

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
Monday, March 25, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gail Crockett called the Library Board to order at 6:36p.m. Present were Board members Kim Cohen, Eileen Daly, Gail Crockett, Natalia Menjivar, EJ Greenspan was present by Zoom, Library Director Laura Irmscher, and Heidi Reagan, recorder.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

3. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (Items 4 & 7a i, 7a ii)

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

4. THE MEETING MINUTES of March 5 Special Meeting were approved as part of the consent agenda.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT - none

6. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- a. Strategic Plan Update – Laura Irmscher
 - i. Shared with the Town Council at the budget hearing.
 - ii. Public Launch last week
 - 1. Printed pamphlets in seven languages at all locations
 - 2. Special email newsletter
 - 3. Library website
- b. New Community Center and Library – Gail Crockett and Laura Irmscher
 - i. Town announced selection of GWWO Architects
 - ii. One year for design process
 - iii. We need to designate someone from the Library Board to attend the Advisory Committee meetings.
 - 1. Eileen Daly will be the Board's primary representative.
 - 2. EJ Greenspan will be available if Eileen is unable to attend.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Laura Irmscher

- a. February documents submitted:
 - i. Library Administrative Report
 - ii. Budget Report
- b. Current Month Briefing.
 - i. Staff Day was a successful day of team building.
 - 1. Gail Hurley from CT State Library spoke.
 - 2. Presentation of 1st Amendment audits and book bans
 - 3. Department meetings
 - 4. Strategic Plan sessions
- c. Faxon Building Issues
 - i. Flooding in basement continues.

- ii. Roofer has been contacted to mitigate the problem.
 - iii. Short term fixes are being considered.
- d. Ebook Legislation Update
 - i. Planning and Development Committee Senate Bill 148 was passed with bipartisan support and awaits action on the senate floor.
 - ii. Government Administration and Elections Committee House Bill 5312 was debated and passed.
 - iii. There is still time for anyone to contact their representatives regarding these bills.
- e. 3rd Annual Gertrude Blanks Storytelling Event
 - i. Tuesday, June 11 at First Congregational Church
- f. National Library Week is coming up.
- g. Seed Library Kickoff
 - i. Eighty people came to get free seeds, consult with Master Gardeners, and enter the raffle for gardening supplies.
 - ii. There are still plenty of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and herb packets available.
 - iii. WH Garden Club is to thank and will be sponsoring the program, “Saving Our Planet One Food Scrap at a Time”.
- h. Upcoming Programs
 - i. Author Talk – Elizabeth Slade about Montessori Schools
 - ii. Get Ready for College: A Series of Prep Classes
 - iii. Tween Chess at Faxon
 - iv. Brazilian Drumming – A Community Big Bang

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: The Library Board Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:18pm. The next scheduled Board Meeting is April 22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Cohen
Board Secretary