

**Approved
Windsor Library Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Dec. 1, 2022**

Present: Cheryl Curtis, Fran Ward-Nelson, Denise Panos, Caren Barry, David Raney, Michael Zager, Betty Hellerman, Kevin Washington, Carol Sama, Gaye Rizzo

Absent: LeighAnn Tyson

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Cheryl Curtis.

Cheryl asked for a volunteer to take minutes for the meeting. Denise Panos agreed to be Secretary.

Public Comment: None.

Resignations and Appointments: Kevin Washington was re-appointed by the Windsor Town Council for a 3 year term, expiring April 2025.

Staff Reports

Life at the library has finally **resumed** much of its **pre-pandemic normalcy**. Masks are voluntary, hand sanitizer rarely needs replacing and we're back to sharing pens, phones and even some hugs with library patrons. Virtual **programs are in-person again** with Kidspace attracting **50 or more children** to many of their events. **Teens** are the only patrons that have **not returned** to the library in large numbers to socialize with one another as they used to. Those who do come, are more interested in **studying** or **volunteering**. The teen librarian position has become one that focuses less on crowd control and more on career prep, a growing need for adults and young adult patrons. Our new reference librarian, Cailey Klasson spends much of her time each week helping patrons construct a **resume** and search for **jobs online**. She's also busy mentoring our new teen intern, Isabel Medina Ayala. Isabel was recently hired to become the first intern in our new **Librarians in Training** program.



Funded through a State Library grant, the program runs from Oct-May and is aimed at developing a more **diverse workforce** by hiring young adults who might not otherwise consider pursuing library science as a career.

Isabel moved here from Puerto Rico in 2017 and is a **senior** at **Windsor High School**. She serves as an officer in the Air Force **JROTC program**, excels in math and looks forward to attending college. At the library, Isabel works part time assisting with the **tutoring program** at the branch and with special projects and programs in the **lending, children's, adult services** departments and the Makerspace at the main library.

Another new face at the main library is **Mark Gervino**, replacing Andrea O'Shea as the **Head of Reference and Technical Services**. Mark comes to Windsor with 12 years of library experience, most recently as Head of Support Services at

the **New City Library**, New York where he supervised 23 employees within the Circulation and Technical Services departments. Mark holds a **Master of Library and Information Science** degree from **Rutgers** University.

Kidspace clerk, **Tricia Jeffery** moved to the branch to become the new **tutoring coordinator**, filling the vacancy left by Celestia Simmons. Former kindergarten teacher, Kara Filmer will take Tricia's place at the main library.

Staff members, **Victoria Huertas** and **Meg Tomasetti** received a \$150 award from the **CT NASA Space Grant Consortium** for transforming Kidspace into a **universe** complete with a **rocket**, **mission control center**, sparkly phases of the **moon** and a starlight mobile. The service desk became a night sky emblazoned with a moon themed poem and children visiting the library added their own **constellation creations** to the indoor "outer space."

The staff is in the process of creating a "**Library of Things**" collection comprised of **gadgets**, **tools**, **cookware**, **games** and other items for patrons to borrow for short term projects. Similar to the **book lending model**, borrowing infrequently used items makes more economic sense and creates less environmental waste. It's better for the library to purchase one superhero cake pan, for example, and share it with many patrons than for each of those patrons to spend money buying that same pan on their own-especially if it's used only once. Thanks to several generous **donations** and **bequests**, the library has nearly **\$2,000** earmarked for the new collection.

Following that same sustainability vision, the library held its second **craft swap** this fall, inviting patrons to bring in fabric, yarn, embroidery floss and other craft related items and swap them out with those brought in by other patrons. It was a huge success! Staff is considering a **puzzle swap** in the spring.

Students from **Loomis** are helping with **programs** at both libraries. At the branch, they will soon be involved with Gabbie's "**garden buddies**" program and at the main library, Bonnie from Kidspace is grateful for their help with her **STEM** program. Recently, one of the Loomis volunteers brought six children of Loomis faculty to join other Windsor children signed up for the program. Bonnie reported that it was a wonderful experience for her, the talented volunteer and all of the children!

The town had an unfortunate experience over the Veteran's Day holiday weekend when some **email addresses** were **hacked** and charges were made using a town **credit card** linked with **Amazon**. At the library **\$700** worth of **Amazon gift cards** were purchased (and redeemed) at 1:00AM and 5:00AM. We expect to get reimbursed for this breach but it was pretty unsettling, nonetheless.

In closing and with more pleasant news; the **Windsor Library Association** **gifted** ownership of the Wilson Branch Library building and property to the **town** in October. Built in 1965 with funds from philanthropist **Leland P. Wilson's** estate, the branch has become a **community information gathering** place offering **unique programs** such as the **tutoring** program, access to **public computers** and **multi-cultural programs** that enrich the lives of Windsor residents. As someone who worked at the branch for 35 years, I would like to offer my deepest **thanks to WLA** and its members for all of their hard work and deep concern not only for a **building** that was entrusted to their care but also for their deep commitment to the **staff** working in it and the **community** it resides in.

Mike Zager, President of WLA, shared additional details about the transfer of the Wilson Branch Library property to the town. The transfer of the property and cash associated with it occurred in October. Then, On Nov. 17 a ceremony celebrating the transfer was held at the Wilson Branch. The WLA donated a plaque to the Town to commemorate the event and to honor Leland P. Wilson's generous contribution to Windsor. A large symbolic set of keys was also transferred to the Town. Mayor Don Trinks, Town Manager, Peter Souza, Attorney Diane Whitney, several town council members, library staff and a number of WLA members attended the event. There were articles in both the Journal Inquirer (written by Susan Kirschner-Robinson) and the Windsor Journal documenting this important transfer.

Mike also reported that WLA fundraising is going well and that they've received \$2,000 in memory of Marian Sorbo. Marian's family is considering how to direct donations made in her memory.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Sept. 6, 2020

Motion: To accept the minutes with two corrections: remove Kevin Washington's name from those present and to add "non-profit/not-for-profit" in last sentence of paragraph with recommended changes to Meeting Room and Use of Public Spaces policy.

Made by: Betty Hellerman

Second: Kevin Washington

Vote: Cheryl Curtis Y Carol Sama Y Fran Ward-Nelson Y Denise Panos Y Caren Barry Y David Raney Y Michael Zager Y LeighAnn Tyson absent Betty Hellerman Y Kevin Washington Y

Set next tentative meeting date: March 2, 2023 at 7PM (Meeting Room #1)

Motion: To adjourn.

Made by: Kevin Washington
Second: Fran Ward-Nelson

Vote: Cheryl Curtis Y Carol Sama Y Fran Ward-Nelson Y Denise Panos Y Caren
Barry Y David Raney Y Michael Zager Y LeighAnn Tyson absent
Betty Hellerman Y Kevin Washington Y

Meeting adjourned at: 7:33 PM

Respectfully submitted: Denise Panos