

Town of Glastonbury  
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board  
Monday, January 10, 2022  
Minutes

A virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, January 10, 2022. The meeting was held virtually due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. A quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

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

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

**2. Next Meeting**

March 14, 2022

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Acceptance of Prior Meeting's Minutes**

Accepted without comment.

**5. Poet Laureate Update**

(\* Note: Andrea Barton, Poet Laureate, was unable to attend the meeting. Other Board members shared an update).

- 350 kindergarteners are in the middle of a Valentine's Day project. Will be published on GPS website, streaming, in *Glastonbury Life*.

- The Board noted that the Columns in the *Glastonbury Citizen* have been wonderful.

- Andrea has recruited Sandy Sergio (a past Poet Laureate) to help her with a portrait program.

- A question was raised about allocating space in the library to post her *Citizen* articles. The Library Director suggested potentially dedicating a section of the Library's website if Andrea can provide electronic files.

## **6. Liaison Reports**

Friends of the Library (Donald Kray):

- The Friends met to determine alternative fundraisers. Otherwise, it has been relatively quiet. Friends will be meeting again in the next few weeks.
- There's a shortage of children's books at Little Free Library. We are working on getting more Children's Books.
- May not be able to have a May sale because we really will not have enough time getting enough books.

Second Century Fund (no representative present, but Board liaison and Library Director provided an update):

- Grand Reopening discussions
- Nominations for Board members.
- Annual appeal.

## **7. Library Director's Report**

- "All Connecticut Reads" – state library has pulled together with a grant. To encourage all CT people to read and discuss books. Library Director attending a program on 1/13 to learn more about it. It sounds like something that once word gets out about it there may be interest. Book discussion but likely not until in-person event is possible.

## **8. Statistical Report**

- About 7k patrons. There was an increase over the summer with Covid numbers going down, now there has been a decline with Covid numbers increasing.
- "Cutting the cord" event last week had about 68 people which is strong. However, people are sick of Zoom. Also, it's difficult for little kids to pay attention to Zoom events.
- To date the library has spent 78% of budget. Generally, we are on target.
- There's a position for the Maker's Space, but it needs to be posted/advertised. Town implemented an online hiring system so we are waiting for them to get it a bit more up and running before we recruit more people.
- Next year we may need to request for money for programming.

## **9. Board Committee Reports**

None.

## 10. Old Business

### Library Renovation

- Moving along. There have been issues with supply chain and delivery like everywhere else right now. Problems with workers and COVID.
- Contractor would like to be done the end of February 2022. Major things that still need to be done are: skylights in 1952 building where the reference area is and the area near the front door.
- Furnishings – Library Director has a meeting on 1/11 for a discussion on furnishing schedules.
- Children’s Room – carpet is in. Ceiling panels are done. This could be ready by the end of next week. The only thing it won’t have are bookshelves. This vendor is not scheduled to ship until the end of January.
- Small things that need to be pulled together, but it’s unclear when these things will happen.
- Maker’s Space area is not yet complete.

## 11. New Business

- Budget was submitted. An approximately 3% increase from last year. Mostly had to do with facilities, maintenance, etc., because of the additional space that needs to be kept clean.
- Grand Reopening – no date yet. Possibly April or if Covid doesn’t allow, early September.
  - o General theme: “Next chapter” / “something for everyone”
  - o Various committees – publicity, history/slideshow (video slideshow. Will include interviews about history of the library), refreshment (Second Century will be providing funding), Makers Space (activities), decorations (working with Partners in Planting), Programming (tour guides? Book lover passport? Scavenger hunt for kids? Possibly music in the adult area), activities with Poet Laureate.
  - o Second Century and Friends are shouldering a lot of the money and planning responsibility for the Grand Reopening.
  - o What about a staggered opening – children’s first? Unclear when it will be done.
  - o Library Director recommends waiting until September 2022 for grand reopening event.

- **Election of Officers:**

The following Library Board officers were nominated and approved by the Board without objection:

Susan Pearlman – Chair  
Jennifer Hudner – Vice Chair  
Ellen Saunig - Secretary

Meeting adjourned 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen D. Saunig