

Cromwell Library Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2019
Arch Room
Record of Votes and Minutes

Present: Chairman Marie Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella, Al Dickerson, Martha Rennie

Absent: Diane Mongold

Also Present: Library Director Kara Canney, Gerald Seagrave

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roberto at 7:41 p.m.
2. Approve/Amend Agenda: Barbara Grotheer made a motion to approve the February 11, 2019 agenda as written; Seconded by Margaret Colella. In favor: Chairman Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella, Al Dickerson, Martha Rennie. *Motion passed.*
3. Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2019: Martha Rennie made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Seconded by Barbara Grotheer. In favor: Chairman Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella, Al Dickerson, Martha Rennie. *Motion passed.*
4. Town Council Liaison comments: Mayor Enzo Faienza was scheduled to attend tonight's meeting, but is absent on account of illness. Chairman Roberto met with Mayor Faienza regarding naming a section or part of the new library rebuild for former Library Director Eileen Branciforte. The mayor agrees with said naming, and is open to suggestions on which section to name.
5. Citizens' comments: Gerald Seagrave said that The American Library Association had a conference in Seattle, Washington a few weeks ago.

A representative from Central Connecticut State University was present. The Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) has a manual for trustees online. Director Canney said that each member of the commission should have access to the ACLB website, however, members have not received pertinent emails. Gerald Seagrave said that Meriden public library is to have nine retirements soon, which will result in job openings. State Librarian Ken Wiggin attended the opening of a new library in Bridgeport. In Region Three in Eastern Connecticut, some librarians are having NARCAN training. Southern Connecticut State University is writing up a report to get its accreditation back.

6. Reports:

a. Chairman:

Chairman Roberto spoke informally with a member of Town Council regarding the temporary nature of current library construction.

b. Library Director:

Director Canney said that there will be a budget meeting this Friday. Also, a candidate has been chosen for the Children's Library Assistant position. The Friends of the Library have finished packing items for shelving to be done. Also, Take Your Child to the Library Day was a success. Friends of the Library provided a face painter, crafts, etc. The second night of Teen Study Night was a big success.

Director Canney reviewed the January statistics highlighting an increase in circulation, a slight decline in card registrations, and a nominal decline in public computer use.

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

c. Finance Report:

Director Canney said that the written number on the report represents unencumbered monies, and that purchasing will slow with renovation. Director Canney noted that she is happy with the current budgeting, and that some monies are to be allocated for the Summer Reading Program. Martha Rennie made a motion to accept the Finance Report as written; Seconded by Barbara Grotheer. In favor: Chairman Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella, Al Dickerson, Martha Rennie. *Motion passed.*

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business

a. Construction Update:

Director Canney reported that construction had been moving along outside during the warm weather spell. Once the library is cleared out, a hard partition will be built to keep out the public, as demolition is slated to start on February 25th. The ceiling will be ripped out, and new lights, carpet, paint, and study room are to be installed. The shape and design of the rooms will remain intact. The Library Director's office egress will be through the Children's Department. There was a discussion on using the Arch Room for activities during renovation. However, it is already booked for use. There is 6-8 week timeframe for

renovation downtime. Masonry work is slated to be done in the gym. The gym windows were to be bricked from the inside which would require closing of the gym. After discussion, the windows may not have to be bricked because they are frosted. The library would receive a credit for this work. There was a discussion on a preference to keep the arch in the Arch Room as a result of renovation. There will be a construction meeting on Wednesday, February 13th, which will give more answers. May 22nd was the original completion date for the renovation project. A revised completion date has been moved from August to June 4th or 5th. The goal is to reopen in time for the Summer Reading Program.

Director Canney related some problems with the library roof leaking as a result of rain damage. The roof will not be replaced as part of construction; the plan is to patch the roof. There are also some issues with drainage connections. The Library Commission has posed concerns regarding the integrity of the roof, considering the scale of work being done and the investment being made in the library.

Director Canney received a package from an anonymous patron who claims to have stolen a piece of the Charter Oak fifty years ago. The package contained a returned alleged piece of the Charter Oak tree.

b. Other:

Margaret Colella commented that a great job was done with Story Time with Emily. It was also noted that Emma does a great job with the Book Discussion. Barbara Grotheer would like Emily to come in and introduce herself; she mentioned past opportunities to meet new faces. Director Canney agrees, and

will help to arrange. Marie Roberto encourages bringing concerns to the commission: "We are an informal group".


There was a discussion regarding recognition for former Library Director Eileen Branciforte. The Library Commission has agreed to erect a plaque in the Adult Reading area at New Fiction. The Commission would like to formulate the wording of the plaque in the future. There will also be commemorative book plates inserted in some of the New Fiction collection in an ongoing manner.

Chairman Roberto brought up the March officer elections. Barbara Grotheer is to work on nominations.

10. Next regular meeting date: March 11, 2019

11. Adjournment: Barbara Grotheer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.; Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Chairman Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Margaret Colella, Al Dickerson, Martha Rennie. *Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,


Rachel E. Novak
Recording Clerk