.
- The architects for the expansion have strong connections to Glastonbury.
- Concerns from the Town Council and other commissions are not anticipated.

Jaye Winkler moved to approve the suggested revision of plan to the library expansion, specifically, the children's space, for a vote by the Board. Henry Hunt seconded. Approved unanimously by all board members present.

- Next steps on renovation – construction cannot start in the winter, so it will likely be spring before construction starts. Then contractor bidding process needs to start, etc.
- Town Council meeting – likely September 25, 2019 to address the library expansion.
- Association of Library Boards Conference – November 8, 2019. Barbara Bailey will send it around to the Board group in case there is interest. There is some question as to how long the Association of Library Boards will last. It is unlikely that we will get training here from them. They were going to brief people on functions of library boards but that is looking unlikely at this point.

10. Correspondence

None.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Saunig.