

Town of Glastonbury
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board
Monday, May 9, 2022

Minutes

A virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, May 9, 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

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

2. Next Meetings

September 12, 2022

November 14, 2022

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Acceptance of Prior Meeting's Minutes

Accepted unanimously without comment.

5. Liaison Reports

Poet Laureate (Andrea Barton):

- April was poetry month and it was very busy. Unfortunately, unable to participate in a lot of public events due to illness at the end of March.
- Poetry class continues to be well-attended.
- Recently participated in "evening of rhyme and rhetoric" at the high school. Very impressed by the quality of the poetry and it was very well-attended. It was not open to the public yet because of Covid, but there was a lot of family, students, etc. It was a wonderful night. It's an annual event, but this was the first time it was held in-person since 2020. Originally started by Sandy Sergio.

- “Poetry Corner” in the Library Newsletter – 1 or 2 poems or so a month (but does not need to be a specific schedule) to go into the WTML newsletter. However, Andrea did note the difficulty of getting people to share their poetry. People tend to be self-conscious.
- Andrea met with Kathy from the Arts Guild and several others for a discussion of how to incorporate poetry into the Arts on the Green Show. Made some headway planning this.

Friends of the Library (Donald Kray):

- The Friends new permanent book stop has been up and running at the Library for almost two months and doing very well. Friends has been using books that have been in storage for over two years to fill it.
- Still hoping for a book sale in September, but not able to easily access the storage and sorting facilities (which are located in the back of the Children’s Section). Waiting for Children’s section to be completed to go ahead with it.
- Currently, Friends are still unable to collect books.
- Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Speaker is Mike Berdan from the Glastonbury Historical Society discussing the history of the library. Will be live in the common room at the Library.

Second Century Fund:

- Last meeting cancelled. The annual meeting is scheduled for next week. Much of the agenda has to do with the grand reopening of the Library.
- Susan Pearlman asked if they have set aside specific funding for equipment for the Makers’ Space. Per Jennifer Hudner, at the next meeting there will likely be a discussion of funding for the grand reopening and the Makers’ Space.

6. Library Director’s Report

- Library is now open for regular hours. Evenings and Saturday afternoons are currently very quiet. Nationwide, libraries have not yet seen the return to pre-covid levels of attendance. Presently, download accounts for 25% of circulation. This is also common nationwide.
- Expense report – we are on target.
- Renovations –
 - o 5/10/2022 – movers will be returning the children’s collection. This will likely take until Friday to complete. Great to have it back before summer reading happens. Once this happens, Friends are considering a date as to when they will begin accepting donations again. Library receives daily calls about donations.
 - o Monday to Wednesday of next week, workers will be upstairs on the second floor setting up shelving in the new wing and in the reference section.
 - o Old periodicals/gallery is almost ready. Same with the Glastonbury Room. Needs to be cleaned thoroughly.

- Reference desk – once it gets certified, which means it's working properly, will start opening public computers.
 - Really in the “finishing up” stages at this point. There is no longer a contractor on-site. There are some outstanding furnishings. The patio furnishings will probably be a bit longer. Front door is not quite open yet.
 - Some of the hardware for the doors had to be reordered. Door handles, etc.
 - Common area – first scheduled event is the upcoming Friends meeting.
 - Brick on front door – a Board member asked if is staying red or is it being painted white? Also, the front columns.
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- Partners in Planting – Jennifer Hudner was in touch with them and they were planning to get in touch with Barbara Bailey regarding the Grand Reopening and the planters. Another idea was to get posters with poetry along some of the planters on Main Street. She was going to discuss with Barbara Bailey.
 - There are groups interested in a “seed library.” This is a potential for next spring.
 - There is also interest in a board game library.
 - The Friends contribution is not part of the operating budget (same with Second Century). Anything from them is special and not part of the budget.
 - Jennifer asked about Programs budget. Friends also gives money for programs. Second Century will often put on their own programs, such as author visits. If the Library had a big program they wanted to do, it would be a special request to the Friends for funding.
 - Jennifer Hudner commented on how it may be beneficial to have hybrid programs once we are able to resume more in-person programming. It may increase participation.
 - The library is working on hiring. There are a few positions the Library is looking to fill.

7. Statistical Report

- No increase in business was noted during the winter months.

8. Board Committee Reports

- Grand Reopening Committee – meeting on May 17, 2022. There has not been a meeting for a few months. There are programs in place.
- Date: the weekend after the Arts on the Green show and book sale.
- Working on getting music for first thing in the morning.
- There will be activities for all ages throughout the day.
- Susan and Alex are working on a PPT for the history of the Library.
- Could there be a volunteer coordinator for the Grand Reopening from the Friends? This might be difficult, considering the book sale the weekend before.
- The Children's area will probably need the most help. Second Century will probably try to staff all the refreshment-type things.

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Meeting Minutes
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9. New Business

None.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen D. Saunig