

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

June 17, 2021

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Tom Piezzo called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. April 15th, 2021 meeting minutes:

A motion to approve was made by Beth Crowley, seconded by Sam Lee, and was approved by majority.

Motion passed with no abstentions.

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report**

Tom gave a conference update. Budgetary needs need to be sent to Kristina ASAP if you haven't sent it in.

b. **Treasurer's Report** – Kristina will be sending out a follow-up email for budget form updates. She is finishing up all Conference reimbursements. She is confident that come next meeting new will have the final budget report for FY 2021. In the process of looking at the contract to renew with NELA – ironing out that process moving forward. Kristina will be on-boarding the new Treasurer Elect in the coming year. Section/Committee reports will be due soon. If you need any financial information from Kristina, please let her know. Any feedback, comments, or concerns with how things worked this year, please reach out to Kristina.

4. **New Business:**

- a. Election results: Travis Feder Vice President/President Elect, Margaret Khan Treasurer Elect, Danielle Valenzano Recording Secretary, Karin Taylor Region 1 Representative, Leslie McDonough Region 3 Representative, Robbie Marshall Region 5 Representative
- b. Vacant Positions - speak to Colleen if interested in any open Section Chair positions
- c. EDI By-law changes: A motion to approve the change was made by Tom Piezzo (1st) and Doug Lord (2nd) and was approved by the majority. No Abstentions

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Summer newsletter going out in the next few weeks.

ADA: Maria Bernier: Conference programs were well-received. Slides available here:

<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/accessibility/virtual>

ACLPD: Ramona Burkey: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: June 23-29 to ALA Annual. List of speakers: <https://2021.alaannual.org/featured-speakers>

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: Send Jerry annual reports if you do one.

Awards: Region Reps: Travis reported that one of the winners mentioned that they would like to see social media attention for the award winners. Also mentioned the possibility of opening the excellence awards up to other libraries besides public.

BCALA: Kym Powe & Robert Kinney: No report

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling: Holding meeting next Thursday, Laura Horn will be stepping down in August. Sunnie Scarpa will be taking her place. Currently accepting proposals for virtual Leadership Institute.

CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello: Absent

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Held annual meeting, gave award to Southern for bringing their MLIS program back and getting accreditation. Aiming to get replacement for Jennifer by November.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Discussion on adding additional staff member to the commission to assist Exec Dir. Doug Casey.

Commission voted to revise policy on third party endorsements, limiting it to educational institutions and professional organization with a mission to promote teaching and learning.

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) provides credit to offset cost of broadband to 170k households in CT. The Emergence Connectivity Fund (ECF) is an extension of E-Rate, allowing schools and libraries to request funding to support connectivity.

CET and CEN look to further the EduRoam project after successful launch in New Haven; essentially linking schools, libraries, and public buildings for easier broadband access. The governors office also looks to extend the program through Everybody Learns projects.

CSL: Deborah Schander: Absent

Children's: Michele Kaminski & Cathy Potter: Martha Simpson won Faith Hektoen Award this year. Alex Klaus will be new co-chair with Cathy.

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Met virtually with members. Thanks to Tom for helping him getting involved and thank you to Bob Scheier.

CLASS: Samantha Saliter: Absent

Conference 2021: Susan Ray & Chris Hemmingway: No report

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Vacant

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: Took in \$317 from the at-home book fair, big thank you to Kate Byroade, Lisa Karim, Karen Tatarka & Glenn Grube for delivering books all over the state. Another \$270 from the Conference auction. Next steps hoping to do some in-person fundraising in new fiscal year. Hope to start with teaming up with IF/Sam Lee for another Banned Bands event. Looking into another virtual fundraiser in the summer time.

FOCL: Frank Ridley: No report

Development & Planning: Carl Antonucci: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Olivia Scully: Towards end of May, had annual meeting, July 1 new chair will be Kym Powe and Chair Elect Samantha Connell

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Sent email about First Amendment Auditors and how to respond, welcoming ideas for fall workshops

LCI: Laura Horn: Absent

Legislative: Beth Crowley & Kate Byroade: Beth is stepping down from position after 2 years, looking for a new co-chair with Kate, would love for someone from an academic library. Thanks to the Executive Board and Tom for the work they did this year in the face of many challenges.

LGBTQ+ Section: Kristina Lareau & Shay Glass: Absent

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: No report

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent

PEG: Mary Etter: No applications, program is still available.

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello, Lauren Thompson, & Adam Wisnieski: John reported that Adam is stepping down. They will see if they can pull more members and another co-chair. If you have anything you need, reach out to John or the publicity email.

