

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
August 19, 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. July 15th, 2021 meeting minutes: A motion to approve was made by Mary Etter, seconded by Doug Lord, and was approved by majority with the corrections presented. Motion passed. Abstentions: Alessandra Petrino
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** See attached
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** –
Kristina shared that the bank account is now fully updated and the appropriate people are attached to the bank account. This is the first time we are doing board transition with Citizens Bank. She will document the process for future board transitions. Kristina reminded the board that all those that serve as section and committee chairs need to have a current CLA Membership. If you find that your name is no longer listed on the Executive Board, please check to make sure your membership is current. Given that last month we focused on this year's budget, we didn't have an opportunity to discuss the closing of the FY2021 budget. Kristina pointed out various aspects of last year's budget in comparison to FY2020. Factors contributing to our success in FY2021 include reducing costs for programs, fundraising efforts, and membership holding steady.
4. **New Business:**
 - a. A motion to approve the LGBTQ+ bylaws was made by Kym Powe, seconded by Olivia Scully. Motion passed with correction. Approved by majority with no abstentions.
 - b. Discussion to remove the Development and Planning section from the Agenda/Board listing. The discussion ensued to what the Development and Planning section was for and how it has been vacant for awhile. It was brought up that we most likely could drop from the agenda if needed. Colleen will discuss with Procedures to confirm. Alessandra brought up the Sustainability Task Force and how that was created for the same purpose and has continued into a committee.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: There was no meeting this month. They are still hoping to have series of Zoom conferences this fall and working on creating a toolkit of services they have available for Board members on their website.

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

ACLPD: Ramona Burkey: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: Erin is speaking at the NELA Virtual Day of Advocacy conference along with some other New England chapter councilors. The conference is September 1st.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: If you have an annual report, please send to Jerry.

Awards: Region Reps: No Report

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling and Sunnie Scarpa: Sunnie Scarpa is the new co-chair of Career Development. The committee met recently and discussed plans for the mentorship program. The compensation benchmark reports are up on the website. Registration is open for the Leadership Institute.

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

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Amanda Stern reported that CLC is still hiring for both an Executive Director and a Member Relationship Manager. They are working on the programming catalog revamp and have been working hard to update calendar with roundtables.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

CSL: Deborah Schander: CSL recently concluded the Lead Your Library pilot program. There is a list serv for administrators/directors and if you are interested, you can email Deborah. They also are in conversations with Governor's office about sharing useful resources.

Children's: Cathy Potter & Alex Kraus: Cathy introduced Alex Klaus as the new co-chair. They are looking at first week of November for their fall workshop and will coordinate with Kym to make sure it is not the same day.

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: The CT Literacy Conference wrote to express their freedom from CLA. In a few more weeks, they will submit that document finalizing the transition.

CLASS: Samantha Saliter: Absent

Conference 2022: Kari Hamad & Shannon Angelone: They are securing things for Conference in 2022. They are still hoping to do an in-person Conference and will have more information, such as location, at next meeting.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Lisa Karim: Absent

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: There are some virtual fundraisers coming up, with the first one being on 9/14 at 6:30 and more information on that will be coming soon. There is another one in-person on 10/2 at Labrinth Brewery from 4-8pm, which is a fundraiser with Sam Lee/Intellectual Freedom.

FOCL: Frank Ridley: Absent

Development & Planning: Vacant

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe: They have set regular general membership meetings – first Friday of every month at 10am. The next meeting is 9/3. They are in conversations about a fall workshop. They are looking at launching racial equity training called Project Ready. For more information on Project Ready, you can visit <https://ready.web.unc.edu/>

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Absent

LCI: Laura Horn: Absent

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: They will be meeting monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:30 pm, probably mostly by Zoom, hopefully some in-person meetings in the future. The first two meetings upcoming 9/14 and 10/19 (a little off from the normal schedule in October).

LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson: No report

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Absent

NELA: Christy Billings: Christy reported that the NELA Conference will be three half days via Zoom and one in-person day at Holy Cross on 10/18 from 9:30-4. The in-person day has limited attendance so if you are interested, try to register as soon as possible. The website can be found at: nela2021.godaddysites.com for more information. Mary also reported planning underway for NELLS 2022 and that this year they are considering combining NELLS 1 and NELLS 2 together before returning to the every other year the following year.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello & Lauren Thompson: Absent – Colleen reported that John and Lauren are looking for people interested in joining the committee. They will also be looking to revamp the website in the future and looking for a small taskforce of Board members to do this. If interested, email John.

