

MEETING MINUTES
Cromwell Library Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2023
At 6:30 PM
The Arch Room

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
May 15, 2023 10:21AM
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT

JD

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 6:35 p.m.

2. Approve/Amend Agenda:

A motion was made by M. Colella to approve the agenda for Monday, May 8, 2023, seconded by B. Grotheer. *All in favor; motion passed.*

3. Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2023:

A motion was made by M. Roberto to approve the amended minutes of April 10, 2023, seconded by B. Grotheer. *All in favor; motion passed.*

4. Town Council Liaison Comments:

Town Councilor P. Luna stated that Town Council will be meeting tomorrow evening, May 9th. There was discussion about the Town budget passing, with Councilor Luna reading the budget vote results and the fact that the mill rate was set right after the budget vote on May 2nd to 26.41.

The culture/climate study results still have not come in. There was discussion regarding how the findings may be available to see.

There will be a referendum on May 18, for the additional \$14 million dollars for the new middle school.

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. Seagrave attended the Connecticut Library Association Conference. He attended some of the programs offered on Monday, during the two-day conference. One of the programs was presented by Michael Crumpton, Dean of Libraries at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, who spoke on "Leading Change for the Next Generation of Librarians and their Users." Another program Mr. Seagrave attended was "Writing Responses to Material Challenges," presented by the Director of the Canton Library. She had a challenge regarding someone wanting to have a book removed from their library.

"It Takes a Village to Raise a Library!" was presented by people from the town of Meriden and Manchester, who spoke about their programs to improve their libraries.

"Library Book Sales with a Dual Mission: The Westport Book Shop." They started having book sales in the summer and then they wanted to expand. Early in 2020, they were able to get a building. While working with groups in Westport that support people with disabilities, they hired a book shop manager, volunteers, and staff who all received training. They were all set to open – then Covid hit! The book shop is open and located across the green from the library.

Sara Ray and Rachel Tonucci from the Bloomfield Public Library presented "Adult Programming Through a Social Justice Lens." They talked about having programs and trying to be inclusive; being as inclusive as possible, so that every community member feels a sense of belonging, including staff.

Mr. Seagrave talked about the Town of Preston's Board of Finance wanting to close their public library to save money and use the money for schools. A petition was started and a meeting was held to voice opposition. The voices were heard and the library was not closed!

5. Reports:

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Newton went to the Rocky Hill Public Library book sale, put on by the friends of the library, and it was a wonderful book sale. It was very well organized and the supply of books was unbelievable.

Library Director –

The chicks returned to their home in Wallingford and the library is way too quiet without them! The nearly 800 people that came to visit them were delighted. Patrons

had many questions about the process as well as stories to share about their own experiences. It was definitely an intergenerational program that has brought success both years we have run it. We are considering ducks next.

Staffing: We are now fully staffed!

Outreach/Collaborations:

The service between the Covenant Living and the Library is in full swing. Residents of CL can now place holds and their bus picks up and returns items on Wednesdays each week.

We received our first packet of library cards from the schools. Packets of library card applications for the public schools were distributed. We hope to have all students that do not have a library card obtain one before the end of the school year.

Programming: Upcoming Noteworthy Events:

Toddler Prom on May 18th at 11:15 AM

Bad Art Night on May 11th at 6 PM

Books on Tap: The Villa (Book Club) on May 31st at 6 PM at Coles Road Brewing

Other:

The library will be launching their version of 1,000 Books before Kindergarten this summer. There will be a sign-up sheet and incentives to win prizes. More information will be available soon.

The new public copier/printer has been delivered. A few kinks need to be worked out with IT, but it seems like it will be easier for the public to use.

Director Canney applied for a Creative Aging in CT Libraries Pilot Program. The State of CT is only issuing 10 spots but it would work very well in our community.

Lifetime Arts, the CT Office of the Arts (COA), and the CT State Library are partnering to pilot and strengthen arts education programming for older adults in CT public libraries, as well as build and deepen opportunities and relationships with established and emerging COA teaching artists and CT libraries.

Lifetime Arts will provide training as well as access to new online resources, including Creative Aging Foundations On Demand, for all public libraries in the state and with the lead partners, will oversee the implementation, documentation, and dissemination of ten creative aging programs in CT libraries.

Acknowledging the diversity, complexity, and changing needs and interests of older adults, this opportunity seeks to position libraries and Connecticut as an age-friendly state through this arts-centered experience.

Statistics:

Database Sessions included March statistics for two items. The door counts and circulation were very similar for 2022 and 2023. The juvenile attendance for programming in 2023 was much higher due to the baby chick hatching.

It looks like things are evening out between last year and this year with downloads.

Finance Report –

Director Canney said the department is in the process of closing out this fiscal year. There was a lot of money which was not spent on part-time wages, due to having so many vacancies. There was a line transfer made to pay for the copier. Everything will be spent down to zero.

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

6. Old Business:

Director Canney has received all of the quotes for fans to be installed in the Belden Room this fiscal year. The install will be coming out of the Building Maintenance budget.

7. New Business:

None

8. Other:

Director Canney brought back comments from the Library Commission to the Town Manager regarding the budget referendum and residents wanting better information about the budget process and notice of the referendum.

Director Newton mentioned that the Memorial Day Parade will be Tuesday, 5/30 at 6 :00 p.m., beginning at the green across from the fire house on West Street.

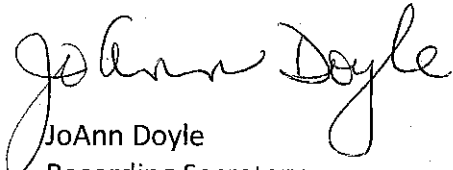
9. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is Monday, June 12th.

10. Adjournment:

A motion was made by M. Rennie to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. seconded by M. Colella. *All in favor; motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,


JoAnn Doyle
Recording Secretary