

Town of Glastonbury
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board
Monday, November 8, 2021
Minutes

A virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, November 8, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. A quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Susan Pearlman (Chair), Jennifer Hudner, Ellen Saunig, Alexander Demircan.

Other Attendees: Barbara Bailey (Library Director), Donald Kray (Friends of the Library), Andrea Barton (Glastonbury Poet Laureate)

2. Next Meeting

January 11, 2022

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Acceptance of Prior Meeting's Minutes

Accepted without comment.

5. Poet Laureate – Andrea Barton

- Things continue to be extremely busy.
- Columns in *The Glastonbury Citizen* are ongoing, though it is difficult to tell who/what audience is reading them. Reached out to the high school to put a call out for a specific kind of poem for the December column.
- Planning a Valentine's Day column with elementary schools for *Glastonbury Life*.
- Met with Jane Julien Gordon.
- There's a woman who reached out regarding teaching a poetry class at the Riverfront Community Center. However, more details needed before this is scheduled.
- Working with high schools regarding the haiku project. "Ku-laboration." Rockville, Amity, Canton, Glastonbury, and RHAM are on-board. Each class will write a Haiku, and send it to another class, who will then write another Haiku in response. Hoping to help get art departments involved to make scrolls with the Haikus to hang in the

schools. Each school should end up with a strand of Haikus. Likely won't be completed until May or June.

- The possibility of a poetry slam was discussed for high school students. Andrea will reach out to the teachers at the high school. It was noted however that some kids may be uncomfortable with the level of public speaking that a poetry slam would require.
- Andrea will also reach out to the Poet Laureate in Manchester, Ryan Parker, to work to help out with reaching middle school/Gideon Welles. This is a difficult-to-reach age group for poetry.
- Plan for ideas in the spring when things are open and outside and can reach pedestrians.
- Board thanks Andrea for all the work and her columns.
- "Paint Night" but with poetry? Suggestion from Sandy Sergio. This is easier in person but a potential event idea.

6. Liaison Reports

Friends of the Library:

- There has not been a Friends meeting since the most recent Library Board meeting.
- Because work is currently underway at the Children's section, no access to sorting area.
- Not accepting books for a while.
- Adopted "Little Free Library" that's located near the Boathouse and Riverfront Community Center. Originally put up by a Girl Scout Troop in town, Friends has adopted it and will rehab it with new paint, labels. Friends has been donating books to and will be maintaining it regularly. Box is a standard size. Estimate it holds about 40 books.
- Hope to get back into the Library ASAP. Have a regular meeting next week.
- Hoping to have a book sale in May, but the issue is whether there will be enough books to hold it. Usually collecting books from October to May for the May sale. This year, likely will not be able to start collecting books until January or February.

Second Century Fund:

- No official report, but liaison (Jennifer Hudner) reported that a number of the Second Century Fund members would like to be on the grand opening committee for the renovation project and would be happy to help cover costs for the grand opening.
- Lisa See event is tonight, sponsored by the Second Century Fund. As of this morning, 71 people had signed up, which is a strong turnout.
- At recent meeting, discussed different events/programming ideas for the Library grand opening. Put together a brainstorming list. Examples:
 - o Tour guide in each area
 - o Refreshments
 - o Readings in each area
 - o Storytime, puppet shows in each area going throughout the day.

- Maker's Space – depends on what equipment will be there. Potentially members from the community to help demonstrate different uses of the Maker's Space.
- Music at different times during the day, perhaps from the high school.
- Video and slideshow about the history of the library.
- Poetry Reading

7. Library Director's Report

- Library has been running under budget due to Covid.
- Library has noticed an increase in e-books during the pandemic.
- Based on publisher's statistics, print books have actually increased about 18%. However, due to supply chain issues, some publishers are delaying their bestseller publications.

8. Statistical Report

- Moving along as it should for the beginning of the year.

9. Board Committee Reports

None.

10. Old Business

Library Renovation

- A temporary reference desk and children's desk will need to be set up downstairs.
- The Library is exploring ways to hook up a few public computers.
- Hopefully by the end of the week the main floor back door will be open. The only thing that will be available on the second floor are the fiction and nonfiction collections.
- The new addition on the second floor is almost finished. It's carpeted and open to the public.
- Grand opening date likely April or May 2022. Hoping to have a real date at the end of January. April is poetry month so this would be ideal.
- Library Director is very happy with how things are looking. It's much brighter with the new wall treatments and LED lighting and windows, especially in the afternoon sun. It's a very nice place to read. Not accessible via stairs right now but can access via elevator.
- Timing – a substantial part should be done by end of January, but more likely a bit later. Some materials and furniture are being delayed due to the ongoing supply chain issues.
- Drop box is open again.
- Grand Opening Committee meeting on 11/9/2021. Will circulate ideas after.

11. New Business

- The Board will vote on the 2022 meeting schedule at January 2022 meeting.
- Budget season is starting. Anticipate some increase in utility costs. In terms of staffing, no additional staff is being added until the new building is operational. However, the Library is holding a part-time position for the Maker's Space.
- The Chair recommended a budget increase for Programming. The Library Director commented that the Library could also consider grants and community funding.

Meeting adjourned 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen D. Saunig