

**Draft of
Windsor Library Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2025**

Present: Cheryl Curtis, Betty Hellerman, Carol Sama, LeighAnn Tyson, Fran Ward Nelson, Denise Panos, Kaitlin Walsh, Coralee Jones, Caren Barry, Mark Reeves, Gaye Rizzo

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Cheryl Curtis.

Cheryl asked for a volunteer to take minutes for the meeting. Fran Ward-Nelson agreed to be Secretary.

Public Comment:

Brian Walsh 27 Orchard Rd. expressed concern over the book Fred Gets Dressed. He felt the book is a sexual conversation that parents should get to decide whether they want to have with their children or not. The book should not be freely accessible to young children.

Mr. Walsh asked for discussion of his comments. A board member then called for a point of order, and the board's Chair explained to those present that board procedural rules do not permit a two- way exchange of dialogue with the public during a meeting. Mr. Walsh expressed his disappointment.

Aaron Simone Wintonbury Ave. Bloomfield felt Fred Gets Dressed should not be available to young children in the library. It removes the right of parents to have this conversation as parents see fit. He then called the board members bureaucrats and cowards for failing to engage in a discussion with members of the public.

Victor Bernstein 32 Orchard Rd. is a grandfather, long term resident and said he would be horrified if his two young grandchildren got ahold of Fred Gets Dressed. The book is colorful and attracts young children while the content is adult and inappropriate.

Morgan Simone Wintonbury Ave. Bloomfield was concerned about the book. She asked why the book is considered educational for young children and even purchased by the library. She said she was prepared to take this issue further if it could not be resolved at the local level and mentioned social media and national exposure.

Resignations and Appointments: None

Collection Development Policy: Gaye passed out copies of the policy for each member of the board as portions of it are often referenced at Library Advisory Board meetings.

Staff Reports:

Summer is fast approaching and, at the library, that means its almost time for **Summer reading!!** Kidspace staff has been busy visiting the public schools and a number of non-public schools in Windsor to let children know about all of the exciting things happening at both libraries over the next three months.

Gaming is the theme for the library's **2025 Summer Reading Program**. This free and fun program, open to anyone from **birth to age 18**, will kick off with a Science Heroes STEM demonstration on June 21st followed by **eight weeks of activities, giveaways and lots of books!** Each participant will be given a booklet to log their summer reading and for each 2.5 hours spent reading or being read to will be entered into a drawing for a **weekly prize**. This year's raffle prizes will be **book and board game bundles**- two books and a different board game each week. Gaming programs held throughout the summer include **We're Off to the Races** on June 25, **Create Your Own Board Game** on July 7, **A Live Game of Clue** on July 23, **Coding an Obstacle Course** on July 30, **Can you Survive the Jungle?** on August 7 and **LED Indoor Mini Golf** August 12. The first 25 participants to complete their summer reading will win **free passes to Springfield's Basketball Hall of Fame**. And, back by popular demand will be **principals from the Windsor Public elementary schools reading aloud to students**.

Gardening has been an integral part of summer at the Wilson Branch Library for many years and this year will be no exception. Several people joined Branch Manager, Cailey Klasson on May 20 for the **Wilson community garden opening day** that included **pulling weeds** in the pollinator garden, **planting seedlings** that were started indoors into the raised beds and **sowing native wildflower seeds**. Staff and volunteers will tend the outdoor gardens throughout the summer.

Another event of note at the **Wilson Branch** will be its **60th birthday bash** on Monday **June 16** from 4-6PM. Come celebrate with face painting, balloon animals and, of course, **birthday cake!!**

The branch recently dismantled its **underused glass display case** and replaced it with two new **public computer workstations**. This will provide additional **space** for patrons looking for more **online privacy** and also close proximity to the main desk for patrons in need of **tech help** from staff.

You may have noticed a couple of new faces at the main library lending desk: **Shannon Walsh** and **Alexandra Trifan**. Shannon also works part time at the **Saxton Library** in **Columbia** and Alexandra is part time at the **Cromwell Public**

Library so both of them were fully trained when they came to Windsor. Shannon is also a **master gardener** so her expertise will be an added benefit for staff and patrons at both libraries. Not to be outdone, Alexandra is an accomplished **dance instructor**. **Ameena Jaafar** now joins Judith Ziemnicki as our second janitor at the main library, replacing Brian Bindas. The janitors at the main library work Monday-Saturday from 6AM-9AM and received rave reviews for the fine job they do keeping our very large building clean.

