

Town of Glastonbury
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board
Monday, March 14, 2022

Minutes

A virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, March 14, 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), Bruce Bowman (President of TALK), Andrea Barton (Poet Laureate)

2. Next Meetings

May 9, 2022

September 12, 2022

3. Public Comment

Bruce Bowman – current president of TALK (Truth in Action with Love & Kindness)

- Thanked the Library Director for discussing an idea that TALK recently had regarding expanding its reach into the community. TALK would like to liasion with the library to broaden reach to the residents of Glastonbury in topics of interest, for example, citizen education, social justice, environmental issues. The first event that the Library Director has approved is based on a book Beyond your Bubble. A meeting will be held 1x/week for 4 weeks using TALK's ZOOM account. TALK purchased a number of copies of the book to make them available for the library.
- TALK views the library as the hub and social fabric of the community for learning and growth/communication. Goal is to offer a different dynamic/range of activities so residents can see different things that may be of interest, focusing on locally-based content that is of interest to the Glastonbury community.
- Library involvement includes posting on social media, webpage, etc., book availability. Additionally, once the Friends Room becomes available, hope is that in-person events can be held there. TALK is not looking for financial support. Looking for collaboration to utilize communication network for things going on in the community.

4. Acceptance of Prior Meeting's Minutes

Accepted without comment.

5. Poet Laureate Update (Andrea Barton)

- Kindergarten project
- Has been hosting classes, which have been well-attended.
- Will be planning an April event for Poetry Month, likely in collaboration with Riverbend Bookshop.
- Will be guest teaching in the "Rhetoric & Rhyme" class at Glastonbury high School.
- Potentially poetry readings at the grand reopening, depending on whether it is the same day as "Arts on the Green." Suggested potentially reading relevant poems from books as opposed to original poetry.

6. Liaison Reports

Friends of the Library (Donald Kray):

- Friends just found out that they can start accessing storage facilities at the library starting on 3/16. Hoping to start collecting donations again by the end of the month or early in April. Most likely preparing for a large book sale in September.
- Been exploring alternative fundraising, as the last book sale was in September 2019. Still able to support the library, but looking for new ways to raise money.
- Annual meeting is May 24, 2022. There will be a presentation on the history of the Library. In-person vs. Zoom is TBD.
- Once the date is firm, Friends will be publicizing the date that books can be donated again.

Second Century Fund:

- Received a lot of donations, approximately \$17k, from the annual appeal.
- Working closely with Library Director regarding providing support for the Makers' Space.
- Potential Donor's Event

7. Library Director's Report

- Niche Academy trains people on how to use online databases. Libraries that have used it have seen a 70% increase in their use of databases.
- Library Director didn't get any feedback about the Lisa See event, but it was very well-attended, with approximately 70 people attending on Zoom. The National Parks program was also very popular.

8. Statistical Report

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

9. Board Committee Reports

- Grand Reopening:
 - o Reopening committee has been working on details for the grand reopening. There will be a magician for kids and other activities throughout the afternoon in the children's section, for example, book characters and a ukulele program. In the late afternoon, planning live music for adults. There will be tour guides and activities in the Maker's Space. Refreshments are subject to Covid.
 - o The Reopening Committee is seeking assistance with creating a video/slideshow. Board Member Demircan may be available to help depending on the time of year, what's needed, etc.

10. Old Business

Library Renovation

- Moving along. Second floor still needs work, but the other areas are down to "checklists."
- Anticipated completion is mid-April.
- Furniture delivery today, however, children's furniture delivery isn't expected until the end of May.

11. New Business

- Safety Policy – needed to be updated, primarily since the library will be receiving federal funds via the AARA. The Board reviewed the updated policy. A motion to accept the new policy was made, and a second was offered. The new policy was approved unanimously.
- Letter to the Editor – the Board asked the Library Director for background about a recent letter appearing in the *Glastonbury Citizen* regarding the library's policy with respect to taking pictures. The writer had an issue with the current policy.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen D. Saunig