

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

March 18, 2021

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Tom Piezzo called the meeting to order at 1001 am.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. February 18th, 2021 meeting minutes:

A motion to approve was made by Mary Etter, and seconded by Kate Byroade, and was approved by majority. Motion passed. Abstentions: None.

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** – Tom formally thanked everyone for on the Appropriations Committee. The Town Hall meetings are in progress. Regions 1-3 have done theirs already. If you were not able to attend the meeting for your own region, you are welcome to attend a different one. Tom has prepared a statement in case it is needed in regards to the concerns of the Governor's new state guidelines on capacity.

b. **Treasurer's Report** – Kristina will be gathering all the budgeting info for the Sustainability Task Force on April 1 and hopes to have new budget request forms and a rough idea of operating budget for next year. Everything is on track with the budget projections. Kristina is going to touch base with Conference Committee to help facilitate their needs. NELA has asked for \$500 for virtual leadership cohort - there will be a formal vote next month.

4. **New Business:**

a. Nominations – Lisa Karim gave the list of 2021/22 Nominations.

A motion to approve was made by Beth Crowley and seconded by Colleen Bailie and was approved by majority. Abstentions: None.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Absent

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

ACLPD: Ramona Burkey: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: ALA Council meeting next on March 31st

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards: Region Reps: Travis reported that so far he has received 1 nomination for the CLA awards.

BCALA: Kym Powe & Robert Kinney: No report

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling: Working with HR Consultants for jobs on CLC Job page to fine tune proposals for minimum requirements. More information is forthcoming. There will be a Committee meeting in April about upcoming projects and leadership institute workshop series, which will be virtual this year.

CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello: Mary-Ellen reported NERD Camp coming up Saturday June 12th. People should look at the CAS-L Wild Apricot website as that has relevant material to public librarians, as well as school librarians.

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Absent

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: CET had a meeting March 1st

Highlights included: CET continues to support Everyone Learns Initiatives put forth by Gov's office; last of 142k comps

delivered so all students have devices in the state for at home learning.

-One bill of interest especially is Equitable Access to Broadband—by Sep 2022 cable providers would need to provide broadband to any resident in their service area. By 2027, all providers would need to provide download speeds of 1 gb/sec

-CET Continues to look at Open Education Resources and looking at web based platform for materials to be shared across schools, colleges, and libraries. Should be a beta site by fall of 2021

CSL: Deborah Schander: Thanks to those who gave written & oral testimony for the budget, especially this year. She has a follow-up meeting with the Education subcommittee tomorrow to answer some questions. Met with Governor's office about concerns of public libraries with capacity announcement. Found them both very receptive and advocates of the library system. Sent them a summary of concerns, making sure language specifies public libraries rather than all libraries. Also talked about staffing concerns and how libraries have been careful to create their own rollout plans. Updated language will come on the DEC website. Businesses has the authority to say what their capacity limits are. <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-for-Reopen>

Children's: Michele Kaminski & Cathy Potter: Deadline for Faith Hektoen extended to March 31st and they will meet to decide award winner.

College & University: Lisa Thornell: Absent

CLASS: Samantha Saliter: Trying to grow the committee. Would like to find people at all levels in their library careers. Shared new CLASS video. It will be posted on the CLA YouTube page.

Conference 2021: Susan Ray & Chris Hemmingway: Hoping to open event registration soon. Discussed speakers which are located on the CLA website.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Shelley Holley: Absent

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: Alessandra reported that on Friday, we hit our \$5,000 goal on our Fund Libraries fund. Thanked everyone for their donations and past Presidents for matching. The fund will be kept up through the end of March only. Moving towards final fundraiser for the year – virtual book fair through Junior Library Guild. 18 towns who have opted to do the Book Fair. Runs April 5-18.

FOCL: Frank Ridley: No awards this year because most groups have been inactive. They will be holding an annual meeting at May 11 meeting board meeting at Meriden Library. The Meriden PL Friends bookstore has been open since September.

Development & Planning: Carl Antonucci: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Olivia Scully: Olivia reported EDI is working on a statement about the Dr. Seuss news. Sponsoring panel with Intellectual Freedom talking about the issues surrounding the Dr. Seuss books that are no longer being published and issues and practices surrounding that.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Statement of IF Committee on Dr. Seuss attached

LCI: Laura Horn: No report

Legislative: Beth Crowley & Kate Byroade: April 6th is next committee meeting. [Appropriations Committee Public Hearing for Elementary & Secondary Education Agencies](#) Virtual town hall meetings are going well, 57 meeting participants to date and much more signed up. Working with Publicity committee for National Library Week

LGBTQ+ Section: Kristina Lareau & Shay Glass: Absent

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Absent

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent

PEG: Mary Etter: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello, Lauren Thompson, & Adam Wisnieski: Adam reported that a folder was created with different versions of the logo, which will be sent around.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sENvM-1HHbP3INRfj0Ai4CXIJkd2XzvN?usp=sharing>

Any questions feel free to email the section chairs. Need videos & photos from board members of things that tell the

story of the pandemic in libraries. Photos of curbside service, staff behind plexiglass, virtual programming or storytimes, short video clips, send to PUBLICITYCLA@GMAIL.COM.

