

**WATERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**28 North Main Street – SAL Room**  
**Monday, February 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM**

Present: Anna Black, Michelle Baker, Erin Mooney, Margaret Moreland, Kit Walker, Rachel Muse, Kyle Creason

Anna called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

Margaret moved to approve the agenda. Kit seconded. All in favor.

- Margaret noted that the draft minutes for January 13, 2025, were amended by adding “Tom and Rachel were asked to attend [the executive session] for the purpose of sharing information about the VLRB Unit Petition.”

Anna moved to approve meeting minutes for January 13, 2025, as amended. Kit seconded. All in favor.

**Public Comment:** None

**Technology Librarian’s Report**

- Rachel introduced Kyle Creason, the Technology Librarian, to the Board.
- Kyle outlined the scope of his position. Any library patron may make an appointment with Kyle for a broad range of assistance – from coaching to uploading apps to the highly technical. He also presents programs on specific technology-related subjects. The new Minecraft club is a big hit! Audiences range widely in age and include home-schooled children. When Kyle was first hired, the pandemic shutdown was impacting everyone, and he took on the massive task of providing virtual access for library staff and patrons. He created and now updates the library website, maintains the public computers, and generally helps wherever he is needed.
- In answer to questions from Commissioners, Kyle explained the type of help that he provides to patrons, how they make appointments, and the “ins and outs” of Minecraft.

**Library Commission Treasurer’s Report**

- Investments continued to grow during the past month.
- The library’s account with Morgan Stanley now has 14% in preferred savings and 86% in mutual funds. The Commissioners discussed whether the investments needed to be rebalanced. Michelle will consult with Morgan Stanley
- Yearly income from the Alice R. Howland Trust is expected shortly.

**Library Director’s Report**

- The library will no longer track website use. The State no longer requires it and Rachel does not think it is useful data. Instead, there will be more accurate tracking of volunteer hours.

- The library is presently planning and mapping out the coming year, particularly the Summer Reading Program and the Children's Garden. The Children's Garden will be improved with new signage and activities will be expanded. A seed planting day and a seed library are planned.
- A major goal of the library's strategic plan has been the creation of a designated Teen Space. Rachel and Sandra are working with Woody on this.
- So far, winter has been extremely busy and has presented challenges. There has been a very large number of unattended children every day after school. The library has also seen an uptick in patrons who are unhoused and borderline unhoused. Issues arise when space is not shared respectfully. Although staff members are doing the best they can and they have a great deal of empathy, the situation is creating pressure. After Rachel and the Commissioners discussed the issue, was agreed that some policies may have to be re-visited this summer.
- The Friends of WPL are working on a major revision of their bylaws (last revised in 2005). They will host a St. Patrick's Day Celtic Music Concert on March 7, 6:30 pm, in the Steele Room.
- Rachel will attend Creative Sector Day at the State House on February 12, to raise library awareness.
- Crochet Club, for anyone 8 or older, has become a multi-generational! Other especially popular groups are the Minecraft Club, Middle School Bad Art Club, Makerspace, and Lego Club. Kidfest, part of Winterfest, was well attended despite the frigid weather!
- A new addition to adult game nights/days is Blood on the Clocktower.
- Soft movement classes like Chair Yoga and Arthritis Foundation Exercise remain popular.
- The next Silent Reading will be held at Red Poppy Cakery on February 28 at 5:30.

**Old Business** – Strategic Planning goals continue to be addressed; see Children's Garden and Teen Space above.

### **New Business**

- The Department of Libraries' draft Collection Development Policy is available online and will be reviewed in connection with our Materials Selection Policy. Rachel pointed out that ours is actually more specific and will likely require no changes.

Erin moved to adjourn the meeting. Kit seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59

**Next meeting:** Monday, March 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM, in the SAL room.

APPROVED: