

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 6:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING
Special Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gail Crockett called the Library Board to order at 6:35p.m. Present, virtually, were Board members Kim Cohen, Eileen Daly, Natalia Menjivar, and EJ Greenspan, Library Director Laura Irscher, and Heidi Reagan, recorder.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

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

MOTION: On a motion made by Kim Cohen and seconded by EJ Greenspan, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

4. THE MEETING MINUTES of January 22,2024 were approved as part of the consent agenda.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT – Gail Crockett

- a. Thanked the Board for their support in becoming Chair.
- b. Contact Gail or Laura for any future amendments.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. FY25 Budget – Laura Irscher
 - i. The budget was submitted early January and Laura met with the Town Manager and Finance Director early February.
 - ii. It included cost increases for wages and a \$40,000 increase for ebooks and digital audiobooks due to high costs and rising patron demand.
 - iii. The Town Manager's budget includes a 2.2% increase for the library for necessary wage increases, and a \$10,000 increase for ebooks.
 - iv. The School budget is expected to increase this year due to the end of some federal funding.
 - v. The Town Manager will present his budget to Town Council on March 12 and the Library's budget will be presented to the Human & Community Services Committee on March 19

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Library closure for Staff Day – Laura Irscher
 - i. Staff Day is planned for March 21 and we would like to close from 10am to 2pm.

MOTION: On a motion made by Kim Cohen and seconded by EJ Greenspan, the Board unanimously approved the closure of the library from 10am – 2pm on March 21, 2024 for Staff Day.

- b. Library eBook Bill – *SB 148: An Act Making Certain Terms in Electronic Book and Digital Audiobook License Agreement or Contracts Unenforceable* – Laura Imscher
 - i. Senate Bill 148 is in the Planning and Development Committee. A public hearing was held two weeks ago, and Laura submitted written and oral testimony.
 - ii. HB 5312 was subject to a public hearing yesterday in the Government Administration and Elections Committee. Laura submitted written testimony.
 - iii. It would be helpful if the Board could submit written or oral testimony when there are bills that support the Library.

8. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- a. January Reports, submitted:
 - i. Library Administrative Report
 - ii. Budget Report
- b. Current Month Briefing – Laura Imscher
 - i. New Art Installation for the Butterfly Project
 - ii. Sunday Hours started February 25 and will go through May 5
 - iii. We’ve added the Wall Street Journal (WSJ.com) as an eresource
 - iv. National Library week is April 7-13 and will include a social media campaign.
 - v. The Library will host a Hidden History presentation on June 15 as part of the Juneteenth celebration
 - vi. Upcoming Programs
 - 1. Author Talk with Melissa Newman (daughter of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward)
 - 2. 60 Songs that Explain the 90’s with Rob Harvilla
 - 3. Mario Day is March 10 and will be celebrated with a Switch Tournament
 - 4. Rockin’ Robotics with Enforcers Team 178
 - 5. The Ballet Theater Company will be presenting a preview of their spring performance of Snow White

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: The Library Board Meeting was unanimously adjourned 7:15pm. The next scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2024 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Cohen
Board Secretary

"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."