

**City of Norwalk  
Public Library  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, Oct 14, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:** Alex Knopp, President, Patsy Brescia, Jannie Williams, Mary Mann, Moina Noor, Sharon Baanante

**STAFF:** Sherelle Harris, NPL Executive Director

**OTHER:** Mohinder Kaisi

**I. Call to Order**

President Knopp called the meeting to order at 7:05.  
A quorum was present.

**II. Additions to Agenda**

Mr. Knopp will update the committee on federal covid relief funds.

**III. Public Comments**

Mr. Kaisi attended the meeting, but had no public comment.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from Sep 9, 2021**

\*\*\*\* **Ms. Brescia moved to approve the minutes as submitted.**

\*\*\*\* **Ms. Mann seconded.**

\*\*\*\* **The motion passed unanimously.**

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## V. President's Report

### A. Discussion and Action: Approval for Outdoor Internet Expansion

President Knopp discussed how other libraries were using outdoor routers to offer the internet to a further audience. Ms. Harris will look into costs. Ms. Brescia asked if this extended internet access would be available when the library is closed. Ms. Harris confirmed that it would. Ms. Harris will also look into adding additional outdoor seating. Ms. Williams asked about cyber security protection. Ms. Harris will look into it. The entire committee is in favor of moving forward and on this.

**\*\*\*\* Ms. Baanante Moved to approve continuing the discussion of expanding outdoor internet access.**

**\*\*\*\* Ms Brescia seconded.**

**\*\*\*\* The motion passed unanimously.**

### B. Discussion of Library of Things Concept

The concept is that some libraries are loaning out appliances and tools, and other items not traditionally library items. This would be a way to expand library services. Ms. Mann was concerned there isn't enough staff to handle further services, and suggested holding off until the library is fully staffed. Ms. Baanante suggested starting with community engagement to see what library consumers would need. Ms. Harris suggested starting with telehealth in studio one.

### C. Discussion of Federal Covid Relief Funds

Mayor Rilling asked for plans to allocate funds from the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Harris will come up with a list for the board to consider funding from these funds. Projects should improve facilities and programming. Ms. Brescia asked if these funds could be allocated to the capital fund. President Knopp said these funds are designed to address issues caused by covid, and are not intended for the Capital Fund. Ms. Harris will research the limitations and parameters for using the funds.

## **VI. Library Director's Report**

### **A. NPL Patron Survey**

Ms. Harris presented the patron survey. Ms. Noor asked how the survey would be implemented. Ms. Harris discussed the small focus groups that would be created. The goal of the survey is to understand how patrons want to use the library during and post covid. Ms. Noor will go through the survey with Ms. Harris to refine the language of the survey.

### **B. Fine Free Libraries in CT**

The goal is to eliminate fines for patrons. If books are late there will be no fines. However, if books are lost the patron will need to pay to replace them. This will be an action item at the next meeting.

### **C. Griffen Health vaccine clinics return to NPL**

Griffen Health will be at both branches two days a week offering walk in vaccines. No library staff will be involved.

### **D. Facilities Update**

Ms. Harris met with the fire marshall to ensure all fire safety protocols were in place.

#### **Enclosures**

Article: Times are changing – COVID-19 and library late fees

Article: NPL partnership with DVCC during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Article: ADHD is a serious disorder, but there's hope CT Town Profiles

## **VII. Old Business**

There was no old business discussed.

## **VIII. New Business**

Ms. Harris shared the Halloween plans. There will be outdoor stations for the kids. There will be bubbles, a comedy show, and trick or treating. There will also be a book giveaway.

Ms. Harris mentioned that Norwalk Reads is looking to move their stored books. There will be additional meetings and an update at the next meeting.

## **IX. Adjournment**

**\*\*\*\* Ms. Williams moved to adjourn the meeting**

**\*\*\*\* Ms. Mann seconded.**

**\*\*\*\* The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05

Respectfully submitted.

Amy Chaple  
Telesco Secretarial Services

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