

**Cromwell Library Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 15, 2018
Arch Room
Record of Votes and Minutes**

Present: Chairman Marie Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella

Absent: Al Dickerson, Diane Mongold, Martha Rennie

Also Present: Library Director Kara Canney

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roberto at 7:45 p.m.
2. Approve/Amend Agenda: Margaret Colella made a motion to approve the October 15, 2018 agenda; Seconded by Barbara Grotheer. In favor: Chairman Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella. *Motion passed.*
3. Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2018: Kathy Newton made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Seconded by Barbara Grotheer. In favor: Kathy Newton, Barbara Grotheer, Chairman Roberto. *Motion passed.* Margaret Colella abstained.
4. Town Council Liaison comments: Chairman Roberto said that they had begun sending copies of the Library Commission minutes to the Mayor.
5. Citizens' Comments: None
6. Reports
 - a. Chairman: Chairman Roberto asked Director Canney to post the article, *Why Libraries Matter*. She also shared some excerpts from *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* by Eric Klinenberg. The excerpts concerned the importance of libraries as offering shared spaces for creating connections and a counterargument to the idea that libraries are not necessary to develop because information is available on the Internet for free. She mentioned the idea of the library as a resting place and suggested offering a "tea / coffee time" program to help alleviate the stress and disruption of construction.

Chairman Roberto also mentioned *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, which is being released on October 16, 2018.

Barbara Grotheer suggested more proactive publicity regarding construction and Director Canney said that a "Meet the Director" program would be offered.

- b. Library Director: There was a brief discussion regarding some upcoming programs and discussion of the strong programming attendance numbers. Director Canney said that she highlighted this during a recent Managers' meeting. She said that there was now an explanatory sign for the DVDs color-coding system. Director Canney said they were looking to schedule an on-site training, along with Berlin Peck, in the spring. Chairman Roberto said this would be in lieu of attending the Association of Connecticut Library Board's November 2, 2018 workshop.

A reception is being planned for Lois Meltzer for December 11, 2018. There was a brief discussion of past holiday receptions with the Friends group, but that it would not occur this year because of construction. Director Canney pointed out the Circulation, Programming, and Connecticut Transactions numbers. She noted that the limited access to the stacks during construction may affect the circulation numbers later on. She said that they are changing their procedures regarding tracking questions asked/answered to ensure better accuracy.

Barbara Grotheer made a motion to accept the Director's Report with Statistics; Seconded by Margaret Colella. In favor: Chairman Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella. *Motion passed.*


- c. Finance Report: Director Canney noted that they may need to increase access to Hoopla during construction. She also discussed possible plans for improving the children's collection in the future.

Kathy Newton made a motion to accept the Finance Report as written; Seconded by Margaret Colella. In favor: Chairman Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella. *Motion passed.*

- 7. Old Business - Director Canney said she was not ready to continue discussing the Materials Selection Policy at this time as she was still working on revisions.
- 8. New Business – Construction Update. Director Canney said construction had begun with the bricking over of the old door and work on the new egress. She said that the gym will be closed for about three weeks. A Clerk of the Works had been hired, who will work approximately twenty hours per week. She said that weekly construction meetings will be held on Wednesdays and she will provide email updates immediately following those meetings, and will include the Mayor on the distribution list.

9. Other: There was a brief discussion regarding the new Library mascot, a sloth named Sir Lancesloth, which will be used to provide construction updates. Director Canney mentioned their participation in the scarecrow contest. She also said that they are looking into possible joint programming with the Human Services and Recreation Departments.
10. Next regular meeting date: November 19, 2018
(November 12, 2018 is Veterans Day)
11. Adjournment: Barbara Grotheer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m., Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Chairman Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella. *Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,


Julie C. Petrella
Recording Clerk