Procedures: Peter Ciparelli: Absent

Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: No report

Resource Sharing Matt Earls: No report

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Absent

Technology: Vacant

Young Adult: Jackie Bush and Stephanie Smith: No report

Region 1: Karin Thomas: Woodbury Public Library's Sue Piel is retiring at the end of September and her Board is looking to expand and renovate the interior of their library in the next few years. Western Community College is open back up and in-person. Beardsley is about to get a new library outreach vehicle.

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: Absent

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Putnam is closing in the next few weeks to make their move to the new building.

Region 4: Doug Lord: See attached

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: Absent

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 10:46 was made by Erin Shea, seconded by Mary Etter, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Present: Colleen Bailie, Danielle Valenzano, Matthew Sheehan, Alessandra Petrino, Kristina Edwards, Denise Stankovics, Kym Powe, Jerry Seagrave, Mary Etter, Janet Flewelling, Amanda Stern, Deborah Schaffer, Maria Bernier, Karen Thomas, Kari Hamad, Christie Mitchell, Doug Lord, Mary Richardson, Jackie Bush, Shannon Angelone, Robbie Marshall, Cathy Potter, Rachel Leff, Alex Klaus, Olivia Scully, Leslie McDonough, Erin Shea, Stephanie Smith, Sunnie Scarpa, Margaret Khan, Christy Billings

CLA Presidents Report – Colleen Bailie

August 2021

I'm pleased to say we've had some of our committee slots filled this past month.

Jackie Bush from Stratford will be taking over for the YA section; Jennifer Sullivan from Woodbridge will take on Public Libraries section; and Rachel Leff/Christie Mitchell, both from Ridgefield will taking over Reference. Welcome All!!

Samantha Saliter—whose now single-handedly running CLASS; is looking for some committee members. Please pass on to your coworkers about this group. CLASS is an integral part of CLA and we want to see them do well!

Exec board is still finalizing insurance options to be reported on next month.

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Alice S. Knapp, CEO of Stamford's **Ferguson Library** reported that Ferguson went from 'mask mandatory' to 'mask strongly encouraged' on July 6 but returned to 'mask mandatory' on August 2. There are some indoor programs but very few. Most youth programs are still virtual with some storytimes taking place outside.

Sherelle Harris, Library Director at the **Norwalk Public Library** reported that NPL never lifted the mask mandate. They also continue to contact trace. There have been no held indoor programs since the pandemic began, instead programs take place via Facebook, Instagram and YouTube and the summer saw some outdoor children's programs and adult music concerts. At Norwalk patrons make appointments to use adult public computers and maker area. No appointment is needed for quick scans, prints, or email checks. Patrons may also send emails to our reference email addresses, or walk up to sidewalk service table with the documents they would like for us to fax, print or copy as part of our ongoing sidewalk service. Norwalk started the next phase of its plan that included one-person appointments for private study rooms on one booking per day with strict limits on the multipurpose rooms. Social distancing is stressed and custodians sanitize areas between appointments.

In **Weston**, Library Director Karen Tatarka reported that Weston only has outdoor in person programs at the moment. The fresh air intake for the HVAC was just repaired, several conference rooms were reopened so groups are permitted to meet with masks required. The large meeting room will not be available until the end of September (earliest). Book groups will begin hybrid meetings in the fall and the library is planning small, in-person programs for September, subject to change based on recommendations from the Health District. Weston has had a masking requirement in place for all municipal buildings throughout the pandemic. Weston has been advised by the Town that if someone claims a medical exemption, we are to take their word for it. While there has been some public push back about the requirement, no one has yet claimed a medical exemption. Weston offers to bring items out to patrons who are unable to wear a mask. Weston's Friends group is planning all virtual events for programs that draw a larger attendance and have not yet discussed when they will consider in-person programming again. Their virtual programs have had excellent attendance and take and make programs have been successful as well.

Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, the **Greenwich Library** Director, reported using flexibility in the face of the variant. Staff in Greenwich never stopped wearing masks, but vaccinated patrons have been able to enter the Main Library without masks (masks are required in branches and the Children's Room). This past Monday, 8/9, the town reinstated masking requirements for visitors to town buildings, including the library. Patrons are able to use the nine, one-person private study rooms but other meeting spaces are available until 9/22 at the earliest. Children's story times have been held outdoors. Only a group of 6 students have been able to come in for some programming in the Innovation Lab. All other programs are virtual.

