

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gail Crockett called the Library Board to order at 6:08pm. Present were Board members Kim Cohen, Gail Crockett, Natalia Menjivar and EJ Greenspan, Library Director Laura Irmscher, and Heidi Reagan, recorder. Board member Eileen Daly joined the meeting at 6:20pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

3. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (Items 3a, 3b, and 3c)

- a. Approval of the Minutes of February 12, 2025, Special Meeting
- b. Library Administrative Report
- c. Budget Report

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

4. CHAIR'S REPORT – Gail Crockett

- a. Attended the program and discussion for the movie 13th and was impressed by the attendance and the quality of the program.

5. BUSINESS:

- a. Staff Day: April 3, 2025
 - i. Library will be closed from 10am to 2pm.

MOTION: On a motion made by Natalia Menjivar and seconded by Kim Cohen, the Board unanimously approved the request to close the library on April 3, 2025, from 10am to 2pm for Staff Day.

- b. Bookwyrms Festival: July 26, 2025
 - i. Library will be closed at 3pm on Friday, July 25th to prepare for the following day's festivities.

MOTION: On a motion made by EJ Greenspan and seconded by Kim Cohen, the Board unanimously approved the request to close the library early on July 25, 2025, at 3pm to prepare for the Bookwyrms Festival.

- c. Legislative Update – Laura Irmscher
 - i. E-Books
 - 1. HB6958 – Planning and Development Committee
 - 2. SB1234 – Government Administration and Elections Committee
 - 3. Laura signed a letter with 53 other CT Library Directors in support of the E-Book bill.

ii. Freedom to Read

1. SB1271: An Act Concerning School and Public Libraries
2. Requires public and school libraries to develop policies for collection development, library programs and displays, and library material consideration.
3. Also called the “Don’t Ban Library Books Act”.

6. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- a. We had a very successful “Take Your Child to the Library Day” on February 1st.
- b. The Community Puzzle Cozy program held at Elmwood Community Center was well attended and very successful.
- c. Leah Farrell and Marie Callahan attended the University of St. Joseph’s Wellness Fair and ran out of library card applications!
- d. The Winter Madness Book Tournament is still being hotly competed.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: On a motion made by Kim Cohen and seconded by Natalia Menjivar, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss the annual performance and evaluation of the West Hartford Public Library Director at 6:42pm.

Board members Kim Cohen, Eileen Daly, Gail Crockett, Natalia Menjivar and EJ Greenspan as well as Library Director Laura Irmischer attended the executive session.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 7:15pm.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: The Library Board Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:16pm. The next scheduled Board Meeting is March 24, 2025, at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Daly, Board Secretary