

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday February 8, 2023 at 6:05p at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Jack Tregar

Regina Spirito

Michael Goldberg

R. Drayton Fair

Diane Schaefer

Larry Warner

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Secretary for the Board of Trustees

INTRODUCTION: 6:05p

The meeting was called to order at 6:05p.

MINUTES: 6:05p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2023. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:08p

Administration

-The library received a \$1,000 legislative grant from Senator Hanna Gallo for youth programming.

-The library received a \$2,000 legislative grant from Senator Josh Miller for ESL classes at William Hall Library.

-The recent addition of genealogical resources at the library was featured in the newsletter for the Rhode Island Genealogical Society (article attached).

-Governor McKee's proposed FY24 budget includes an increase of \$484,000 to state aid to libraries. These funds will maintain the 25% state aid funding level and will provide CPL an increase of \$15,940.

-We would like to adjust Knightsville's hours from 11-6 to 10-5. We had thought by keeping Knightsville open until 6 pm that it would encourage after school programming and keep the library open after 5pm for those who work. However, opening at 11 am has meant we could not

have a 10 am storytime for preschoolers like we do at the other branches. We have been averaging 2-3 patrons during the 5pm - 6pm hour at Knightsville. The youth services staff is ready to start morning programming at this branch.

-Museum pass update: for 2023, we are upgrading our museum pass program offerings. In addition to the Providence Children's Museum, RISD museum, and Blithewold, we are adding the Boston Museum of Science, the MFA in Boston, the Newport Art Museum, and the Roger Williams Park Museum of Natural History. We have unfortunately decided not to renew the RWP Zoo pass because our patrons weren't actually receiving much of a discount with their current pass options.

Buildings and Grounds

-New bike racks were installed at William Hall Library by the Hall Trust. This was the last piece of the major grounds project that was started two years ago. These were custom built by the Steelyard. (photo attached).

-The electricity at the Central Library will be turned off on Feb 8 at 11p until Feb 9 at 7a to move some poles related to the Top Golf construction. There should be no disruptions to the library. We have alerted the alarm company.

-The library wants to undertake a small renovation of the Reference department office at the Central Library. It is the last staff office at Central that has not been refreshed in the past ten years. The plan will call for replacement of all desks, freestanding cabinets and chairs with an integrated office system. The cost will be approximately \$15,000. The library administration requests use of reserve funds if needed to complete this project.

A motion was made to approve the use of up to \$15,000 of reserve funds to complete the small renovation of the Reference department office by R. Drayton Fair. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Programming

-On Thursday, January 26 we hosted a clip screening of the US and the Holocaust, a film by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick & Sarah Botstein, followed by a panel discussion featuring Rabbi Sarah Mack, Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth El, Providence, RI; Michael Bryant, PhD, JD, MA, Professor of History and Legal Studies, Bryant College, Smithfield, RI; and Ron Weisberger, Executive Director, Bristol Holocaust and Genocide Center, Bristol Community College. This event was presented in partnership with the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center.

We had 50 people in attendance for the event at William Hall Library. The 40 minute clip screening was incredibly moving, featuring both the successes and failures of the United States in its response to the Holocaust. The panel was an excellent addition, which helped the audience contextualize the movie and talk about the work their organizations are doing to continue teaching about the Holocaust and genocides so that a tragedy like this never happens Again.

Staff Updates

-Library Assistant Renee Mitchell retired January 27th after five years of full time employment at the Central Library. Her position was posted internally and interviews will begin soon.

BUDGET REPORT: 6:18p

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: 6:25p

Governor's FY24 Proposed Budget and State Aid to Libraries:

Ed Garcia presented the Governor's FY24 Proposed Budget and State Aid to Libraries to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Budget: 6:31p

Ed Garcia presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget to the board. It has been approved by the Finance Subcommittee to move to the full Board for vote.

A motion was made by Larry Warner to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget as presented. Michael Goldberg seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Update to Staff Sick Time Policy: 6:41p

Ed Garcia proposed that all expiring sick leave hours be donated to the Sick Leave Bank rather than being lost.

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the revision to the Sick Leave Policy concerning Expiring Sick Leave. Larry Warner seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 6:48p

A motion was made by Regina Spirito to adjourn the meeting. R. Drayton Fair seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).