Procedures: Peter Ciparelli: Absent

Public Library: Maria Zervos: Absent

Reference & Adult Services: Vacant

Resource Sharing Matt Earls: Working on getting together with CSL to create an agreement on weeding. If you know someone actively into archiving, please get in touch with Matt.

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Absent

Technology: Genevieve Francis: Absent

Young Adult: Samantha Connell: Absent

Region 1: Travis Feder: No report

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: No report

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Region 3 Directors have been busy with the ARPA grants. Another thing is that they are deciding on mask policies and quarantining materials.

Region 4: Doug Lord: See attached

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: Absent

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 10:48 am was made by Erin Shea , seconded by Cathy Potter, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Present: Tom Piezzo, Beth Crowley, Danielle Valenzano, Colleen Bailie, Robbie Marshall, Sam Lee, Cathy Potter, Jerry Seagrave, Leslie McDonough, Janet Flewelling, Kate Byroade, Sarah McCusker, Doug Lord, Maria Bernier, Matthew Sheehan, John Casiello, Denise Stankovics, Lisa Karim, Mary Etter, Olivia Scully, Frank Ridley, Alessandra Petrino, Erin Shea, Amanda Stern, Michele Kaminski, Travis Feder, Trish Tomlinson, Tim Kellogg, Susan Ray, Matt Earls, Kym Powe

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The **Ferguson Library's** Main Library and Harry Bennett Branch added hours and are now open at 10 am Monday – Saturday, is doing storytime on the lawn at the Weed branch and their Friends group is sponsoring an author talk with Alka Joshi who wrote *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur* on June 29th.

The **Housatonic Community College Library** announced summer hours (M-Th 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, Friday, Saturday & Sunday closed, online chat services are available during the library opening hours. The public is welcome at HCC Library; appointments are no longer needed in the library but mask wearing and social distancing are still required in the library. HCCL operates a Grab-n-Go program where users request books and DVDs online, requested materials will be checked out in advance and placed at the main entrance.

At the **Easton Public Library** they are also doing outdoor storytimes and invite children to bring along their favorite stuffed animal friends, and they did a book chat that you can find on their [Youtube](#) channel with author Darcie Little Badger who wrote, [Elatsoe](#), a first novel, a YA title featuring an asexual, Apache teen protagonist that's part mystery, part horror- noir.

News from the **Edith Wheeler Memorial Library** is that Lorna Rhyins, library director, has accepted the position of director in New Milford.

Yvonne Cech, Library Director of the **Brookfield Library** has accepted the position of library director in John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak, NY.

The **Mark Twain Library** announced the retirement of director Beth Dominnianni.

The **Fairfield Public Library's** Helene Murtha has joined the Information and Library Science faculty at Southern CT State University.

The **Wilton Library Association** is doing a courtyard firefighter story time today and is hiring for a Marketing Communications Manager, a Teen Services and Makerspace Manager, and a Part-Time Technology Assistant

The **Ridgefield Library** updated their [strategic plan](#) in April and, with guidance from the town, have eased mask requirements. Unvaccinated people and everyone entering and using the Lodewick Children's Library need masks. Otherwise optional, they are not seeking verification, Masks will be optional for individuals entering the Library who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. In line with the Town of Ridgefield, we will not be asking for proof of vaccination with messaging that asks "...members of our community to be respectful and considerate."

The **Stratford Library Association** had a Bingo night on June 10th, which I missed, and are using the *Reading Colors Your World* theme for summer reading which runs June 1st to August 15th. SLA also has a constantly-updated reading list resource list of anti-racism resources.

The **Weston Public Library** started automatic renewals and tonight they are hosting a program with **tips on how to make travel affordable. for new travelers and experienced travelers looking to save money and they're doing a series of virtual Sip'n'Stitch programs on Thursday nights.**

The **Bethel Public Library** redid its website and now offer a service called '[Bag of Books](#)' which are prechecked out. People just grab'n'go, and they have sets for kids, teens and adults.

The [Bridgeport History Center](#) at the **Bridgeport Public Library** has an absolutely fascinating article on its website about Father Panik Village [here](#) and the library just finished its [Scary Book Club reading *The Sun Down Motel* by Simone St. James](#) a couple days ago,

The **Westport Public Library** is hosting a program with author Craig Melvin, co-host of The Today Show, about his book [Pops: Learning to be a Son and a Father](#) tonight at 7PM. Along with AAPI Westport they presented a conversation with distinguished Professor Erika Lee and UConn Professor Jason Oliver Chang on anti-Asian discrimination and how to create an inclusive and equitable society, the recording is [here](#).