Procedures: Peter Ciparelli: Absent

Public Library: Maria Zervos: Absent

Reference & Adult Services: Matt Earls: No report

Resource Sharing: Vacant

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: No report

Technology: Genevieve Francis: Absent

Young Adult: Samantha Connell: No report

Region 1: Travis Feder: See attached

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: No report sent

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Leslie reported there are many questions regarding quarantining materials. Putnam Library moving into their new library at the end of the summer. Two libraries in region missing Director and no requirement for Director to have a MLIS.

Region 4: Doug Lord: No report sent

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: Looking forward to Virtual Town Hall meeting.

5. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 11:25 was made by Sam Lee and seconded by Mary Etter and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Present: Tom Piezzo, Beth Crowley, Danielle Valenzano, Lisa Karim, Colleen Bailie, Kristina Edwards, John Casiello, Mary Etter, Kate Byroade, Doug Lord, Alessandra Petrino, Vicky Coffin, Robbie Marshall, Leslie McDonough, Sarah McCusker, Travis Feder, Samantha Connell, Dana Hanford, Olivia Scully, Chris Hemmingway, Lisa Thornell, Michele Kaminski, Cathy Potter, Jennifer Keohane, Mary-Ellen Minichiello, Janet Flewelling, Kym Powe, Gerald Seagrave, Erin Shea, Denise Stanckovics, Maria Bernier

Region One Report

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Travis S. Feder, Region One Representative

Hotchkiss Library (Sharon)

Executive Director Gretchen Hachmeister reports that the Hotchkiss Library has received the second of three necessary approvals from the Town of Sharon for their proposed renovation and expansion. Fundraising is going well, and they are on track to break ground by summer. The library will become handicapped accessible while remaining true to its 1893 architecture. The architectural firm QA+M of Farmington has designed a 1,500 square foot addition, which will move most staff functions out of public spaces and maximize space for patrons.

Woodbury Public Library

Library Director Sue Piel reports that the Woodbury Public Library is open, and newspapers are available for patron use. Patrons are limited to one hour at a time, and the use of gloves is required.

Region 5 Report: March 2021

Closing & Opening News:

- Clinton: Henry Carter Hull is open as of Feb 16th with 1-hour time slots.
- East Haddam Library System: The Buildings are open; Curbside Service remains available.
- Essex: In-person browsing and computer services are suspended until further notice.
- Killingworth will begin a phased return to browsing on 4/05/21. Curbside service remains.
- Meriden is pleased to offer both browsing and computer use without appointments.
- Milford: Their newly renovated Children's Room re-opened March 9th! They can't wait to show off the bright, spacious room. COVID protocols are in place, with Curbside an option.
- North Branford: Currently both libraries are closed with curbside weekdays & Saturdays.
- Shelton Plumb Library re-opened with limited operations as staff recovers from Covid.
- Wallingford is now open with limits on numbers & time.
- Woodbridge has decided to remain closed.

Programs and Announcements:

- Bethany Clark Memorial: **Artists in Conversation** is a new remote program to provide a connection between local artists and the community. This series will be on the last Thursdays with a presentation of an artist's work and Q&A.
- Cromwell Belden Library offers DVD binge packs by genre, actor, director, or themes [like heists & capers, biceps & brawn, or princesses, pirates & goblins]
- Durham: **Community Conversation: Land of Plenty**, Thursday March 24th 7-8:30PM. Explores how to ensure people have the food they need via a copy of the Land of Plenty Issue Guide and a community conversation on Zoom. **Birding 101** with the CT Audubon Society ran on March 4th
- East Hampton used their Peach Pit Foundation grant to transform the town into Candy Land. There are 4, outdoor, COVID sensitive stops decorated with life-size candy and an activity to complete. Over 1,400 people *in a town of 13,000* registered to participate in the first 24 hours. Candy Land runs from March 12 –

March 21 and anyone can download a game board and play at <https://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/candyland/>. NBC CT, WFSB Channel 3 & WTNH News 8 all covered the program on the evening news.

- East Haven: Cindy Gwiazda, Community Outreach Services Librarian, received praise in a Letter to the Editor in the East Haven Courier on her Feb. 3rd virtual program called "**East Rock, West Rock and the Triassic-Jurassic Extinction**". Free lectures are given by Yale graduate students [members of the Yale Peabody Museum Speakers Bureau]. The lecture was a huge hit. She had attendees on WebEx and streaming on Facebook Live.
- Middletown: Russell Library has started a podcast called '**Middletown Strong: Looking Up with Russell Library**.' The One Book Community Read for 2021 is **Such a Fun Age** by Kiley Reid. Programs and discussion will be held in April.
- New Haven: raised over \$50,000 with their annual Mardi Gras fundraiser.
- Portland is using their Peach Pit grant to develop a collection of games for all ages.
- West Haven Friends have sponsored the 2 software programs VetNow and HelpNow. The Friends also held a virtual paint nite fundraiser on March 12th. Patrons picked up the kits at the library. West Haven is looking to garner support preemptively for the submitted budget with an online petition put out by EveryLibrary. Please view their website and social media for more information.
- Westbrook: Our beloved Children's Librarian, Mary Nyman, is retiring at the end of April.

Respectfully submitted,
Robbie Marshall