

Town of Glastonbury
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board
Monday, May 10, 2021
Minutes

A virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, May 10, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. A quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Susan Pearlman (Chair), Jennifer Hudner, Jaye Winkler, Alex Demircan. A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Barbara Bailey (Library Director), Donald Kray (Friends of the Library)

2. Next Meeting

September 13, 2021

3. Public Comment

None

4. Acceptance of Prior Meeting's Minutes

Correction – next meeting should be noted as May 10, 2021, not May 18, 2021. Otherwise accepted without comment.

5. Liaison Reports

Friends of the Library:

- Friends is looking forward to better weather for grab bag book sales. No plans to take book donations for the foreseeable future. There will likely be no donations during 2021.
- Friends has a new website.
- At the last Friends meeting, authorized a number of purchases that the Library Director had presented as standard Friends funds for the library. Ex: summer program, gift certificates for prizes, printing costs for children's booklets.
- Annual Meeting – May 26, 2021 – Michael Lepore, current poet laureate, will be the guest speaker. Link is located on the website. All are welcome. Event is virtual.

- Issue with book donations is lack of storage space, partly due to construction at the Library. Additionally, Friends had collected books for May 2020 sale.
- Friends considered moving operations and storing books elsewhere, but it was deemed not feasible due to costs and logistical issues with moving books around. The Friends are grateful and privileged to have space to store at the library.

Second Century Report:

- Money for renovation has been transferred.
- Book talks when safe to be in-person again.
- Discussion of additional funds for the Makers' Space.
- Fundraising: raised approximately \$11-12k from the annual appeal. Second Century will continue to fundraise because they are for long term capital improvement projects. Second Century will also be submitting a grant proposal with the Hartford Foundation for the Makers' Space.
- STEAM lab is going in at the high school – needs to be coordinated with the Makers' Space at the library – want to make sure that don't totally overlap.

6. Library Director's Report

- The Library opened more services today. Study rooms have opened with socially distanced seating.
- Will be restarting some newspaper subscriptions, which lapsed while the library was closed due to the pandemic.
- The Library currently gets a few hundred patrons a day, compared to 500/600 pre-pandemic. Part of it is construction, part of it is services that are not available due to Covid and social distancing. Other libraries are seeing a similar reduction in visitors.
- Children's Room has been quiet. However, it may increase with summer reading. The department is discussing outdoor programs with small groups.
- Still doing online interactive programs, such as teen cooking program, painting, etc.
- Once more in-person services are available, the amount of patrons visiting will likely increase. The construction is also a factor.

7. Board Committee Reports

Poet Laureate (Alex Demircan and Jaye Winkler):

- When the current Poet Laureate's term is over, there should be some form of public recognition, hopefully outside. Alex Demircan is happy to work to get word out about the event once it is scheduled.
- With respect to new Poet Laureate, 3 people have applied. Next steps are interview process. Will need to be on Zoom.
- Judges: we got a request from one of them, Dan (who was instrumental in getting applicants), to do interviews in person. Town Manager might open up the town as of May 16. Governor opens everything as of May 19. We will address this issue once more information becomes available.
- After Board makes a recommendation as to the new Poet Laureate, he or she will need to be approved by the Town Council. This will probably need to happen in the June meeting, so interviews will need to be fairly soon. No interviews have been set up yet.
- For future Poet Laureates, we may want to designate a Board member to reach out to them and see how things are going. Additionally, a suggestion was made to invite them to Board meetings (perhaps every 6 months or so) to see what they have been doing and how things are going, etc.
- In Citizen, it has been a conversation between the PL and the Citizen to determine how much space to allocate to poems in the paper, etc.
- The Poet Laureate interview committee: Alex Demircan, Jaye Winkler, Ellen Saunig, Dan Schnaidt.

8. Old Business

Library renovation project -

- Library budget passed as presented to council.
- Taking a while to get supplies. The Library Director is waiting on a revised schedule. Had asked to hold off doing work in the children's room to get through summer reading and it looks like that is going to happen. Soon, North wing will be able to be reopened and they will move to the south wing.
- Back entrance ripped up and heated bricks will be installed. Once that is done, that can be opened up to the public.
- The Library Director gets updates every week and attends construction meetings.
- Opening – likely spring 2022.

9. New Business

- The next Board meeting is in September. Board discussed how to agree on a recommendation for the next Poet Laureate given that the next Board meeting is not until September. Per the Library Director, there was likely no formal procedure in place. Board Chair suggested a motion that the Board accept the subcommittee's recommendation.

- Jaye Winkler moved that the Board should accept the recommendation of the Poet Laureate subcommittee as to the next poet laureate.
 - Motion seconded by Alex Demircan.
 - Motion accepted unanimously

Where will future meetings be located?

- Likely will be decided by the Town, and probably a hybrid model.

Meeting adjourned 5:47 p.m.