

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
Monday, March 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gail Crockett called the Library Board to order at 6:30pm. Present, were Board members Kim Cohen, Eileen Daly, EJ Greenspan, Library Director Laura Irmscher, Heidi Reagan, recorder, and Cynthia Lauture, Assistant Corporation Counsel, guest. Member Natalia Menjivar was absent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

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

- a. Approval of the Minutes of February 19, 2025, Special Meeting.
- b. Library Administrative Report.
- c. Budget Report.

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

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: On a motion made by EJ Greenspan and seconded by Eileen Daly, the Board went into Executive Session at 6:40pm to discuss an Attorney-Client Privileged Memorandum.

Board members Kim Cohen, Eileen Daly, Gail Crockett, EJ Greenspan, and Cynthia Lauture attended the Executive Session.

The board returned to the regular meeting at 7:30pm.

5. PROPOSED LIBRARY HEARING PROCESS

- a. The Library Board and Cynthia Lauture discussed the procedure for the upcoming Appeal Hearing.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. The Gertrude Blank's event was a tremendous success.

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Update on the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Funding
 - i. An Executive Order was issued
 - ii. CT State Library received \$2.1 million in 2024 through the LSTA Grants to State's program which was used to support a variety of programs and services.
- b. FY26 Budget Update
 - i. The Town Manager presented his budget to Town Council on March 11, 2025
 - 1. This does not include our proposal to expand Library hours
 - 2. Total library budget is up 10.4% to cover wage increases
 - 3. Operating expenses are down 1.2% (\$8,325)

- ii. Laura presented the Library budget to the Human and Community Services Committee on March 17
 - 1. Described our successful year and the hours proposal that was not included in the budget.
 - 2. Gave examples of what small cuts could mean to the collection and patron services.
- iii. The Town is having community conversations for the budget on March 31, 2025, at Faxon (in the morning) and at NWL (in the evening).
- iv. Town Council votes on the budget on April 22, 2025.
- c. New Community Center and Library Project Update
 - i. GWWO Architects presented the status of the project to the former advisory committee on March 19, 2025.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Gertrude Blanks Storytelling Celebration was a wonderful and moving program.
- b. 3rd Annual Seed Library kickoff was a big hit.
- c. There is no business pending for the April meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: The Library Board Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:01pm. The next Board Meeting scheduled is April 28, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Daly, Secretary
West Hartford Library Board