

MEETING MINUTES
Cromwell Library Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023
at 6:30 p.m.
The Arch Room

Present: Chairman Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Margaret Colella, Christina Schatz, Pat Branciforte

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

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathy Newton at 6:30 p.m.
Pat Branciforte, a new member of the Library Commission, was introduced.

2. Approve/Amend Agenda:

A motion was made by Marie Roberto to approve the agenda for Monday, December 11, 2023, seconded by Margaret Colella. *All in favor; motion passed.*

3. Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2023:

A motion was made by Barbara Grotheer to approve the minutes of November 13, 2023, seconded by Marie Roberto. Pat Branciforte abstained. *All in favor; motion passed.*

4. Town Council Liaison Comments:

Councilwoman Paula Luna stated that the next Town Council meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7 p.m., with a special meeting beforehand at 6 p.m., to hold a Community Forum. Members of the public are encouraged to attend to voice their ideas, concerns, or to provide feedback on any town related concerns.

Councilwoman Luna mentioned that the Town held a flu clinic in November. She also attended the Town Hall Employees' Holiday Party and the Mayor's Tree Lighting. The Farmer's Market Craft Fair was held in the Town Hall gym and was very well attended. There will be a "Meet the Mayor" event on Friday, December 15th at 9:30 a.m. in the Senior Center.

5. Citizens' Comments: None

6. Reports:

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Kathy Newton and Margaret Colella attended the Friends of the Library ornament-Making. The Friends of the Library are having a book sale in May.

Library Director –

Staffing-We are losing a part time employee. She has been offered a position with benefits at the other library she works at. We have the position posted and she has offered to fill in for us. There have been eight or nine applications. The position is open until December 18th.

Tik Tok-The library's Tik Tok account has had two videos go viral. The most popular has 943.9K views as this report is being written. @cbplibrary

Tree Lighting-Anthony Salvatore Jr. and Director Canney attended the tree lighting. We dispersed over 100 food scrap bins and took pictures with the festive photo backdrop.

Strategic Plan-The first draft is complete.

12 Days of Christmas/8 Nights of Hanukkah Book Bundles- These wrapped book bundles were checked out all in one day.

Library Listening Session at the Legislative Office with Lt. Governor Bysiewicz- Director Canney and approximately 65 other librarians from across the state were invited to discuss Intellectual Freedom and the exorbitant cost of e-books. The session was very productive.

Fireplace-Karlyn and Director Canney put together the fireplace by the newspapers. It might be the coziest place in the library.

Friends of the Library-They now have their own Facebook page and had a successful ornament program full of glitter!

Statistics -Director Canney stated that everything is looking great; the door count is up, circulation is up and programming is up. Last month Hoopla was almost \$1,000.

A motion was made by Barbara Grotheer to accept the Library Director's Report, seconded by Marie Roberto. *All in favor; motion passed.*

Finance Report –

Director Canney said that the remaining \$27,705.77 of the library's general fund budget has not been allocated; this is right on course.

There was discussion regarding the Community Foundation of Middlesex County disbursement of \$11,000.

Mark Jahne from *Cromwell Life* is coming in to talk with Director Canney about the \$10,000 donation from Willa Eckersley.

A motion was made by Barbara Grotheer to accept the Finance Report, seconded by Marie Roberto. *All in favor; motion passed.*

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business:

Approval of 2024 Library Commission Meeting Dates. A motion was made by Marie Roberto to approve 2024 meeting dates, seconded by Martha Rennie.

9. Other:

Director Canney stated that there have been some computer supplies missing, a computer unplugged and a sign taken down in the library. Cameras have been installed.

Marie Roberto wanted to say thank you to the library staff; they are doing a wonderful job.

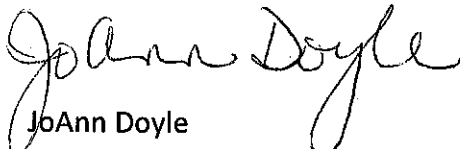
10. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is Monday, January 8, 2024.

11. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Marie Roberto to adjourn at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Barbara Grotheer. *All in favor; motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,


JoAnn Doyle
Recording Secretary