The **Danbury Library** had a pretty bad experience with a First Amendment auditor last week, revamped their website, and are hosting a Punk Rock Magic Party with Mario the Maker Magician on June 22nd at 7PM.

The independent **Perrot Library** in Old Greenwich is now open 5 days a week and on some evenings and on the weekends it offers curbside pickup.

The **Greenwich Library** and the Cos Cob and Byram Shubert branches reopened June 2nd for normal use and today at 2PM they are offering a MoMA Tour featuring the work of Alexander Calder with Cara Manes, Associate Curator of MoMA.

The **Darien Library** went back to normal hours on May 17th and tonight at 7PM they have a sushi chef guiding patrons through DIY California rolls.

The [Burnham Library](#) is doing a month-long Friday beer garden for \$60 which gets you two drinks and is doing a virtual talk on July 15th called *Female Serial Killers of New England are Pretty Evil* with author Sue Coletta and they're doing some kindness rocks.

The **Trumbull Library System** is open in the afternoons at the main library Mon-Sat and in the mornings the Nichols Branch Monday to Thursday. Looks like they are still doing all-virtual programming including a Dirigidoo Down Under Program this Saturday at 11AM.

The **C.H. Booth Library** will be moving to the Ridgefield model (masks in children's, optional everywhere else) next week and will return to full operational hours on June 6th. Automatic renewals started on June 14th.

The **New Canaan Library** just did a Zoom talk with author and former New Canaan resident Elon Green on

Region 5 Report: June 2021

Opening Status

At this point most libraries are open with various combinations of hours and services. So no further updates anticipated, unless a different situation presents itself.

Programs and Announcements:

- Bethany's Clark Memorial planted a "Pollinator Pathway Bed" designed by master gardeners.
- Branford's Blackstone Library is holding their 4th annual StoryWalk® along Main Street in collaboration with local merchants and sponsors using a book reflecting the summer reading theme: "Tails & Tales." Completing the StoryWalk will be part of their [Summer Reading Trail](#) which runs June 18th – Aug. 20th.
- Clinton's Henry Carter Hull is offering "Hiking with Henry." Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, HCH has partnered with the

Clinton Land Conservation Trust for a StoryHike. The next StoryHike is "A Butterfly is Patient." They are also hosting monthly webinars presented by [CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection \(DEEP\)](#) on Connecticut's wildlife and the challenges they face. The topics will expand on articles in CT Wildlife Magazine, a bimonthly publication available through the Wildlife Division of CT DEEP. This magazine is available to borrow.

- Deep River and Milford's summer reading programs use an app called READSquared which is an interactive, virtual log with trivia and games for all ages downloaded via GooglePlay.
- East Haven's Hagaman reopened June 8th restoring most of its services. It will be 2-4 weeks before outside organizations can book the community rooms. They close 1-2 daily for cleaning and there are rules requiring facemasks and social distancing (capacity restrictions). The Board will review the reopening rules regularly and may lift or reduce requirements. They are installing a new analog phone system. Despite being analog, it has good up-to-date features and they feel it is more reliable than VoIP.
- Outdoor storytimes and crafts are being conducted in local parks or onsite by Essex, Brainerd in Haddam, Hamden, and Woodbridge.
- Killingworth held a joint student art show and silent auction with the high school, offering a \$500 scholarship and \$100 best in show prize to students entered in the art show.
- Madison's Scranton held a "Scranton Shops" fundraiser featuring: live music, wine tasting and treats, raffle, and boutique shopping to support their recent renovation.
- In Shelton, the Huntington Branch reopened its doors on June 1. All staff that had been laid off in March 2020 were called back. 7 staff at the Plumb Memorial Main library and the Huntington Branch declined to return. The renovation of Plumb Memorial continues in the older (built in 1895) section. It should be completed by the end of the summer.
- Westbrook Library has a new Children's Librarian, Tricia Carlin. Some of her early initiatives are launching a toy library and updating the Children's collection. Their Public Service Librarian, Ariel, put together an exciting Story Walk event to celebrate the career and retirement of long-time Children's Librarian Mary Nyman. They are working hard to open the brand-new Lew Daniels Technology Center this summer. Programs include: Outdoor Movie Night series beginning June 17, Story Time at the Beach in July, and a VR Gaming Truck for National Videogame Day. They have resumed all in person services, within recommended best practices, including modified meeting room use.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall

his true crime book [Last Call](#) which chronicles a serial killer who preyed on gay men in the New York area and left their remains in rest areas across three states.

