

4/16/20 LMA

MINUTES
LIBRARY, MUSEUM & ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING
April 16, 2020 3:00pm
Electronic Meeting, Zoom ID: <https://zoom.us/j/372166117>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amy Kaplan, Chair
Harris Falk
Dick Lowenstein
Brandi Briggs
Wendy Batteau
Lisa Newman
Mark Friedman
Arline Gertzoff

ALSO PRESENT:

Bill Harmer, Library Executive Director
Ian Bruce, Library Trustee Board President
Wafaa Nagggar, Library Director of Finance
Patty Strauss, Westport Town Clerk

Chair called the meeting to order at 3PM. Committee members had read the budget documents and had asked substantive operational questions at an earlier meeting.(2/4/2020) The committee expressed concern about the upper parking lot conditions, not scheduled to be repaired by Public Works until summer of 2021. All, including library representatives, agreed to advocate with Town Hall for that item to be scheduled asap. Bill Harmer took the committee through a brief explanation of the budget revisions since our last discussion. The committee then asked about the impact of Covid-19 on both the revenue and operating costs, and the answer is that too much is still unknown. The library is currently online only, and has put the building into "sleep mode." They are investing money in more digital product and less analog to meet the demand from patrons, but digital costs are higher. Government Loan programs have been applied for, but the terms and conditions are not clear, nor is the extent or full ramification of the virus and economic damage known to us at this time. The Finance Board's guidance is to proceed with the budget as known to us currently, as we assess changing conditions and accommodate as needed.

Brandi Briggs made a motion to recommend to the full RTM approval of the requested Library budget in the amount of \$4,817,653.00. Arline Gertzoff seconded.

Lisa Newman made a motion to adjourn. Wendy Batteau seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 3:27PM.

Minutes submitted by Amy Kaplan, RTM LMA Chair 4/20/2020

