

## **Farmington Libraries since 1901**

### **Library Board Minutes**

**21 January 2026**

**Attendees:** Linda Chapron, Brian Lindroth, Gary Ontko, Eric Ort, Vanitha Patil, Dana Pescatello, Alan Sherman, Elisabeth Umpleby, Jocelyn Kennedy, Lyman Louis, Celia Bouza **Guests:** Curt Goswick (FVGLA), Michael Schoss (FVGLA)

**Members not present:** Ida Franklin, Trish Garcia, Rich Olivastro

**Quorum:** A quorum was determined. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

**Public Comment:** There were no members of the public present, and consequently, no public comments were made.

**Introduction of Library Board members** for the benefit of potential Board member Jessica Lister.

**Approval of the November meeting minutes:** Linda moved, and Lyman seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with 2 corrections.

#### **Board Chair Report:**

- The February board meeting will be solely via Zoom.
- FVGLA holiday party in December at the Barney Library was very successful, with good attendance. It was Curt's first event.
- Two of Dana's goals for this year are for Board members to tell someone about the library, and to attend a program with a guest.
- December executive board meeting included discussions about infrastructure as well as the budget, spearheaded by Brian.
- Jocelyn's mid-year Executive Director check with Dana happened earlier in January; an executive session will commence following the board meeting.

#### **Michael Schoss, Chair, FVGLA**

- Discussion of FVGLA endowment history and what it supports
- Endowment is meant to last in perpetuity, which guides investments
- Discussion of investment management and strategies

#### **Executive Director Report:**

- Children's Librarian Laura DiLullo is retiring April 10.
- Lex Krauth, the Teen Librarian, was initially hired for 28 hours/week but has been increased to 35 hours/week as 28 hours was not enough. Lex is now full time and it is net neutral to the budget.

- The heat in the main library is inconsistent; the Barney Library was completely out of heat on January 8.
- Jocelyn distributed information regarding the State Library's Excellence in Public Libraries Award Program.
- Library Passport Program is happening in February, and Winter Reading Bingo is happening right now – bingo cards can be picked up at the desk.
- Maker Fair happening on March 22, from 1-4p. Save the Date!
- Discussion on budget
  - Jocelyn met with the Town Manager and Finance Director regarding the library budget. At the time of the meeting, there was no target increase number so Jocelyn used 3%.
  - Proposed budgets include increases to materials budget as well as utilities.
  - Monies budgeted for automated services have been redirected to equipment and building repair.
  - The Board was presented with two budget proposals: one for 3% and one for 4%.
  - Any increase in budget, whether 3% or 4%, will largely go toward equipment and building repair.
  - Some repairs may qualify as capital spending, but the library currently has no funding mechanism for capital projects.
  - Computers and furniture are examples of a capital expense.
  - **Motion to approve two proposed FY27 budgets - one with a 3% increase and one with a 4% increase - for submission to the Town Manager.** Lyman moved, Celia seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Friends Report:**

- February 7-8 is Take Your Child to the Library Day. There will be a huge children's book sale.
- Membership drive will be kicking off soon; they are almost up to \$19,000 in paid membership.
- The Gardens will be up and running soon, including signage, fencing, and irrigation.
- Applying for two state grants from the Connecticut Horticultural Society and the Farmington Garden Club to help with improvements.
- Continuing on community outreach: American Friends of Kenya are coming to get books, and the Sheldon Court Nonprofitable Housing Authority in Hartford will be coming to get books, along with some high schools.

#### **Facilities/Capital Plan Updates:**

- Facilities Committee met on January 8.
- Capital expenditures will be highlighted to make them easier to track as an individual component line item.
- Heating issues at both the Barney and the main library. Discussion on HVAC system in the main library.
- Discussion and review of document for capital spending plan for FY26-30 from SP+A, including a discussion of roofing and HVAC.

**Personnel:**

- Working on the evaluation process for the Executive Director, including goal setting.
- Almost complete and will align with how the rest of the staff are evaluated.
- Will have something to review at the February meeting.
- The goal is to implement the new evaluation process for the next fiscal year.

**Bylaws:**

- They have been sent to FVGLA.
- They must be reviewed by the FVGLA lawyer.
- Hopes for a vote at either the March or Fall Trustees meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.**

**Next board meeting is February 18, 2026 at 7p via Zoom.**