Helene R. Murtha, Town Librarian at the **Fairfield Public Library** reported that staff never stopped wearing masks in public spaces and that only the unvaccinated public is required to wear masks. Seating is limited and spread out but meets the needs of patrons and all Fairfield in-person programming is outdoors and all children's play areas and toys remain unavailable to public. Children's department policies for the fall will be influenced by what happens in the town's public schools. Fairfield's outdoor story times are planned into October and will update the mask policy as the First Selectwoman makes a change to policies in town buildings.

Douglas Lord, Director of the **C.H. Booth Library** in Newtown, had a successful EDI program with a showing of the documentary film called BMWC with 41 registered viewings were taken for indiv and family viewings

and 16 to a hybrid program. Little grant from the AMA. We also were accepted into a program pitched by the FCCF called the Bridge Program by Lightful that is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Sheri Szymanski, Library Director of the **Stratford Library Association**, reported that thanks to the Everybody Learns Covid Grant and the public utilities PEGPETIA Grant the library is adding Chromebooks to its technology-for-loan program which includes hotspots. SLA is strongly encouraging masks but does not argue with patrons for the sake of staff safety. Patrons requiring help at computers need to mask and there has been very little pushback with this model. Masks are required in the Children's Department (so far only one patron has refused). The rest of the building is mask optional for those who are vaccinated in alignment with the town requirements. SLA has stopped asking front line staff to take a hard line in enforcing the mask mandate with patrons though staff do offer masks. SLA determined that staff are at a greater risk of infection and/or just plain danger by enforcing a mandate without having a local or state government mandate to back it up. Workers do not have to provide service away from a desk for a patrons refusing to wear masks.

Region 5 Report: August 2021

Programs and Announcements:

- East Haven's Hagan Memorial sent 2 news items:
 - On July 23, the CT State Bond Commission approved \$159,375 in State Public Library Construction Grant funding. This will permit roof repairs on the 1975 addition and the original 1928 building. Completion is expected in the spring of 2022. The total cost of the roof repair is \$318,750, with the other 50% provided in matching funds from the Town of East Haven and Hagan Memorial Library.
 - Cindy Gwiazda obtained a CT Humanities grant to bring Tom Callihan (the State Troubadour) to the East Haven Fall Festival (Sept. 10-12). He will perform Sunday September 12 at 11 am and Cindy will announce his performance is in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Library.
- The Ivoryton Library turns 150 this year. Check their website for events including their big Birthday Gala October 1st.
- Milford is using their ARPA funds to purchase (2) tablet dispensing stations from Envisionware. They will put one in the Children's Department and one on the Adult floor. The tablets will be preloaded with most used apps and educational games.
- Middletown: Russell had 2 events to share:
 - Back again by demand was *Book Yak on a Kayak!* It was held Friday, August 13th. Russell Library and Middletown Park & Rec partnered for this one of a kind book discussion at Crystal lake. They discussed 'The Great Alone,' by Kristen Hannah aboard kayaks or canoes. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was on hand to provide inspections and issue Vessel Safety Check Decals. Free "IF FOUND" stickers were available. When the Coast Guard discovers an unmanned paddlecraft adrift, they don't know whether it washed away or was separated from its owner during a boating accident. The IF FOUND sticker allows small craft owners to display their contact info. The Coast Guard can use this information to determine if an emergency exists and arrange for return of the boat.
 - Russell is offering a *3 Foragers* Event on Monday, Aug 23rd at 4:30PM. Join The 3 Foragers in an educational walk through the forest at Crystal Lake in McCutcheon Park, Middletown. They will search for late season berries, edible wild greens, wild mushrooms, and other tasty wild foods. They will also explore: native and invasive plants, foraging guidelines and safety practices, plant & fungi identification, recipes & more. Adults and children welcome; no dogs.
- Shelton: At Plumb Memorial, the renovation of the 1895 area of the library is finally coming to its completion in the next month. (It was supposed to be finished by the end of last year, but CoVid intervened). They will begin the final stage of renovation of their Main Library soon after. They still have reduced hours, but are opening Tuesday nights until 7pm at the Plumb Library and until 7 on Thursdays at the Huntington Branch.

- West Haven will be hosting an ice cream social on the front lawn of Ora Mason Library on August 27th with magician Matt Matthews, sponsored by the Friends. Magic show is at 2:15, individually wrapped ice cream distributed from 2-4. WHPL will be hosting *Virtual Talk of the road: Votes for women* on August 31st at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall