

New Haven Free Public Library  
Library Board of Directors  
Minutes of Meeting  
July 27, 2021

**Members Present:** Ms. Schneider, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Garcia-Blocker, Ms. Merson, Ms. Logan, Ms. Lamar, Mr. Giering, Lee Cruz

**Members Absent:** Alder Morrison

**Staff Present:** John Jessen, Luis Chavez-Brumell

**Welcome**

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes**

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Minutes from the May meeting. Ms. Lamar moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Minutes, Mr. Cruz seconded, and with no questions or comments, the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda and Minutes.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Lamar reviewed the June 2021 financials, summarizing both the Board and the Foundation accounts. Overall, revenues and expenses are as expected at this point in the year.

The 2020-2021 Fiscal Year ended on a high note, with the Board receiving more funds and spending less than budgeted. Mr. Jessen discussed the budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, noting that some aspects of revenue generation is beginning to show signs of returning to pre-pandemic times. Revenue received from room rentals is still expected to take longer to return to pre-pandemic levels. A vote on the new budget will be held at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Merson joined the meeting at 5:51 pm.

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to approve the June 2021 financials, Mr. Cruz moved, Dr. Garcia-Blocker seconded, and with no questions or comments the Board voted to approve the June 2021 financials.

Mr. Jessen presented a transfer from the NHFPL Foundation: \$7,000 from the Scripps Foundation for READy for the Grade. Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to approve the transfer, Ms. Merson moved, Ms. Lamar seconded, and the Board voted to accept the funds from the NHFPL Foundation.

**Covid-related Service Updates**

The Library continues to follow the mask wearing policies put in place by the City.

Mr. Jessen stated that in mid-June the Library started expanding access even more by allowing events in the buildings and in-person book browsing. Events are reviewed on a case-by-case

basis to ensure safety protocols will be followed. NHDocs Film Festival and other events are already set to take place starting in August.

The Wilson branches' vaccination clinic, run by Cornell-Hill Health center, has given out about 7,200 COVID-19 vaccines! The branch will continue to be a vaccination site for the community until the beginning of August.

## **Director's Report**

### Staffing

The City's hiring freeze that went into effect in May, 2021 ended in July with the beginning of a new fiscal year. The Library is looking to hire 2 Part-Time Librarians, 7 Part-Time Library Aides and a few Full-Time positions.

### Programs

The Library has utilized the outdoors, like the New Haven Green, for some programs this summer. The BookMobile has been out and about in the community, including appearances at local beaches, schools, the CT Folk Festival, and an Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services event.

### Stetson

Ms. Schneider joined the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Mr. Jessen offered a brief overview of what's being worked on at the new Stetson facility and offered a tour of the space to all Board members. A soft-opening of Stetson is scheduled to be around late September or early October.

### Grants

The Library has many applications in for grants, including an Arts Grant from the City that would be used for Arts programming at all locations. Funds from E-rate are expected to come in, which will help pay for hot spots. A Technology Grant from the State of CT has been submitted for a Digital Navigator Program that will help pay for Library's technology infrastructure.

### **Stetson Library Update: Naming Rights**

Mr. Jessen explained that the Stetson naming rights are continuing to be worked on by the Foundation. Mr. Jessen sent a proposed contract to the Board to look over for these naming rights. The Board briefly discussed the contract, which will be amended and voted on at a later date.

### **Policy Review: Code of Conduct**

The Board finished reviewing the proposed Code of Conduct Policy.

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to approve the revised Code of Conduct Policy, Mr. Cruz moved, Ms. Lamar seconded, and with no questions or comments the Board voted to approve the Code of Conduct Policy.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Giering asked for a brief overview of the CT Murals Project that was conducted at the Wilson branch. Mr. Jessen and Mr. Chavez-Brumell explained that the murals were painted at a laundromat down the street from the Wilson branch around Juneteenth.

Mr. Giering gave a round of applause stating that New Haven's murals are the only ones that have been painted by two black male artists and featured a woman's work.

Mr. Cruz and the Board also talked about the mural behind the Fair Haven branch, saying that it may need to be refreshed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:42 pm and came out of Executive Session at 7:06 pm.

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lamar moved, Mr. Giering seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Jessen  
City Librarian