Some of the initiatives staff will begin working on this summer include a **new website** that will meet the standards for **accessibility** as set by the Department of Justice for Public Entities. We also have an October deadline to move all of the library's computers to **Windows 11** as Microsoft will no longer be supporting Windows 10. Another, much larger software move will be the upcoming launch of a new **Integrated Library System** through our **Library Connection** consortium. This will involve months of preparation and **training** before the actual migration takes place. Joining us for that migration will be **Meriden Public Library**, the 34th library to join LCI, and an additional option for **reciprocal borrowing and lending** for our patrons. A fourth initiative will be the development of a **methodology to determine the success of the programs** we offer at the main library and the branch. Staff who manage programming are considering **audience and size, content and appropriateness, scheduling, administration, resources and duplication** in their assessment. Many of our programs are funded by the **Windsor Library Association** and we would like to be able to show that we are offering a **good return** on their **investment**. Finally, we plan, this summer to use **donated funds** to purchase some new items that patrons have asked that we add to our popular **Library of Things** collection. These include things like a **hand truck**, a **telescope**, **non-cook bakeware**, a **hedge trimmer** and a **Walkman**. As part of our **commitment to patrons who are aging in place**, we hope to add some items to the Library of Things collection that are suited to their needs along with **Memory Kits** filled with puzzles, games and other items designed to **stimulate cognitive health**.

Since we last met, I received **two Reconsideration of Materials Requests** for the children's picture book **Fred Gets Dressed**. The book, which the library has owned since 2020 and has circulated numerous times is described by School Library Journal as "a Preschool-Grade 1 **delightful look at kids, clothes and imagination**". It depicts a young child romping naked through the house and trying on both his dad's and his mom's clothes while also sharing nail polish and a pink bow with the family dog. The first patron asked that we **move the book out of the reach of children** and the second patron, a friend of the first, pointed out that she thought the book was "**discouraging children to be the gender God created them to be**". I responded to both requests in writing, referencing our **Collection Development Policy**, noted that the book is owned by **26 of the 31** public libraries in our consortium and that the New York Times bestselling author, **Peter Brown**, was a recipient of the **Caldecott Children's Book Award**. I also pointed out to the second patron, after her **two references to God** that we are a public and not a religious library. I read the book, **concur with its positive**

journal reviews and will continue to make it **accessible to children and their caregivers** in the Kidspace collection. We strive to provide **diverse materials** that **serve the needs and interests of our entire community** and then leave the responsibility of choosing those suited to individual children in the hands of their **parents/guardians**.

In closing, I'd like to thank those of you who supported the May 13 budget referendum. The **FY 26 Library Services General fund budget** will be **\$2,064,550**, a \$73,350 increase or 3.7% due to personnel costs.

Windsor Library Association Update:

Mark Reeves noted that the Annual meeting, marking the end of the fiscal year, will be held tomorrow in this room at 6:30 and invited everyone to attend. There will be committee reports as well as the formation of a new committee which he hopes to start meeting in the fall. A picture will be taken of all WLA members at the end of the meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Motion: To accept the minutes with one grammatical change.

Made by: Caren Barry

Second: Mark Reeves

Vote: Cheryl Curtis Y Carol Sama Y Fran Ward-Nelson Y Denise Panos Y Caren Barry Y LeighAnn Tyson Y Betty Hellerman Y Kaitlin Walsh Y Coralee Jones Y Mark Reeves Y

Set next tentative meeting date: Sept. 2, 2025 at 7PM (Meeting Room #1)

Motion: To adjourn

Made by: Carol Sama

Second: LeighAnn Tyson

Vote: Cheryl Curtis Y Carol Sama Y Fran Ward-Nelson Y Denise Panos Y Caren Barry Y LeighAnn Tyson Y Betty Hellerman Y Kaitlin Walsh Y Coralee Jones Y Mark Reeves Y

Meeting adjourned at: 7:55

Respectfully submitted: Fran Ward-Nelson