

Friends of the Taft Public Library
Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2021

In attendance at the Taft Public Library were Leesa Michael, Gabrielle Porciello, Andrew Jenrich, Tara Windsor, Caitriona Scott and Lisa Bibring. The minutes from the August meeting were approved and will be posted on the Friends of the Taft Public Library page of the library's website.

Friends Revitalization

Leesa will create a brochure in email form as part of the recruitment campaign for new members. Gaye will send the brochures out as an email blast. Tara suggested an additional email blast as a New Year's resolution to "give back to the community." The new library promotional magnets have arrived and will be handed out with thank you notes for donations and new members.

Library Update - Andrew

In October, there will be publicity explaining the new "Fine Free" policy. This is a new trend among local and regional libraries in order to provide equal access to all patrons without late fee worries. Patrons will still be responsible for lost or damaged books. The state of Massachusetts supports the "fine free" program and the trustees of the Taft Public Library have also given their approval.

The Taft Public Library has been allotted 5 hotspots through a state initiative that was funded by the federal government. This is exciting news! Patrons can borrow a mobile hotspot just like borrowing a book. The hotspot is a T-Mobile product that creates an internet connection. This service is free for the library for the first year. In September 2022, the Taft Library will be charged a fee.

Another exciting initiative is the arrival of the "Library of Things". This is a great opportunity for patrons to borrow items that they might not have at home. These products include a cordless drill, pressure washer, microscope, laminator, ukulele, Cricut craft machine and more. The library staff will be processing these items and determining the guidelines needed to kick off this program.

Andrew will contact Mr. Fence for a fence quote to be located on the left side of the library along the parking lot.

Library programs will continue to be spread between virtual and in person events. Tara is hosting as many programs as possible outside. Children's programs are limited to 10-15. Adult programs are capped at 20-25.

Unvaccinated patrons must wear masks. It is highly recommended that those who are vaccinated continue to wear masks.

Purchases

The Friends are looking into purchasing a new screen with cameras to better facilitate in-person/virtual meetings at the library. Lawny Tinio of World Band will be quoting the cost of a smaller version of this equipment that was just installed in the town hall.

Events

November 6, 2021 from 10:00-12:00am will be the first fall clean up for the library property. Caitriona volunteered to create a poster. Poison ivy also needs to be removed. A suggestion was made to have goats assist with this removal during the Go Go Goats program.

Lisa and Caitriona will be attending the Ted Reinstein event on October 6th at 7:00pm. This is an author talk regarding his new book, *Before Brooklyn: The Unsung Heroes Who Helped Break Baseball's Color Barrier*.

The Flower Power fundraiser will wrap up on October 15th. As of this meeting, \$556 had been raised.

For an adult holiday event, both a wreath and a creative wooden sign project were suggested. Caitriona volunteered to look into these options.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 25th at 7:30pm.

