



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 21, 2022

10:00 AM – Walker Memorial Library

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:05am by Library Advisory Committee Chair Mancuso.

Library Advisory Committee Members present: Elizabeth Callaway, Lorraine Glidden, Evan Hevey, Andrea Mancuso (Chair), Rosemary Bebris (Library Director)

Library Advisory Committee Members absent: Nancy Milton Heath, Kerri Frazier (Trustee of the will of Joseph Walker), Fran Fritzsche-Jensen (Trustee of the will of Joseph Walker), Marian Peterson (Trustee of the will of Joseph Walker)

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Member Glidden made a motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2022.

Seconded by Committee Member Hevey and approved unanimously.

3. Library Director's Report

The full text of the Library Director's Report is attached to these minutes.

4. Friends of the Walker Memorial Library Update

Committee Member Glidden provided an update on the activities of the Friends of the Walker Memorial Library.

5. New Business:

- a. Annual Report

Library Director Bebris provided an overview of the Public Library Annual Report submitted to the Maine State Library.

- b. Affirmation of the Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations as adopted by the American Library Association
- c. Affirmation of Freedom to Read Statement
- d. Affirmation of Freedom to View Statement

Library Director Bebris introduced Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations as adopted by the American Library Association (ALA); the ALA's Freedom to Read Statement; and the ALA's Freedom to View Statement.

Committee Member Glidden made a motion to affirm Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations as adopted by the American Library Association (ALA); the ALA's Freedom to Read Statement; and the ALA's Freedom to View Statement.

Seconded by Committee Member Callaway and approved unanimously.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:56am.

Next Meeting: August 20, 2022 at 10am

Upcoming Meetings: August 20, 2022 at 10am and November 19, 2022 at 10am

Director's Report May 21, 2022

Maine Public Library Fund Grant

WML has received a \$5,000 grant from the Maine Public Library Fund. This grant will be used to create several reading kits with books in the four most-spoken non-English languages in the Westbrook schools: Arabic, French, Portuguese, and Somali. Reading kits will be available at each of the Westbrook schools for use by school staff and students. An additional kit will be available for checkout at the library. We will also add ebooks to the CloudLibrary platform in Arabic, French, and Portuguese for patrons of all ages to download and read twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. By offering physical and digital items in these four languages, we hope to increase reading enjoyment outside of English texts and thus to encourage literacy skills - from babies through adults!

The Maine State Library makes funds from the Maine Public Library Fund (income tax check-off) available to Maine public libraries and library staff to encourage and support innovation in the creation and expansion of new library services.

National Digital Equity Center Partnership

We are excited to announce a new partnership with the National Digital Equity Center. The NDEC provides free digital literacy classes that provide opportunities for professional growth, personal enrichment, the development of computer skills, and preparation for professional careers in a supportive environment. We will be offering both in-person, on site classes as well as giving our patrons access to their lengthy catalog of Zoom classes. Learn more on their website (<https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/>) and keep an eye on our calendar for upcoming classes at WML.

Staffing

Four new Library Assistants have joined the WML team! We are pleased to welcome Sasha Kohan, Julia, McGehean, Allison Neals, and Maggie Quinlan to Westbrook!

Upcoming Programs

Storytime

In-person, indoor storytimes are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 am. Participation is limited to six families, first come-first served. Masks are not required but recommended. Kate will continue to do one virtual storytime a month.

Summer Reading Program

This year's summer reading theme is "Oceans of Possibilities!" Our summer kicks off with a puppet show in the park by Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals on June 25th! Throughout the summer, we will have crafts and activities, ocean-themed science, and will end in August with a merpeople-themed escape room! Dive into a good book with us and have a whale of a time reading! We will also be serving lunches to kids aged eighteen and under daily from Monday to Friday.

Take-Home Kid Kits

From May 23rd through June 4, we will be offering Nature Journal Kits! Contains one blank journal, one pack of crayons, and two nature scavenger hunts. Go outside and draw or write what you see! Make leaf rubbings with a crayon! Explore nature! One kit per child while supplies last. Parents/Caregivers can pick up multiple kits for all the kids in the household.

African American Music Appreciation Month/ Juneteenth Film Series

In honor of the City's newest holiday, Juneteenth, and African American Music Appreciation Month, WML will be hosting a Saturday film series throughout the month of June. Join us at 1pm!

June 4 – Soul (90 min)

June 11 – Summer of Soul (118 min)

June 18 -Respect (145 min)

June 25 – Summer of Soul (118 min)

Budget and Annual Report Information

The City of Westbrook's FY 2022-2023 annual budget was approved by City Council on May 16, 2022. Total funding for the library for FY23 is \$576,326, an overall increase of 12.1%.

WML's FY21 annual report was submitted to the Maine State Library on April 1, 2022. This report includes statistics for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

During FY21:

35,502 patrons visited the library

21,428 Youth items were circulated

52,250 total WML items were used by patrons

16,05 patrons attended 49 total programs

**Respectfully submitted,
Rose Bebris, Director**