

TRUMBULL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Trumbull Library

September 14, 2022

Members Present: Carol Porrata Elstein, Vice-Chair, John F. Breedis, Treasurer, John Carpenter, Jennifer Mottolese, Antonio Pettiti, Marc St. Louis, Mary Santilli, Gail Voytek

Member Absent: Rosemary Seaman, Chair

Also Present: Stefan Lyhne-Nielsen, Director

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Session: None

Correspondence: None

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Gail Voytek and seconded by John Breedis that the minutes of the July 13 meeting be approved as amended. The changes are: under Collection Development Committee change from “Will send updated versions” to “Will provide an update on progression”, and under Joan Hammill Memorial change from “Library Board members” to “Library Board trustees”. Vote: All in favor with two abstentions. Motion passed.

Director’s Report:

The carpeting in the YA area was patched with matching carpet tiles in order to fill in the spaces where the built-in shelving used to stand. The area is now much more open with the mobile shelving and people have already begun using it. With the change to our layout, it also has increased circulation numbers for the YA collection. The money used came from the Taste of Trumbull fund. There is still some money left which we will use to purchase patron furniture suitable for the space.

We will have another Friends Book Sale this weekend on Sunday from 9:30 am until 4 pm. This will coincide with the Trumbull Arts Festival that runs from 10 am until 3 pm.

The library is once again having Sunday concerts. Our next program is a Jazz Piano concert with Mikhail Romanov also this Sunday at 2 pm. The concerts have been well-attended.

Four full-time staff positions are still vacant. We are still waiting on eligibility lists from HR for two positions.

Treasurer's Report:

The months of July and August are covered in this report. Spending over this period was uncharacteristically very modest at \$1779 in total. Disbursements for programs accounted for 75%, paid through the Mallett and Liepertz Funds. The remainder went towards maintenance using Memorial/Fundraising monies. Income was also modest at around \$300 for the period.

Spending from town funding by the library is comfortably close to budget after two months of the new fiscal year. The library's annual budget of \$1,808,550 is 0.95% of the \$190 million town budget, corresponding to a cost of \$150 to each household.

Fairchild-Nichols Branch:

Gail Voytek and Mary Santilli reported that the branch has a new water heater. The repair and refurbishments are still in progress on the elevator. Attendance has increased for children's programming over the Summer. Among the new programs scheduled, there will be an aeronautical engineer presenting a paper folding program to demonstrate flight mechanics and physics.

Old Business:

Merwin Trust: no update.

Collection Development Policy: Completion of updates to the collection development policy, intellectual freedom policy and exhibits policy are expected by the next board meeting.

Library Board Statement regarding diversity in collection development, displays and programs:

“The Trumbull Library policy regarding programs and displays align with that of the American Library Association's (ALA) stated policy.¹ Specifically, “Libraries should actively seek to include a variety of programming options representing diversity of genres, formats, ideas, and expressions with a multitude of viewpoints and cultural perspectives that reflect the diversity in our communities.” As stated by the ALA, programs include not only performances and visual arts, but also displays of collections and related materials. Library workers should not censor or remove displays because someone may disagree with the content. Furthermore, library sponsorship of programs or curation of displays does not constitute endorsement of the material's content or the creator's views.

Additionally, “a well-balanced collection does not require a one-to-one equivalence for each viewpoint but should strive for equity in content and ideas that takes both structural inequalities and the availability of timely, accurate materials into account.”² Programs and displays are featured to coincide with seasonality, timely observances, and

¹ <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/programsdisplays>

² <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/diversecollections>

newsworthy subjects, and the library addresses wider viewpoints in the entirety of its collections. Removal or relocation of age-appropriate children's collection materials is considered censorship by the ALA. That said, parents and guardians may restrict their own children's access to library programs, but no person or organization can interfere in others' access and participation. A parent or guardian may discuss their child's access to and participation in library programs with their child, but may not impose those decisions on others, including other people's children."

New Business

Friends' Book Sale – The Director gave an update regarding the Friends' Book Sale schedule for Sunday, September 18, from 9:30 until 4 pm. The Friends took the summer to make improvements to the book barn in order to make it more useful for storage and as a sale area.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Mary Santilli and seconded by John Breedis that the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefan Lyhne-Nielsen, Director

Approved, pending final approval by the Board of Trustees

Rosemary Seaman, Chair
Trumbull Library Board of Trustees

The next meeting of the Trumbull Board of Trustees will be on October 12, at 7:00 p.m.