

**Wallingford Public Library Association**  
**Board of Managers Meeting**  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**7:30 p.m.**

The meeting of the Wallingford Public Library Association Board of Managers was held on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Board Members Present In-Person: Lisa-Marie Bellmore, Art Elliott, Jaime Hine, Maria Rodrigues McBride, Carol Mikulski, Andrew Whitehouse, Willi Stahura, Deron Chang, Suzanne Wright, and Tricia d'Oliveira

Board Members Present Virtually: none

Board Members Absent: Kristi Doerr, Dara Solan, Umera Raza, Pat Bentley, Jared Liu

Also Present: Library Director Sunnie Scarpa

First Vice President Deron Chang determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Roll was called with all Board Members acknowledging.

**Public Comments:** None

**Departmental Update:** Rachel Taylor has been the Head of Adult Programming for about seven months but has already overseen a wide range of Programs at the Library. The Wallingford Table is a multicultural program aimed at highlighting different cultural aspects of our community. The first event was a Turkish coffee tasting in collaboration with volunteers from the Wellspring Community Center in Milford, A subsidiary of the Peace Islands Institute. It went over the history and cultural significance of coffee in the Middle East. For Juneteenth, along with Dune Bryant, the Library is collaborating with, AmericanSoul Kitchen & Bar, a Black owned soul food restaurant in Meriden. Also, in September, the Library will partner with the Spanish Community of Wallingford for a Latin Arts Cooking Exhibition.

The Library will also be starting a Spanish Movie Night in September in collaboration with SCOW. The movies will be in Spanish with English subtitles so non-Spanish speakers can follow along.

Adult Game Night will be replaced with a Trivia Night the final Tuesday night of the month. Tap and Vine, a local bar & restaurant will host.

Along with Library Director Sunnie Scarpa, and Readers' Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken, Ms. Taylor has already started the planning process for the 2025 One Book, One Wallingford. She worked on the 2024 OBOW, but this will be the first one she gets to do from the ground floor.

Ms. Taylor is hoping to start many new clubs at the Library; an American Sign Language club for adults is in the works, piggy backing off the success of a similar program in the Childrens Library, an English as a second language club, a film discussion club, and a Racial Justice Club.

There is also a new seasonal three-week poetry discussion series led by Cyrus Cook, a retired English teacher, as well as two new Ukelele Clubs (a morning session on the first Monday of the month, and an evening session the second Wednesday of the month led by Steven Lazarus, a local volunteer. In Partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium, the Library is also hosting a number of virtual talks with a diverse assortment of high-profile authors each month. The hope is that all these new programs will provide the Community with various social, and literary, events, and increase engagement with the Library.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Board reviewed the Minutes of the April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board of Managers meeting.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mikulski, seconded by Mr. Whitehouse, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Minutes.

The Board also reviewed the Minutes of the April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board Sponsored Events Committee Meeting.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Wright, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Minutes.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Membership Committee Meeting.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mikulski, seconded by Mr. Whitehouse, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** is tabled until the June Board Meeting

**Library Director's Report:** Ms. Scarpa gave an update on the Town Budget. The Town Council approved this year's Budget, but the Mayor vetoed it, sending it back to the Town Council with an adjustment to the Education Budget. The current Budget may stand as is, but the Council does have the ability to go in and overturn the Mayor's veto. As of the Board Meeting, the Library Budget was approved as is, but that may change in the future.

The actual Health Insurance Rate came in at a 13.1% increase. The Library had budgeted for a 15% increase, meaning 7,131\$ will remain. Ms. Scarpa stated that previous overages were moved to Capital Projects, so that is where she expects these funds to go as well.

Staffing Update: many Librarians participated in Professional Development through the Connecticut Library Association. Katie Dygon, Creative Technologies Librarian, attended the Computers in Libraries conference, which mainly focused on AI. With the eventual coming of AI, Ms. Scarpa said the Library would have to set new Policies & Guidelines for its usage. She hopes to have that done by the end of the year. Assistant Director, and Official Staff Name Checker, Julie Rio, will attend the America Library Association conference in June. Digital Navigator Matt McGregor took a full-time position in Hamden so we are looking to hire a new part-time Navigator.

One Book, One Wallingford 2024 was 'wonderful.' Just under 200 people showed up for the culminating Author Event. Other events were held throughout the day at local middle schools. Co-author Rebecca Stead emailed Ms. Scarpa to let her know how lovely the whole thing was.

The Great Give raised 4645\$, from 87 donations, with 2,045\$ in matching gifts, with the total being 6,698\$. The Library's goal was 5,000\$ so it was very successful.

The Library reevaluated the usage of the Regional Navigators Learning Grant from the Connecticut State Library. The terms of the Grant changed in ways that were less helpful for Wallingford's needs. The languages offered were Spanish and Arabic. We have a Spanish speaking Navigator and, there are only approximately 50 Arabic speaking households in Wallingford. Due to the changes the Library has bowed out. This will allow smaller Libraries, or Libraries with higher needs in these areas, to gain better access.

The new security system and cameras will be installed May 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

An RFP has been sent out by the Town for the HVAC roof-top units. A walk-through has been scheduled for Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Friday June 28<sup>th</sup> will be Staff Development Day. Board Members are welcome to join for breakfast in the morning at 8:30a.

### **Committee and Taskforce:**

**Board Sponsored Events:** Ms. Mikulski went over ideas from the last meeting to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Library. There will be another meeting before the next Board Meeting, just in case there needs to be a request for some funding.

**Membership Committee:** Ms. d'Oliveira & Ms. Mikulski recapped ideas for increasing membership. Lots of lively discussion was had.

**Vice President's Comments:** Mr. Chang laid out a path to lasting world peace, but has since lost his notes.

**Other Business:** A Kinder Ground has found a store front on N. Colony Rd, and will be opening shortly. As a show of support and appreciation, the Board & Library would like to give them a bouquet for their grand opening.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mikulski, seconded by Ms. Bellmore, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve funding for the flowers & delivery.

The Meeting was adjourned on a motion duly made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Ms. McBride, it was unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:48p.

The next meeting of the Wallingford Library Association is scheduled for Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:30p.

Respectfully submitted,  
Art Elliott  
Secretary