

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
July 15, 2021
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Colleen Bailie called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. June 17th, 2021 meeting minutes: A motion to approve was made by Mary Etter, seconded by Travis Feder, and was approved by majority. Motion passed with no abstentions.

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** See attached

b. **Treasurer's Report** –

Kristina indicated there are some sections that do not have a budget either because a budget request was not submitted or they are choosing to not do a fall program this year. Kristina went through the draft budget highlighting targets for conference spending, membership as well as pointing out expenses that are relatively new to being listed on the CLA Budget such as GSuite, Quickbooks, and Business Filing fees. An additional line with a zero amount was added to create a placeholder for setting money aside for CLA Reserves or CLA Investments. Budget was reviewed by the board and approved. Kristina indicated that the expense form and notes have been updated for FY2022 and introduced Margaret Khan as the Treasurer Elect.

A motion to accept the 2021/22 annual budget was made by Trish Tomlinson, seconded by Doug Lord, and was approved by majority. Motion passed with no abstentions.

4. **New Business:**

a. Laura and Janet explained Salary benchmarking for four positions by 6 CLA regions with percentile for competence/experience. Career Development hired Cartis Larson HR Consulting firm who has experience with municipalities and doing library jobs, union and non-union, across the state. Used about 15 difference sources to get the data, no date used that was more than 2 years old, Looking at compensable titles for the jobs,

Maria recommends linking the report on the CLC site – not putting a recommending minimum salary. CLC happy to do that.

A motion was made to make this information public on the CLA website and to to post a link on the the CLC website by Trish Tomlinson, seconded by Mary Etter, and was approved by the majority. Motion passed with no abstentions.

b. Board meetings/possibly changing the date of the meetings. A discussion was had as to why it was changed last year from the first to the third Thursday of the month. There were varying opinions on different Thursdays based on other Board meetings throughout CT libraries and other Boards that share members, along with when the financial information would be ready for the Board. The discussion was tabled at this time.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Because of the pandemic, ACLB will not be holding an in-person conference but instead will offer a series of Zoom programs as we did last year. While last year all four programs took place during the same week, this time we plan to spread them out more. We're just beginning to plan them, but the general theme will probably be a "tool kit" of ACLB offerings on such topics as board basics, how to evaluate the library director, and board self-evaluation. I also noted that the summer newsletter went out recently with copies "snail mailed" to library directors and board chairs. In the future we're planning to email the newsletter to directors as well, in the hope that they will then pass them along by email to all members of their boards.

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

ACLPD: Ramona Burkey: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: At ALA Annual, which was virtual, Council passed a resolution to achieve carbon neutrality for ALA conferences by 2025. A motion was proposed to replace the Library of Congress subject heading "illegal aliens" without further delay, but the motion was referred to the Committee on Legislation instead, which I found disappointing.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No Report

Awards: Region Reps: No Report

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling: The committee met in late June. They are planning a virtual Leadership Institute. They want to make sure dates are not conflicting with other planned events. They are planning for the third Friday of the month in September, October, and November. If there is a conflict, please let Janet and Laura know.

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

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Amanda Stern updated on the many upcoming events CLC is having, including one at the Mystic Seaport. Visit their website for more details. They expect the job posting for new Executive Director should be up by the end of the month.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

CSL: Deborah Schander: CSL is continuing to distribute federal ARPA funds to libraries throughout Connecticut. They are moving forward on the digital navigator pilot program and they are looking for community partners. They are continuing to have third Thursday programs, even in the summer. It is also Summer Reading time and Deborah thanked Kym Powe for the new reports. Deborah is looking forward to seeing the results of these reports.

Children's: Cathy Potter & Alex Kraus: No report

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Absent

CLASS: Samantha Saliter: Absent

Conference 2022: Kari Hamad & Shannon Angelone: Shannon reported that they have visited some venues and hope to have a contract signed by the August Board meeting. The Conference will most likely will be in early May of 2022.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Lisa Karim: Absent

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: Absent – Colleen reported that Fundraising is hoping to host a program in August and that they have begun their preliminary planning for another Banned Band Fundraiser with Intellectual Freedom in September.

FOCL: Frank Ridley: They decided not to hold a fall conference this year, but instead they will have small group in-person meetings. The first is currently being planned for September 25 at the Berlin Library. Their Awards will be also be returning in 2022. They are in the process of reviewing their by-laws.

Development & Planning: Carl Antonucci: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe: They have a full Executive Board now. The Board is In discussion for fall workshops, which will most likely will remain virtual for safety concerns.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: They are thinking about fall workshops, which will most likely will remain virtual for safety concerns. Sam reminded everyone that she is always available to assist anyone dealing with privacy/censorship

challenges.

LCI: Laura Horn: No report

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: Kate reported that she is pleased to welcome Olivia Scully as co-chair to the Committee and they will be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month starting in September.

LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson: Mary Richardson new Chair of the Section. The Section is looking to revise their by-laws and that will go to the Board for the August meeting for a vote.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: No report

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent

PEG: Mary Etter: Mary encouraged people to think about applying for PEG once they are back attending live meetings.

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello & Lauren Thompson: Absent

Procedures: Peter Ciparelli: Absent

Public Library: Vacant

Reference & Adult Services: Vacant

Resource Sharing Matt Earls: The committee is working to create an agreement that libraries not to weed items that are unique in the state according to Worldcat or have fewer than ten total holdings. This is critical for historical items rather than popular fiction or textbooks. There are companies that provide spreadsheets to easily identify these items for libraries.

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Absent

Technology: Genevieve Francis: Absent

Young Adult: Vacant

Region 1: Karin Thomas: No report

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: Sarah reported that the Berlin Library has a new director, Kimberly McNally. In Avon, their geo-thermal repairs are all finished. In Bristol, their annual Friends luncheon will feature Min Jin Lee, author of Pachinko. East Hartford is working with Parks & Rec and summer school to have an ARPA funded camp. Plainville is circulating hot spots as of this week. In Canton, they are hosting an art show of teen art from Hartford Foundation of Giving. Avon, Canton & Hartford have all gone fine free.

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Absent

Region 4: Doug Lord: See attached

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: See attached

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:24 was made by Doug Lord, seconded by Kate Byroade, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Present: Colleen Bailie, Kristina Edwards, Mary Etter, Danielle Valenzano, Shannon. Angelone, Vicky Coffin, Robbie Marshall, Doug Lord, Leslie McDonough, Sarah McCusker, Karin Thomas, Trish Tomlinson, Kate Byroade, Olivia Scully, Laura Horn, Janet Flewelling, Amanda Stern, Deborah Schander, Kym Powe, Sam Lee, Mary Richardson, Cathy Potter, Frank Ridley, Bob Scheier, Denise Stankovics, Maria Bernier, Erin Shea

CLA Presidents Report – Colleen Bailie

July 2021

Still have some openings on committees to fill; Reference / Public Library / xx xx Please forward along anyone who may be interested that you know. Thank you to Lisa Karim for taking over Customer Service; a position she held before her presidency.

Workng with Bob and NELA to ensure that we are properly insured as an organization going forward.

Looking to finalize the budget for this year; Kristina will talk more on that.

Looking at our insurance, should have more information next month.

Conf Committee is diligently exploring option for a venue; should have announcements soon.

Please let me know when your sections have meetings; I will try to make it if I can.

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At the **Bridgeport Library** there is a Zoom salsa class on 7/17, free chess lessons for Bridgeport HS students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 23 to September 30, and a three-session Kindergarten preparation class kids is coming up. Also, Programming Librarian Stephen Kwasnik has retired.

At the **C.H. Booth Library** in Newtown Young Adult Librarian Catherine Findorak has moved on to a position in Wilton and Adult Programmer Lucy Handley has taken a position at the Ridgefield Library. It is starting the design-build portion of an upgraded HVAC system.

At the **Trumbull Library** on Monday the 19th there will be a Zoom pet show-and-tell and on July 22nd there will be a program on how to draw cartoons with Rick Stromoski.

At the **Greenwich Library** the Adult Summer reading program is 'Greenwich Reads Together,' where the entire town reads and discusses the same book together.

Ridgefield Library had a shaving cream art program and they are having a Zoom program on China, the Great Wall, and the Forbidden City on 7/29.

Erin Shea Dummeyer is the new director at the **Mark Twain Library** in Redding. They are hosting a 'Redding Roundup' September 10th to introduce nonprofit organizations to newcomers to the town (250 households moved to Redding during the pandemic). Each nonprofit will have a table with information and the library will supply music and refreshments. Twain also has a summer yoga on the library lawn going on from mid-July to mid-August.

Lynn Zaffino, Director of the **Easton Public Library** reported that their ARPA grant was approved and the plan is to improve Wifi by expanding it to the Library grounds, purchasing outdoor furniture, and purchasing/installing a Decimal Double Study Pod for the library interior.

Karen Tatarka, Director at the **Weston Library**, reports that its long awaited Children's Room renovation will take place in early September. This project is being funded by a combination of State Library Construction Grant funds, Town funds, Library Board funds and funds from the Friends of the Library.

Burnham Library, Bridgewater, is having true crime author Sue Coletta book-talking her newest novel *Pretty Evil New England* about female serial killers on July 15th from 6-7PM and Gentle Yoga with Lanie on July 24th in the morning.

The Ferguson Library in Stamford just had a Zoom program with Laurie Gelman about her novel [*Yoga Pant Nation*](#) about the indignities of modern parenting and is doing free grab and go lunches for kids on Wednesdays 11:30-1:30 through the end of August.

Naugatuck Valley Community College is having a free, 15-week IT training program with child care assistance for students, and the library's summer hours have been expanded. Computer reservations are no longer required, there are study tables available, and the library is now lending Chromebooks and hotspots.

At the **Wilton Library**, author Camile Aubrey book-talks [The Godmothers](#) over Zoom tonight and on Tuesdays mid July to mid August there are Zoom meets with NYT short stories.

The **Westport Library** is having a hybrid book signing and discussion with author Daniel Silva ([The Cellist](#)). Also, patrons can borrow passes for the NY Botanical Gardens.

At the **Housatonic Community College**, Dr. Edward Keane is retiring after 51 years of service to Housatonic and on July 11th they had a Puerto Rican day parade.

At the **Danbury Public Library** just last night they presented a Zoom program with Professor Brian Rose who discussed Steven Spielberg's and George Lucas' 4 decades of filmmaking and their impact on that industry.

The **Perrot Library** of Greenwich is having a free show on July 29th at 4pm of Jester Jim in Binney Park and on July 17th at 8:30 the library is showing *Field of Dreams* also in Binney Park.

The **Darien Library** is having outdoor meditation sessions every Thursday at 11AM starting today, July 15th.

The **New Canaan Library** is starting a program where patrons get free treats in the downtown area using their library card as a passport -- there are 200 hundred passports, limit 1 per household.

The **Bethel Library** is hosting an in-person event led by Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple about bobcats and their natural history in CT today (7/15) from 6:30 to 8 PM. There is also a teen graphic novel book club - this week's GN title is [Bolivar](#) by Sean Rubin.

The **Edith Wheeler Memorial Library** of Monroe is hosting the CT Paranormal Society on on July 28th presenting *The Truth Behind Physical Phenomena* and at 6:30PM today, July 15th, the whole family is invited to a free webinar on how to make tiramisu.

The **Stamford History Center** is presenting *History through the Artist's Eye* through August 15th and another exhibit that is open to the public is *The Fabric of Stamford* which is a display of the clothes and textiles worn by the women of Stamford from 1860 to 1960.

The **Stratford Library Association** is hosting Friends Zoom Trivia Night on Thursday 7/22 at 7:30 pm.

The **Brookfield Library** is showing *The Jungle Book* (2016) tonight at 8:30 PM and is also hosting adult coloring in person.

