

Town of Glastonbury
Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board
Monday, March 11, 2024
Minutes

A meeting of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Board was held on Monday, March 11, 2024 in the Glastonbury Room and via Zoom.

Meeting officially called to order at 5:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Susan Pearlman (Chair), Jennifer Hudner (via Zoom), Ellen Saunig (via Zoom), Nicole DiCicco, Chris Haaf, and Rosemary Coggehsall (via Zoom).

Other Attendees: Amy McCue (Library Director), Donald Kray (Friends of the Library, via Zoom), Ginny Roscoe (Second Century Fund).

2. 2024 Meeting Schedule

May 20
July 8
September 9
November 12

Susan Pearlman made the motion to switch the May board meeting from May 13 to May 20. Nicole DiCicco seconded the motion. The change was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

Director McCue asked to add the Public Art Policy to the agenda. Susan Pearlman made a motion to add it under Old Business. Nicole DiCicco seconded it and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Acceptance of Prior Meeting's Minutes

There was a discussion regarding the weekend coverage for a lunch break with a clarification to edit the language to "a professional manning the desk." Jennifer Hudner made a motion to accept the prior meeting's minutes with this edit. Chris Haaf seconded it. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Liaison Reports

Friends of the Library (Donald Kray):

- Friends held a successful book sale on January 20, 2024. It was held in both the Friends Room and Makerspace, and consisted of mostly children's books. Donald Kray mentioned that in retrospect, he wishes it was held for a second day as well.
- The same rooms will be used Saturday April 27 and Sunday April 28 for a sale of non-children's books. It will consist of adult books and young adult books. In May, there will be a 2-day sale of children's books, which will also be in the same rooms. Donald Kray stated that there will be no outdoor sale in May, or perhaps ever again.
- The September sale is planned for Academy School and will be two days.
- There was a brief discussion of rare books available for sale on E-Bay at shop name friendswellesturnerbooks (all one word).
- The annual meeting will be held May 21, during which there will be an election of officers.

Second Century Fund (Ginny Roscoe):

- The Connecticut Wineries and Wine Trail event on February 15 was full and went over well.
- The small business panel will be held in the Friends Room this week.
- The next board meeting is the annual meeting on April 24, 2024, during which there will be an election of officers. The current secretary is stepping down.
- An updated name for the Makerspace was discussed. Ginny Roscoe stated that she has not officially requested the Second Century Fund Studio to Town Council, as they are dealing with more pressing issues at the moment.
- Ginny Roscoe mentioned a potential fun run in the fall, which could be a source of income and could help pay for a big author to come next spring.
- Susan Pearlman asked about the potential of sponsors to fund the big author, and Ginny Roscoe thought that may work.

6. Library Director's Report

- The library is continuing to buzz with compliments abound.
- The first chick hatched in the children's department.

- The Library Speakers Consortium service offered has been very popular and a special series of children's and YA authors will be included this summer.
- Director McCue met with a staff member from Chris Murphy's office to discuss sharing information about library needs and discussing federal programs that might be potential resources, and she has acquired resources to review.
- Library visits continue to be strong. Numbers are slightly higher than pre-pandemic, for both foot traffic and circulation.
- The opening for the current art exhibit is this week. A good reception is expected. The Gallery Committee met and identified a selection of artists they'd like to host for the coming year, and all have accepted. There will be a good variety of artwork, including seascapes, photography of animals, local landscapes, and more.
- The final elements of renovation from the construction grant is continuing to be worked on. The story nook is about 80% done. The staff offices being worked on are also about 80% done. Roof repairs have been identified along with a few other items, but there is still funding left for these items. There is not a concern about running out of money before the projects on the list are addressed. The facilities manager is working together with Amy on this.
- Director McCue submitted an application for a grant from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. The grant would be for about \$80,000 of equipment and supplies for the Makerspace. The outcome of the application should be known this spring.
- There continues to be a large number of programs with great attendance. The Children's Department has been having evening and weekend programs which have been very popular. Partnership programs, with groups such as the Historical Society, have also been strong.
- Ginny Roscoe mentioned a potential for a sewing class with someone interested in teaching it.
- The preschool art show featured students' work from a number of preschools in the community and will continue to be on display throughout the month.
- Several thousands of guests use the Wi-Fi at the library every month. Many bring their own devices from home. Students are better supported, being able to bring their school-issued tablets to use the library's Wi-Fi.

7. Poet Laureate Report

- Andrea put a "help wanted" ad for the next poet laureate in The Citizen. A letter to the editor will be going in to The Citizen next and probably to Glastonbury Life as well.
- Flyers and posters have been updated and will be out shortly for distribution around town.
- Information for applicants is already on the library website.
- E-blasts have been sent to the Connecticut Literary Association, which is being shared with poets in town. Andrea has been spreading the word also.
- The 2021 video promoting the program has been updated.
- Applications are due by April 30.

- Judges are lined up and interviews will take place toward the end of May.
- Susan Pearlman asked about the potential for a send-off for Andrea at the end of June, and is adding this topic to the agenda for the May meeting.

8. Old Business

Meeting Room Policy

- There was a discussion of who can use the meeting rooms, which was brought up at the last meeting. The issue with limiting use in any capacity is that it's against the rules for libraries, as indicated in the state statutes. The library will continue to provide equal access to everyone, but the Town Council could elect to implement a fee structure if they so choose. Amy says it's not common for out-of-town residents to use the meeting rooms, so a fee structure would not be expected to bring in a great deal of revenue. Ginny Roscoe suggested not taking action if there is no issue currently and it can be addressed if there becomes an issue in the future.
- The name of the Makerspace was modified from "2CF Studio", to the generic name of "Makerspace," since the name may be changed. Nicole DiCicco made a motion to accept the changes. Susan Pearlman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Public Art Policy

Prior to the meeting, the Library Director circulated the latest draft of the Public Art Policy via e-mail.

- There are 2 changes recommended by the exhibit committee, and the experience of the last year of running the gallery.
- Number 8 within the policy, regarding displaying prices of for-sale works: artists have wanted to display their prices and there have not been any problems with it so the policy will be changed to allow for the display of pricing and contact information, so long as sales do not take place on library grounds.
- The second change proposed regards the type of art that can be exhibited, clarifying a priority to exhibit original works only.
- Donald Kray noticed some typos that he will send along for correction.
- Susan Pearlman made a motion to approve the policy with the assumption of typos being corrected, and Nicole DiCicco seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

Budget Update

- The town is deep in discussion and it is a tough budget year. The funding requested for library staffing comes down to whether or not they can find the money.

- Amy has meetings scheduled with the town manager in the coming weeks to discuss the positions in depth, to give real clarity and put an actual number on it.
- Everyone on Town Council is well aware of the issue and how important it is to the community.

9. New Business

Library fees/fines - Update

- Eliminating overdue fines is still on the table and the reductions are still in place. The library would still be taking in fees or fines for items that are lost or damaged.
- Susan Pearlman mentioned beginning to talk about a strategic planning process at the May meeting.

10. Correspondence

None.

Susan Pearlman moved to adjourn the meeting. Nicole DiCicco seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole DiCicco