

Jonathan Trumbull Library
January 24, 2023
Special Meeting
Jonathan Trumbull Library Board of Trustees
Fire Safety Complex

Present: Janice Knudsen, Bill Goba; Guthrie Dinda; Suzanne Nintean; Christine Hadyka; Cathe McCall; Berkley Nowasad; Michelle Kersey; Eileen Weinstein; Maggie Gaier and Matt Earls

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chair, Cathe McCall.

Public Comment:

- Cathe McCall provided a recap of the complaint, initial public comment period, and further request for an appeal of the original decision to allow the display to remain.
- There were (107) attendees, (32) who presented public comment, (12) correspondence received. Of the public comment and correspondence received, (6) were opposed to maintaining the display and (38) in favor.
- See attached for members of the public who presented public comments.

Consider And Act On Request For Reconsideration of Materials:

- Christine Hadyka extended her thanks to all who were in attendance and reviewed some background regarding the display. Originally, the artwork was created prior to the Library's re-opening. Subsequently, others were invited to contribute to the display with their own artwork.
- Motion (Christine Hadyka) to keep the display as it currently stands with the consideration that the board develop a formal written display policy and an immediate posting be made according to the American Library Association (ALA) guidelines, of a permanent sign stating, "spaces are available as a service for the public and are not necessarily reflective of the library's viewpoint." Motion did not advance on a point of order.
- Eileen Weinstein discussed her extensive review of the Library bylaws, American Library Association (ALA) documentation, and the Connecticut Library Board materials regarding displays and artwork. The Library does not currently have a policy regarding displays. Such policy does exist in other library across the state and there are multiple links to samples and further resources in the above reference materials. Displays and artwork are considered to be part of the Library's collection and should seek to represent a broad spectrum of viewpoints and offer education through the inclusion of supportive materials. Communication among Library staff must take place prior to any display being permitted. Developing a policy for displays will assist the Community and ensure the Library functions for all its patrons and community partners.
- Motion (Berkley Nowasad/Janice Knudsen) to consider and act on request for reconsideration of materials and uphold the Director's decision to maintain the display. Motion carried with one abstention (Dinda) and one recusal (Hadyka).
- Matt Earles thanked those in attendance and reiterated the Library's commitment to defend freedom of speech and also to petition if members of the community disagree with the Library's

policies. The ALA's Library Bill of Rights, the Library's Bylaws and Freedom to Read all support the original decision to maintain the display.

- Maggie Gaier stated the Library's Mission Statement also supports the original decision to maintain the display.

Review and Act Upon Proposed Budget:

- Proposed FY 2024 budget reviewed.
- FY 2023 budget was \$302,961. Proposed FY 2025 budget is \$355,623.
- Increase for proposed budget attributed to 1.5% annual salary increase, additional 8% increase for part time staff, increases for inflation, addition of accounting lines for internet, waste removal and phone (previously covered by Town budget), increase in Bibliomation fees, addition of elevator service contract (new), increase in utility costs (larger space) and increase in cleaning fee (larger space).
- FY 2024 projected total expenses are \$429,623, project income is \$74,000, leaving \$355,623 to be funded by the Town Budget. Increase of 6.15% over last year's budget due to the factors listed above.
- Budget to be presented to the Board of Finance on March 4, 2023.
- Motion (Guthrie Dinda/Berkley Nowasad) to accept the proposed FY 2024 budget as presented. Motion carried with none opposed.

Adjournment: Motion (Michelle Kersey/Eileen Weinstein) made to adjourn at 8:52 pm. Motion carried with none opposed.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

Members of the Public Who Spoke During the Public Comment:

Camryn Kesler 73 Inlay Street Hartford CT
James Nelson 201 Haywardville Road Colchester CT
Brett Ford 41 Gates Farm Road Lebanon CT
Saralyn Kerrigan 41 Gates Farm Road Lebanon CT
Julie Valvo 493 Clubhouse Road Lebanon CT
Brian Saucier 586 Jerusalem Road Windham CT
Rowan LaFleur 1681 Exeter Road Lebanon CT
Jason Rhodes 91 Moodus Leesville Road East Haddam CT
Ollie Rodger 426 Trumbull Highway Lebanon CT
Cyrus Boirie 361 Beaumont Highway Lebanon CT
Erin Burns 295 Lake Road Andover CT
Caleb Hadyka 624 Waterman Road Lebanon CT
Abigail Hundley 105 Lindsey Road Lebanon CT
Autumn Ford 41 Gates Farm Road Lebanon CT
Linda Wallace 29 Reservoir Road Lebanon CT
Shannan Bisese 411 Goshen Hill Road Lebanon CT
Teresa Bielecki 490B Exeter Road Lebanon CT
Karen Ziel 109 Clarke Road Lebanon CT
Phil Ziel 109 Clarke Road Lebanon CT
Christine Stewart 1324 Exeter Road Lebanon CT
Nancy Broullet 5 Hillcrest Heights Drive Lebanon CT
Jay Schall 336 Clubhouse Road Lebanon CT
Denise Terry 54 Hamilton Drive Manchester CT
Mark Sullivan 1035 Trumbull Highway Lebanon CT
Ashley Webb 254 Beaumont Highway Lebanon CT
Bree Zimnoch 271 Burnham Road Lebanon CT
Carrie Schwartz 83 Levita Road Lebanon CT
Art Calef 177 Bascom Road Lebanon CT
Paul Trubey 59 Taylor Bridge Road Lebanon CT
Justine Spielman 630 Waterman Road
(2) additional Lebanon Residents

In attendance + signed up for public comment but did not comment due to time for public comment elapsing:

Shelley Wurst 21 Spusta Road Stafford Springs CT
Jacob Wurst 21 Spusta Road Staff Springs CT
Gina Danis Trumbull Highway Lebanon CT
Sam Stadnicki Trumbull Highway Lebanon CT
Jeanna Prink Exeter Road Lebanon CT
Betsey Petrie Babcock Hill Road Lebanon CT
Joseph Lopes 41 Goshen Heights Lebanon CT

Darlene Saucier Windham CT
Shomriel Sherman 525 Exeter Road Lebanon CT
Leigh Melia 231 Hoxie Road Lebanon CT
Emma Melia 231 Hoxie Road Lebanon CT
Sheree Swenson Dodge 53 Leonard Bridge Road Lebanon CT
Kimberly Miller 255 Lake Shore Drive Lebanon CT

Correspondence Received from:

Amy Saucier
Jennifer Wales
Carolyn Schwartz
Jean DeSalle
Christine Branciforte 63 Lawrence Drive Lebanon CT
Lauren Lee
Renato Muguerza Calle
Jennifer Grasso
Jackie Kusluch Hebron CT
Nicole Lotko Hebron CT
Connor Storms
Samara Johnson Lebanon CT
Nancy Brouillet Lebanon CT (also spoke)