

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
Monday, September 22, 2022 6:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eileen Daly called the Library Board to order at 6:34 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. No one was present from the public.

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 Kim Cohen, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

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

5. CHAIR'S REPORT - none

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Library Issues and Trends – Book Bans

Laura discussed the current issues with book banning and how the library policies dictate how the library proceeds when they are asked to ban a book.

b. Staff Professional Development Update

The September 8,2022 staff half day included a presentation on the new community center, and on Tom Kilfoil, a former West Hartford librarian who made a generous bequest to the library. Attendees also participated in a customer service workshop and learned about the upcoming strategic plan.

The half day event was a success. In the future the library plans to hold two half day events, one in the spring and one in the fall.

c. New Community Center & Library Project

The project is gathering input from the public currently.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Strategic Plan

Laura presented a four-stage plan:

- i. Preparation:
 1. Gathering data and identifying strategic planning team members
 2. Establishing a budget
 3. Hiring a consultant
 4. Establishing a timeline
- ii. Community Assessment
- iii. Plan Development
- iv. Plan implementation and measuring progress.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. September Report, submitted:

- i. Library Administrative Report
- ii. Budget Report
- iii. Circulation Statistics (issued quarterly)

b. Current Month Briefing.

- The library distributed over 4,000 lbs. of food during the Fern Street Summer Backpack Distribution program.
- The Summer Adult Reading program was a success with 126 participants reading 997 books.
- Brett Freiburger has been hired as a part time Local History Librarian
- Sam Ferri has been hired part time to manage the new technology lab.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: The Library Board Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:22 pm. The next scheduled Board Meeting is October 24, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Cohen
Board Secretary
or
Eileen Daly, Secretary Pro Tem
West Hartford Library Board

"This meeting was held remotely and the public had the ability to view the meeting in real-time live on West Hartford Community Television at www.whctv.org and www.youtube/whctv5."