


MEETING MINUTES
Cromwell Library Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2023
At 6:30 PM
The Arch Room

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Feb 17, 2023 12:51P
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT 

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

Also Present: Library Director Kara Canney, Town Council Liaison Paula Luna, Gerald Seagrave

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman K. Newton at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approve/Amend Agenda:

A motion was made by M. Colella to approve the agenda for Monday, February 13, 2023, seconded by M. Roberto. *All in favor; motion passed.*

3. Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2023:

A motion was made by M. Roberto to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023, seconded by B. Grotheer. *All in favor; motion passed.*

4. Town Council Liaison Comments:

Town Councilor P. Luna stated that the School Building Committee for the middle school announced that the estimate that was completed at the end of the schematic design phase in January is now \$19 million over the appropriated amount at the referendum, due to inflation and building costs. The Committee was told directly to sharpen their pencils and find ways to cut. They could build it, using the figure of the referendum last year, but by making cuts, it might not be built to the educational specs that were set forth. The Committee is working very diligently and we are waiting until April to see when some of the estimates come in, to see where they're at.

5. Citizens' Comments:

Mr. Seagrave reported that there is a new administrator for the Museum of Connecticut History, Jennifer Matos. Ms. Matos was previously the Director of the Noah Webster Museum in West Hartford. Also, registration is open for the Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference.

6. Reports:

Chairman's Report –

None

Library Director –

Director Canney talked about February being “Library Lover’s Month.” Library staff has created a story, Facebook posts and an infographic for the circulation desk outlining all the ways patrons can support the library.

Staffing: All three part-time positions have been filled and will be starting this month. One starts today, one will be starting tomorrow and one will be starting on 2/27. Director Canney hopes to have the organizational chart with photos for next month.

Outreach/Partnerships: Director Canney met with the Director of Program Development from Adelbrook last week and had a follow up meeting this week to connect on various collaborations – volunteer opportunities, garden projects, etc.

The Library and Youth Services have partnered to host “Exploring the Genderverse” this April. M. Roberto asked what would be presented in the “Exploring the Genderverse” program. Director Canney explained that it is an informative program for teens and parents about gender identity and expression, in partnership with the Cromwell Youth Services Department. The program will be led by Robin McHaelen, who is an MSW, and Youth Services Director, Sarah Maffiolini. Director Canney thinks this program is something that our library patrons can benefit from.

All Cromwell students should be receiving library card applications from their classroom teachers. Cards will be delivered to the schools for those students needing replacement or new library cards and have successfully returned an application.

Programming: It was a busy morning on 2/4/2023! It was “Take Your Child to the Library Day” and “Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day.” Tall Man’s Ice Cream provided their ice cream cart and lots of happy kiddos got some ice cream from the library between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The March, April, May newsletter is out. Some highlights: Toddler Prom, Meet a Firefighter, Volunteer Orientation, Cook Book Club, Eggs/Hatching and Books on Tap (Book Club at Coles Road Brewing).

Other: The seed library is being restocked. Seedlings will be planted this month and our first Cromwell Belden Public Library Children’s Garden Event will be Saturday, May 20th.

We did find a therapy dog for the "Paws to Read" program and the sessions with 3D printing have been successful.

Statistics: Everything seems to have increased or stayed the same. Circulation is about the same and our door count has increased. We've had nice numbers of attendance to our programs. Keeping track of the room use has been wonderful for our meeting room space. The two rooms in the back get the most use. Our downloadable numbers – Overdrive, Hoopla and Canopy - are still very strong. We are trying to get state legislation passed to keep publishers from charging us exorbitant amounts for our e-books and audio books.

Finance Report –

Director Canney said the department is continuing to spend down all of the money in programming.

A motion was made by B. Grotheer to accept both the Library Director's Report and the Finance Report, seconded by M. Colella. *All in favor; motion passed.*

7. Old Business:

Director Canney said that they are hoping to get the fans in the Belden Room this fiscal year.

B. Grotheer asked Director Canney for a copy of the new policies that were voted on by the Town. Director Canney will get copies printed.

8. New Business:

M. Rennie asked about where we are in the budget for next year. Director Canney met with the Town Manager last week and will be going to the Town Council budget meetings on March 1st.

9. Other:

M. Roberto reminded everyone to come over to see the new Covenant Living Library. It is open every day and they have a lot of books to choose from and a book club. Its is located in the old commons, on the second floor. Director Canney was invited by M. Roberto to formally come over to the library. They will set up a date and time.

10. Executive Session – Personnel

A motion was made by M. Rennie for the Commission to go into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m., seconded by M. Roberto. *All in favor; motion passed.*

A motion was made by M. Colella for the Commission to come out of Executive Session at 7:39 p.m., seconded by M. Roberto. *All in favor; motion passed.*

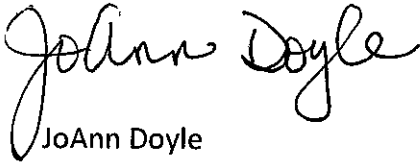
11. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is Monday, March 13th.

12. Adjournment:

A motion was made by B. Grotheer to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. seconded by M. Colella. *All in favor; motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JoAnn Doyle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

JoAnn Doyle
Recording Secretary