

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

Minutes

A meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, November 14, 2022 in the Friends Room. 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

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

Guests: Bruce Bowman, Bill Marut

2. Next Meeting

January 9, 2022

The Board voted and unanimously approved a motion to approve the future meeting dates.

3. Public Comment

- Bruce Bowman (TALK) commented that the new library is wonderful. TALK is still interested in have a liaison with the library. Currently, TALK is working on a project about how town government works and is hoping to have individuals from different town Commissions speak. TALK is not asking the library for anything but more searching for a venue/mechanism for greater community participation. Some regional libraries offer this kind of content. It could potentially be virtual as well.
- Bill Marut (TALK) – The TALK Citizen Education team recently met. The idea of putting together a program on town government is still in its formative stages.

4. Acceptance of Prior Meeting's Minutes

- Correction: “Jenny Roscoe” should be changed to “Ginny Roscoe.”
- Approved unanimously with above correction.

5. Liaison Reports

Friends of the Library (Donald Kray):

- Doing well on book sale at the book stop in the Library. The book stop is averaging about \$500-\$600/month.
- Not receiving as many book donations. Friends are also recycling far fewer books because donating to three different organizations. Friends donated books to the East Glastonbury Library as well.
- Friends expects to have a children's book sale. Unlikely to have adult book sale this winter. At this point, Friends are stocking books for the May sale.
- The Guidelines for what the Friends will accept for book donations is online. In our experience, older books don't sell as well. Currently, our cutoff for what we're accepting is 2017.

Second Century Fund:

- (Jennifer Hudner) – Second Century is working on its annual appeal and setting it up to be able to accept donations by means other than personal checks (e.g., Venmo). Annual appeal letter also talks a lot about the grand reopening.
- Second Century agreed to fund the Poetry Around Town program with \$1k to continue the efforts and work in collaboration with the Town and Poet Laureate to have the signs printed and put up.

6. Library Director's Report

- Library is resuming in-person programming whenever possible.
- Grand reopening was a resounding success.
- Library is still looking for a Makers' Space staff person. It has been difficult to find a qualified person. Library Director may propose a full-time technology librarian to the Town Council as part of the budget to oversee the makers' space, other library technology.

7. Statistical Report

- Library is not quite at pre-covid levels yet in terms of attendance. Pre-covid we were around 30k. However, digital is up. Audio, no matter what format, is always high. Circulation numbers have increased compared to prior years' numbers (which included the pandemic and construction).
- Susan Pearlman asked if there are any resources the Board should recommend to Barbara Bailey's successor. Barbara commented that the library is doing well in terms of resources, but she has started a list of equipment for her successor.
- *The Wall Street Journal* is now available online.

8. Budget

- In the early stages. Utilities are going up due to the anticipated cost of heating.
- Books and media – because of ongoing supply chain issues, getting books still takes forever. Library is finding that always having a surplus of books and media.
- Full Time staff – 9 currently (with a library technology position there would be 10)
- Part Time staff – 16 currently (*currently 3 vacancies right).
- Increase in programming budget – this will be the first year post-Covid with the current programming levels, so Library will have to see how it goes before requesting more funding. Pre-Covid, Friends contributing about \$5k toward programming.

9. Old Business

- Renovation – pretty much done. A few mechanical issues are being dealt with. So far so good. A few chairs remain to be upholstered.

10. New Business

- New art in gallery:
 - Jim Salafia will be hanging art December 1 to January 30 in the new gallery. There are also some artists from the Art Guild who are waiting to place art.
 - We could also put art in the Friends Room but it has limited visibility. There is limited wall space now other than the gallery.
 - Jennifer Hudner suggested an evening program to “meet the artist.” In the past, the Library would host such events but it would be up to the artist to plan the reception.

Susan Pearlman thanked Barbara Bailey for her service to the library, especially given the obstacles of the last few years. The Board echoed her sentiments. Barbara Bailey said that she had always had a good working relationship with the Board.

Meeting adjourned 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen D. Saunig