

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday September 14, 2022 at 6:00p at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Jack Tregar

Michael Goldberg (via Zoom)

Diane Schaefer

Mary Ann Slocomb

Regina Spirito

Larry Warner (arrived 6:14p)

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Administrative Assistant

Excused: *Edward Garcia, Taino Palermo*

NEWS: 6:00p

Jack Tregar read a letter of resignation from Mary Ann Slocomb. This will be the final meeting she will attend.

MINUTES: 6:18p

A motion was made by Mary Ann Slocomb to approve the minutes pending edits of the regular meeting of July 13, 2022. Larry Warner seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:21p

Administration

-The Library of Rhode Island (LORI) annual certification was submitted.

-The OLIS Annual Public Library survey & state aid certification and applications were submitted.

- The Director submitted the annual William Hall Library in-kind report for FY22 to the Hall Treasurer. This report outlines how much was spent operating William Hall last year. This is used by the Hall Trustees in their 990 filings with the IRS (included with report).

-The additional state aid in the enacted state budget was assigned to the following FY23 budget line items:

Salary \$45,000

books & care \$13,800

operations \$23,036

-The FY23 materials budget was distributed to our selectors. This budget breaks down the books & care and audiovisual materials budget line items for each department (included with the report).

-The new CPL website was launched on July 18.

-The library launched “CPL Alerts” in August. Patrons can sign-up to receive text notifications of library closures. This is a function of our existing text notifications service Shoutbomb and costs no additional funds (instructional flyer included with the report).

-The library had applied for a \$315,000 funding request from HUD through Senator Whitehouse’s office for renovations to the Auburn branch. But unfortunately we did not receive this funding.

-H7743 stroller parking: The General Assembly passed a law signed by the Governor that would require designated parking spaces for persons transporting young children and strollers. Any parking lots over 101 spaces would be required to have spaces. The Central Library has 125 spaces and would be required to designate two stroller spaces. We are working with the Cranston Highway Department to put these in place (bill included with the report).

-S2418A: The General Assembly passed a law signed by the Governor that updates the issuance of limited work permits for students issued by the School Department. The new law adds a training program component that each student must complete. Since the library hires several students each year, I have queried the School Dept. to see how they will be handling this new training program. More information will be reported once we receive further guidance (bill included with the report).

-Resolution supporting the City’s participation in the Climate Resilience Building Program: Council President Paplauskas introduced a resolution calling for Cranston to participate in the CRB process and become designated a “Resilient Rhody Municipality” (Resolution included with report). The resolution was referred to the Finance Committee. Ed communicated with the Council President about the library’s interest in participating in this effort and informed him about strategic theme #4 in our strategic plan which deals in part with sustainability, resiliency and energy efficiency. Ed was contacted to provide a letter of support for the city’s grant application.

-Ed & Julie attended the ground breaking ceremony for Top Golf, which is being constructed next to the Central Library. The Governor, Commerce Secretary, Mayor and other local officials were in attendance.

-Administration is working with the City Solicitor and personnel department to update staff policies to address the legalization of marijuana use with the intention of prohibiting its use by staff while at the library. Once a policy is created it will be brought to the Board of Trustees for approval.

-Marijuana use ordinance: We had a patron smoking marijuana at one of the picnic tables at Central recently. Now that marijuana use is legal in Rhode Island, how does that apply to the library? The Cranston City Council introduced an ordinance in September prohibiting use of marijuana in any public space. It was referred to the ordinance committee. If this passes it will cover all library buildings and grounds (ordinance included with report). Until then there are some existing laws in place that will guide us.

1. Use of marijuana in library buildings is still prohibited per our Code of Conduct, Cranston Code of Ordinances 8.44.010 and RIGL 23-20. Both the Cranston ordinance and RIGL prohibit smoking of any kind inside public buildings.
2. If patrons are smoking outside near the buildings or at picnic tables and are within 20 feet of the building Cranston Code of Ordinances 8.44.010 applies. This ordinance prohibits smoking of any kind within 20 feet of the building. The picnic tables at Central and Oaklawn are within 20 feet of the building.

-The Cranston Herald has decided not to hold in-person candidate forums for this election cycle. We had scheduled three candidate forums for City Council and School committee elections.

-Sunday Hours at Central this fall will run from October 16 through December 18.

Buildings & Grounds

-Public Works department completed repairs to damaged areas of the Central sidewalk and entrance way in front of the building. The Board of Elections required some of these repairs to allow Central to serve as a polling location for this election cycle. Central served as a polling place for the 9/13 primary and will serve again for the general election in November.

-Oaklawn teen area carpet was completed on 9/1/22.

-The Central awning drain pipe is completely clogged with years of debris. Paul Anderson Drain Company has been here twice to try to fix the issue, but it is not working. We will need to cut a bigger hole in the pipe and they will try and vacuum out the debris.

