

New Haven Free Public Library
Library Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting
March 28, 2023

Virtual Members Present: Dr. Anderson, Alder Morrison, Ms. Sykes, Mr. Cruz, Ms. Lamar, Mr. Giering

Members Absent: Ms. Schneider Ms. Logan

Staff Present: Maureen Sullivan, Luis Chavez-Brumell, Rory Martorana, and Maria Bernhey

Welcome

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the February 2023 Minutes. Mr. Giering moved, Ms. Lamar seconded, and without any questions or comments, the Board voted to approve the Minutes and Consent Agenda.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Lamar presented the Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Chavez-Brumell noted that the surplus listed in the budget report was due to lapsed salaries.

Alder Morrison provided an overview of how the Board of Alders fund transfer process works.

Mr. Chavez-Brumell will investigate how any remaining funds can be allocated to meet other library needs.

Director's Report

Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Chavez-Brumell delivered the Director's Report.

-Library Budget Presentation moved from March 30th to April 10th

Ms. Sullivan shared that she learned that the decision has been made that the Library will present on the Mayor's proposed budget on April 10th and not March 30th as was originally scheduled. Ms. Sullivan shared that she and Dr. Anderson are navigating schedules as the review of the City Librarian candidates is scheduled for April 10th.

Affordable Connectivity Program/Digital Navigators Program

Ms. Sullivan shared that the Library partnered with the City and received grant funding from the Federal Communications Commission on the Affordable Connectivity Program. Public Services Administrator Rory Martorana took the lead for the Library on the grant submission process.

Ms. Sullivan shared that Library was partnering with five other libraries in the state on a Digital Navigators program funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Public Services Administrator Karina Gonzalez is in the lead with these efforts.

Library proposed move from Chief Administrators Office to Community Services Administration

Ms. Sullivan reported that she met with Dr. Mehul Dalal who oversees the City of New Haven's Community Services Administration and felt encouraged by how he engaged with her on the proposed move.

Wide ranging programs and Week of the Young Child

Ms. Sullivan shared that she is amazed by the wide-ranging programs offered by the Library on a regular basis that supports all ages. Ms. Sullivan provided an opportunity for Ms. Bernhey to share upcoming Week of the Young Child programs including the kickoff event scheduled for Saturday April 1st at Scantlebury Park where Stetson Library staff will support with a puppet show.

Meeting room/tutor room policy review

Board decided it was best to table meeting room policy proposal to discuss access to library locations for political purposes.

Privacy Policy Proposal

Mr. Chavez-Brumell gave a brief overview of the policy proposal which will be reviewed in greater detail in the April meeting.

City Librarian Search update

The search for the City Librarian opened with a closing date of April 2nd. The goal is to have finalists visit New Haven on May 5th and 6th.

Board member terms and nominations

Mr. Giering shared the list of potential board members who had expressed interest in joining the Library board in the past. Board members will discuss.

City Librarian Portrait

Dr. Anderson reported that local artist Frank Bruckmann is nearing completion on the portrait of late City Librarian John Jessen. There is a plan to have a portrait unveiling celebration when the portrait is completed and the possibility of having the portrait travel to the different library branches for public display.

Public Comment

Dr. Anderson shared that Libraries are for Everyone t-shirts and Black Authors are Lit bags are available for board members.

Mr. Chavez-Brumell shared that the John Jessen Cocktail was still available at Ordinary until the end of the month.

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lamar motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Alder Morrison, and the meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Luis Chavez-Brumell
Deputy Director