

Town of Glastonbury
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board
Monday, September 19, 2022

Minutes

A virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, September 19, 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), Maureen Cosgrove (Second Century Fund)

2. Next Meeting

November 14, 2022

3. Public Comment

Town Council member Jake McChesney is interested in establishing a board game club at the Library. Barbara Bailey will be working with Jake to get more information about the idea. The Board discussed if this could be in the Makers' Space or the Friends Room.

4. Acceptance of Prior Meeting's Minutes

Accepted unanimously without comment.

5. Liaison Reports

Friends of the Library (Donald Kray):

- Book stop is averaging about \$650/month since it's been there, which is considerably better than when it was the book cart.
- The Friends made about \$13k from the recent book sale. For a book sale, this tends to be a small amount, however, considering we only had a few months to collect books (June, July, and August), we were quite happy with the number.
- Reopening for book donations on 9/21.
- Friends are considering winter book sales – pre pandemic we did one for children's books and one for other books. They used to raise \$1-2k each.
- Friends will have its regular sale in May.

- Sue Pearlman asked if it was possible for the Friends to have a kiosk on the second floor to sell books. Barbara Bailey commented that there is currently not room for it, further, the Friends get the best exposure from the back entrance because only about 30% of people use the front door.
- The Board discussed whether it would be possible to have a fall or winter book sale, for instance, for a specific genre, in the common area. Don Kray commented in the past the fall/winter book sales have been in the Friends room. Barbara Bailey further commented that the commons tends to be busy on the weekends.
- The Friends are recycling fewer books now because we're giving to Goodwill and other groups. Assuming we have enough books we will do a children's and non-children's book sale.

Second Century Fund (Maureen Cosgrove):

- Nothing to report other than kudos to everyone who worked on the Grand Reopening celebration and it was great to contribute to such a wonderful space. Jenny Roscoe, specifically, did an enormous amount of work for the Grand Reopening.
- Jennifer Hudner commented that the grand reopening was a wonderful collaboration from many different groups.

6. Grand Reopening

- Susan Pearlman thanked both the Friends and Second Century for all their help on the fabulous Grand Reopening celebration. Especially Jen and Barbara and credit to Alex for the wonderful film work at the beginning and the end of the slideshow and the editing. A number of people comment on the slideshow and said that they really liked it.
- Approximately 1627 people came through the door on Saturday for the grand reopening, which is probably four times as much as we usually get on a Saturday.
- Barbara Bailey received a lot of positive comments on the library.
- Jennifer Hudner remarked on the "loads of smiles all day." Every age group was represented. It was a very nice time.
- Maureen Cosgrove asked if we got any ideas for the makers' space on the whiteboard. Barbara Bailey reported that there were a lot of program ideas, for example: sewing, jewelry making, sewing for kids, virtual reality (the VR glasses were very popular), advanced web design, e-commerce, game for Xbox, how to print food (through a VR program, you can design food that you may want to make and then send it to the 3D printer), quilting, coding, robotics, how to use the equipment, 3D printing classes, hydrodipping, sneaker art, wood and historic crafts, embroidery, pottery, drones, etc.

- Susan Pearlman asked if the library would be readvertising the position for the makers space? The library is planning to readvertise it, but needs to follow-up with HR. The positions have been approved.

7. Library Director's Report

*Statistical Report and Expense Report will be e-mailed to the Board.

- Library Cards – staff did a lot of new cards and renewals on Saturday at the grand reopening, but we don't have the full accounting yet.
- Barbara Bailey will do a composite of the whole grand reopening day once all the information is in.
- It is unclear at this point whether an increase in program attendees. In-person programming for September also just started.

8. Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate, Andrea Barton, not in attendance. However, Susan Pearlman and Jennifer Hudner can report that Andrea was very instrumental in the "Poetry Around Town" banners. These are little snippets of poems or very short poems designed to connect with you as you're out in nature. The Glastonbury Community Fund (via Hartford Foundation for Public Giving) gave us \$1k for this project. We with Andrea to find the poems and Lisa Zerio (Director, Recreation Commission) to help get them up/locations. Three banners are near the fountain on the town green. Presently there are four banners in Riverfront Park. The biggest issue is that they are not permanent, but now they have to search for funding for next year. Got \$1k this year but unclear where funding will come for next year.
- There are also some poems in the library.
- There may be a request to the Friends or Second Century for possible future funding for the Poetry Around Town. It's about \$1k to do the banners. Maureen Cosgrove will add it to the agenda for the upcoming Second Century meeting.

9. Old Business

- Renovation Update: pretty much done. Still working through a punch list, but even that's getting done. Susan Pearlman asked if there was any money set aside for the room with the painted tree. Barbara Bailey stated that it's a storytime room, which will be starting soon for the fall following some cleaning that needs to be done first.
- A board member asked whether there is money left over from the project that the library reserving. Barbara Bailey indicated that there probably will be some, but until we pay what we are contractually obligated to pay, the Library will not be taking on anything additional.

9. New Business

- Barbara Bailey will be retiring at the end of December 2022. She is planning to assist in the transition. The position was been advertised. Human Resources and Town Manager are overseeing the hiring.
- Whether or not the Board will have input into the hiring process is unclear at this time. The Board will try to connect with the town manager to find out if the Board will have any input into the hiring process.
- Ellen Saunig asked about the possibility of returning to in-person meetings. The Board discussed having a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting format.

Meeting adjourned 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen D. Saunig