Programs & Services

- Libraries Love Lakes 7/30/22: Alyssa Taft and Dave Bartos were set up at Meshanticut State Park from 10a-12p with the Pawtuxet River Authority just across the street from Cranston West parking lot. They arrived with the button maker and books to check out on the theme of outdoor recreation. Twenty-two people visited the tent, the button maker was consistently working, and we checked out 17 items! This event was a partnership for Lake Appreciation Month.

-American Ancestors: Using funding from the Mary Ann and Walter Slocomb Fund, CPL became an institutional member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the oldest such society in the US. With this membership, the library will receive two print subscriptions at Central for American Ancestors Magazine and New England Historical and Genealogical Register. The library will also have access to 488 genealogical databases mostly with a focus on New England genealogy but also databases on mid Atlantic states and the UK, through American Ancestors. Patrons will have access to these resources on any computer inside the Central Library. A link to American Ancestors has been added to our research database list on our website. The institutional membership has an annual cost of \$270.

-CPL now offers free patron access to the digital edition of BookPage via a subscription through OSL. The link is: <https://www.bookpage.com/oslri>

-FamilySearch affiliate library: The Cranston Public Library is now an affiliate library with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is the largest genealogical organization in the world and provides access to thousands of records free online. As an affiliate library, patrons with a free FamilySearch account can access the service at the Central Library and have access to digitized microfilm and content that due to licensing reasons is not freely available on the online service. The affiliate membership is free.

-September is National Library Card sign-up month. To promote the event this year, we are running a library card sign-up contest. Everyone who signs up for a new CPL library card will be entered into our raffle to win one of many different prizes. Additionally, if a current cardholder refers a friend or a family member, they will also receive a raffle entry when that person signs up for their card. Each day, we will be collecting the names of new cardholders as well as the names of those who referred them, to be entered into our daily drawings. We will be doing daily drawings for smaller prizes (water bottles, tote bags, and our coveted camp mugs) and weekly drawings for gift cards to local businesses.

-Cranston Harvest Festival: CPL will have a table at this event hosted by the Cranston Police on 9/24 from 10a-4p.

-The youth services team has been attending the free Cranston Farmer's Market at the Bain track each Thursday this August and Sept. The free Farmer's Market offers a variety of produce

for free as well as other items for sale, only for Cranston residents. The library has been offering library cards and promoting library services at the market. This is part of the OneCranston HEZ community outreach.

-The library has entered a one year subscription to the online database version of Consumer Reports through EBSCO. We have had numerous patron requests throughout the past few years for this product. This will provide access to current and past issues of Consumer Reports in a direct and simple interface for the public. Patrons will need a CPL Library card for access. The price was \$4200.

-National Night Out: Ed, Julie, and Sarah hosted the library table at NNO at Garden City on Tuesday August 2nd. Sponsored by the police department, the event drew many local politicians but not as many residents as we had hoped. We ended up sharing our tent with the representatives from the Senior Center, who didn't bring one.

-Voter Registration Day: Ed received a \$500 grant from the National Voter Registration Day organization, and we will be hosting an event on Tuesday September 20 from 12-3 at Central. Representatives from the Cranston Board of Canvassers and the RI Board of Elections will be attending the event. We will be able to give out food, promotional materials, and hopefully get some folks registered.

Staff

-Julie Holden was featured in the NNLM newsletter with a profile article (included with report).

-Ed Garcia has been appointed to ALA President-elect Emily Drabinski's presidential advisory committee.

-Our new children's librarian Elena Rios was featured in an article in the Cranston Herald (included with report).

-Included with the report is a nice email Ed received from a patron complementing the work of part-time reference librarian Melanie Makin on her work in the C-Lab.

Cranston Public Library Association

-The Friends of the Cranston Public Library book sale will return after a five year hiatus on November 5th at William Hall Library. Please save the date. If any trustees are interested in volunteering please contact Ed Garcia.

-The CPLA received a \$500 grant from National Voter Registration Day to support voter registration efforts.

-The CPLA has started a one year pilot project to accept cryptocurrency donations facilitated by The Giving Bock donor platform. All crypto donations will be converted to US dollars. Ed Garcia was interviewed for an article about crypto giving in the Providence Business News (article included in the report).

- CPL is partnering with the DEM: When a person applies for a fishing license, they must provide a social security number to verify their identity. If a person doesn't want to provide that information online, they can come to the library and have a staff member verify their identity.

BUDGET REPORT: 6:59p

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of revised Flag Policy: 7:00p

This item is being tabled until next month to gain clarification.

A motion was made by Larry Warner to table the revised Flag Policy until the next meeting. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Approval of revised Solicitation Policy: 7:07p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the revised Solicitation Policy. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Approval of revised Informational Display Policy: 7:09p

A motion was made by Larry Warner to approve the revised Informational Display Policy. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 7:14p

A motion was made by Mary Ann Slocomb to adjourn the meeting. Michael Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).