The **Fairfield Public Library** is having daily drawing competitions on Facebook in July.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Lord, CH Booth Library, Region 4 Representative

Region 5 Report: July 2021

Programs and Announcements:

- Cheshire is presenting a CT Wineries Virtual Tour Monday, July 19th. The virtual ride through CT's wine country will cover the state's 40+ wineries. Wine guide Michelle Griffis will discuss the award-winning wineries & share dining options like on-site cafes. With beautiful scenery, daily tastings, and live music, CT wineries are great destinations.
- Clinton: Henry Carter Hulls summer programs include: Biomimicry Engineering Lab.

Participants learn about biomimicry and how engineers imitate animals and nature when designing products. They will use that knowledge to design a new product based on an animal and/or nature. Tween Tuesday: DIY Cat Toys and for grades 2-6 artist-educator Kristin Cafferty is running an art class.

- Cromwell: Things are hopping at the Belden. They had a huge summer reading kick-off on June 23rd with live music, food trucks etc. at Riverport Park. They continue with: art, music & movement, Literacy Gardeners, STEAM Build-Alongs, and ukulele lessons!
- Deep River has some exciting news - they were approved for a second full time position. The Children's Librarian will now be the Assistant Director.
- Guilford's Thursday, July 22nd concert features - The Shoreline Jazz Quarter who will pay tribute to the music of Thelonius Monk at 7pm. Guilford is also providing a timed virtual SAT practice test on July 24th.
- Hamden's Brundage Community Branch got a makeover and is now open to the public!
- Ivoryton has re-started onsite language classes and continues to celebrate it's 150th year. The fall will see a birthday gala on the Essex Steam Train and a Murder Mystery Dinner at the Copper Beech Inn.
- Middletown: Russell added computer stations - totaling 20. 2 nature programs July 24th are Shinrin-Yoku [Forest Bathing]: a 9:15am outdoor guided, meditative, sensory walk & a nature study with author Leslie Bulion for young nature lovers 3pm at Long Lane Farm.
- Milford: Their big news is - they switched IT support from the City to Bibliomation. It was a huge job - phones and email remain with the city so new wiring had to be installed, public wifi was expanded, a secure staff wifi was added, ALL library computers were replaced with W10 machines, & staff are now using Office 365. The Bibliomation tech staff did an amazing job and they look forward to more targeted support for library functions.
- North Haven went Fine Free on July 1st.
- West Haven: Their new Head of Childrens/Teen librarian, Amy Sullivan, will start July 19. The library is conducting a town-wide scavenger hunt all month in collaboration with the Centennial Committee. Participants can pick up the first clue sheet and instructions at the library. There will be kids' prizes provided by the Friends. The library's "Ready for the Grade" program for slow readers in grades K-3 are kits parents take home to do with their children over 6 weeks. Every week, each child leaves with a book for their collection.

There will be an end of program party at the Main Library on August 7th. 25 families participated this summer.

- Westbrook: has resumed its pre-pandemic hours and restored all services, including meeting rooms. They are running outdoor programs over the summer and plan to dedicate/open the Lew Daniels Technology Center in September. The Friends [via a grant from the Christine Moser Foundation] launched a Hoopla Flex addition to their digital collection.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall

Region 6 Report to CLA Executive Board, July 2021

- After nearly 10 years, The Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon finally broke ground on a library expansion. They will be in a temporary location until next summer.
- The Waterford Library has received two grants for outdoor programming: Dominion Energy Foundation is funding an 8-week Sunset Cinema movie series on Thursday evenings and Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation is funding 5 live outdoor programs: three musical acts, an African storyteller, and a live one-woman theatrical performance to complement the Tails & Tales Summer Reading programs for all ages.

In addition, through the ARPA Grant, the library is purchasing two outdoor solar charging benches from SELS, a mobile desk from DEMCO, and technology to set-up a workforce support/small business technology center for Zoom interviews, meetings etc.

- In Salem, we are back to being open our pre-pandemic hours of operation. Summer Reading is going well with outdoor programs at the town pavilion. Also, we are excited about some of our approved purchases through ARPA grant funding: an outdoor solar picnic table, new furniture for adults and children, along with both indoor and outdoor charging stations.