

Town of Glastonbury  
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board  
Monday, March 13, 2023

Minutes

A meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, March 13, 2023. A virtual attendance option was also available. 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, Rosemary Coggeshall

Other Attendees: Amy McCue (Library Director), Donald Kray (Friends of the Library), Maureen Cosgrove (Second Century Fund)

Guests: Jake McChesney

The Board welcomes Rose Coggeshall and our new Library Director Amy McCue.

**2. Next Meeting**

May 8, 2023

**3. Public Comment**

Jake McChesney joined the Board meeting for a presentation about board games. Jake is a member of Town Council but he attended the Board meeting in his capacity as a private citizen. His comments did not reflect the opinions of the Town Council.

Jake discussed the idea of developing a board game collection at the library. Board games have developed tremendously over the last two decades. There's a board game for every interest. In addition to having a board game collection, the library could have programming for senior citizens, children, all ages. This would create interest in the library and helps to equalize resources for these games that may be expensive for some citizens to purchase on their own.

A number of libraries coordinate with companies to donate games. The Manchester library has a robust collection and works with their local game store.

Amy McCue (Library Director) commented that there are many libraries at this point lending games and it's not uncommon. Manchester Library has the most established program in our area. Amy did question whether Manchester has the market cornered.

Jake is happy to lend his efforts and enthusiasm. Several Board members commented that they fully support Jake in this endeavor.

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

There was an error on the prior meeting's minutes with respect to the Second Century Fund. There is no set/established percentage that Second Century donates to the library every year.

Minutes approved with the above correction.

#### **5. Liaison Reports**

Friends of the Library (Donald Kray):

- Donations are down. Headed toward a May 13 book sale which is traditionally the largest of the year, but donations are down. Friends are doing things to increase the number of books that we keep. Also wrote a letter to *The Citizen* to encourage people to donate. Seeing a bump up in book donations. Most books aren't accepted after 5 years. However, for good quality fiction books, Friends will accept older books and have a special section at the sale in May for that kind of book.
- Library book stop continues to do well. Typically selling \$500-\$600/month.
- Next friends meeting is 3/21.

Second Century Fund (Maureen Cosgrove):

- Maureen extended a meeting invitation to Amy to next meeting which is on April 19.

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

Chicken eggs are supposed to hatch any time!

Sue Pearlman asked whether hybrid programs will continue. She commented that the "Around the World in 80 Gardens" program, which was hybrid, had technical issues. Per Amy, the library will likely use a hybrid model for smaller programs, whereas larger programs will be in person. Hybrid and/or fully remote programming will likely be focused in the winter.

Board members suggested a photo board in the Library with programming information, as well as featuring a Librarian on the bulletin board to help patrons get to know the library staff.

1/3 of the Library's circulation is digital, 2/3 is physical.

Sue Pearlman circulated an article in the *Courant* about pending legislation regarding e-books. Librarians are currently trying to put forward a bill to help libraries purchase e-books. Right now, when a library goes to purchase an e-book, they are significantly more expensive (hundreds more) than if a patron went to purchase a book directly. That's if the publishers even allow them to be purchased. This extra cost does not result in more money going to authors. They are not benefiting – only the publishers. The publishers argue that they will lose money because with paper books the libraries have to buy multiple copies. According to Amy, the whole consortium

is going to the capital to testify or submit written testimony on how the contracts are unfair to libraries.

Overdrive/Libby & Hoopla are the two main services that we use for e-books. There are well over 250/300k titles with the consortium. In Hoopla, instead of buying titles, you pay a user fee. It's limited – there's only a certain amount of money in the budget each month for it.

## **7. Andrea Barton (Poet Laureate)**

On April 25, there should be about 20 students coming to the Library for a “poetry based on photograph exercise” based on the photos that are going to be up. The intent is to have some of the poems up and place them near the art.

Rev. Dick Allen asked if he could put together a program at South Church.

Regarding the banners around town, Second Century working with the Recreation Commission to put up new banners around town. It's a joint project funded by Second Century and the Recreation Commission Age Friendly Initiative.

Andrea would be interested in poetry time during the children's story time.

Evening of Rhyme and Rhetoric in May at Glastonbury High School.

## **8. Budget**

Susan Pearlman commented that there's a lot of savings in one section of the budget and asked whether that money can be transferred to different line items. Amy stated it's unclear if money for utilities can be transferred to another part of the budget.

## **9. Old Business**

Makers' Space – Amy is aware of the plans and the goals for the makers' space. Has met briefly with youth and family services. It's going to take some time to get things going.

Andrea Barton commented that there's a program in Manchester with the artist and poet working at the same time. Andrea is working to discuss this program with the poet laureate in Manchester.

## **10. New Business**

Susan Pearlman recommended having some additional Board meetings this spring especially while Amy is just starting out. Board members agreed with the recommendation.

Additionally, she asked that the Board members please review the bylaws for the next meeting and be prepared to discuss our role/mandate as a Board.

## **11. Correspondence**

Amy received one item of correspondence but as the meeting was running late, it will be addressed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen D. Saunig