

Manchester Public Library Advisory Board's 21st Century Public Library Task Force

Special Meeting Minutes - West Hartford Library Tour

April 23, 2021

Library Advisory Board members: Miriam Byroade, Ashley Odell

Not present: Grace Cedrone, Heather Doucette, Mary Fischer, Karl Hasel, Joyce Hood, Melissa Pattacini, Jessica Scorso

21st Century Library Task Force members: Liliana Polley, Stephen Ristau, Thomas Sheinblum

Also present: Jae Douglas (West Hartford collections services librarian), Doug McDonough (Manchester library director), Carol Waxman (West Hartford interim library director / director of children's services)

Special meeting called to order at 2:02 PM.

Members of the task force, accompanied by MPL Executive Director McDonough, were given a tour of the Noah Webster Library in West Hartford Center. The original library was built in 1938 and gained a nearly 17,000-sq. ft. addition in 2007.

Special attention was paid to the range of age-appropriate spaces (i.e., babies, toddlers, children's, tweens, teens, and adults); the availability of multiple reading rooms; the many staff spaces, including a loading dock and private restrooms; the reference room, including a local history room and welcome center; the board room; and the program room, including a kitchen.

West Hartford staff said they appreciate that their space is open and modifiable, with numerous storage spaces, and would encourage Manchester to build in more public restrooms, community meeting space, and teen space than they have.

Special meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Odell