

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
Monday, May 23, 2022 6:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eileen Daly called the Library Board to order at 6:39 p.m. Present, via Town of West Hartford WebEx were Board members Kim Cohen, Eileen Daly, Gail Crockett, Dr. Natalia Menjivar and Jill Spear, Library Director Laura Irscher, and Janet Valencis, recorder. Staff member Maura Beaudreault was also present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

3. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (Items 4 & 8a i, 8a ii,)

MOTION: On a motion made by Gail Crockett and seconded by Jill Spear, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

4. THE MEETING MINUTES of April 25, 2022 were approved as part of the consent agenda.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - none

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Staff Spotlight – Maura Beaudreault – Programs and Publicity

Maura discussed their Brand Guide, Mailchimp software they use for the library newsletter and their program planning worksheet.

b. FY2023 Budget Update

The budget was passed but the Town Council did not fund the vacant Librarian 2 position. The library board will be sending a letter to Town Council members, showing their support for the library and the need for the unfunded position.

MOTION: On a motion made by Gail Crockett and seconded by Natalia Menjivar the Board unanimously approved the letter to be sent to the Town Council.

c. Staff Professional Development Update

The library was closed on Thursday May 12, 2022 for a staff development day. The day included speakers, demonstrations and department gatherings. The day was a success and staff were glad to be back together in a group setting, something that hasn't happened since the pandemic started.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. April Report, submitted:
 - i. Library Administrative Report
 - ii. Budget Report
 - iii. Circulation Statistics (issued quarterly)

- b. Current Month Briefing.
 - i. The Mayors Youth Council was successful in getting New Street renamed to Dinah Road to honor two enslaved women.
 - ii. The library continues to work with the Fern Street Church to expand the backpack program.
 - iii. The Storytelling event to honor Gertrude Blanks on Jun 16, 2022 is in the final planning stages.
 - iv. The children's department hosted three ballet programs from different ballet companies this spring.
 - v. Faxon Fun is back and will happen this summer
 - vi. The Museum pass programs is adding several new museums to our offering.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: The Library Board Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:17 pm. The next scheduled Board Meeting is June 27, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Cohen
Board Secretary

"This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Governor Lamont's executive orders concerning the conduct of virtual meetings and proceedings and the public had the ability to view the meeting in real-time on West Hartford Community Interactive: Comcast Channel 96, Frontier TV Channel 6099, and streaming on the WHCI website."