

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday February 9, 2022 at 6:02p on the Cranston Public Library Zoom.

Present were:

Jack Tregar

Michael Goldberg

Taino Palermo

Diane Schaefer

Mary Ann Slocomb

Regina Spirito

Larry Warner

Edward Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Administrative Assistant, Board Secretary

MINUTES: 6:02p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 15, 2022. Mary Ann Slocomb seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:03p

Administration

ALA American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries \$10,000

Rhody Radio, a state-wide library podcast that serves as an extended venue for library programming, has secured a \$10,000 grant from the ALA American Rescue Plan Grants for Humanities to fund their 2022 project goals. These funds will be used to create transcripts for our existing episodes, building accessibility into this project for deaf and hard of hearing community; hire episode partners, with focus on underrepresented communities in the state working in the humanities space; and publicize the project in general, specific episodes that focus on a historically underrepresented population, and to market the transcriptions available on episodes both in the past and looking forward. Dave Bartos applied for the grant and CPL will be acting as the fiscal agent.

- Project READY mini-grant \$750: CPL received a \$750 mini-grant from OLIS to put towards racial equity training for our staff. The IDEA Committee plans to use these funds for three professional

development presentations in the Spring. The first is an implicit bias presentation for all staff, while the other two focus on diverse collection development practices and are intended for material selectors. Alyssa Taft and Elise Petrarca applied for this grant.

-Received \$1000 from Senator Gallo.

-During 2021 the Youth Services Department and Cranston Public School Librarians partnered to process 911 new youth library cards, which is even more than we did during the Fresh Start campaign of 2017.

-Treasurer Seth Magaziner held a press conference at William Hall Library on 1/26/22 to announce his campaign for the Congressional district 2 seat that will be vacated by Rep. Langevin. His campaign was charged the normal room usage fee.

-The Sustainable Libraries Initiative presented at the recent ALA LibLearnX virtual conference. As part of their presentation, They cited the Cranston Public Library's Strategic Plan as a practical example of how libraries have demonstrated sustainable actions or language in their policies or planning.

Buildings and Grounds

-There was some damage to the sidewalk in front of Central during a recent snowstorm. The highway department put a winter patch on it and will further address it in the spring.

-All locations were closed on January 29-30 during the blizzard. All locations were able to safely reopen on January 31st.

-Arlington flood update

The branch remains closed. The city is coordinating the repairs. The sprinkler pipe has been repaired and insulated. The drywalls are currently being repaired and repainted. The new carpet was installed 2/9/2022 before the meeting started. We are currently waiting on the final report and payment from the insurance adjuster for the lost materials. We hope to replace the damaged computers and reinstall the undamaged books (children's collection) by the middle of next week.

Ed Garcia has authorized the re-order of some select items, but larger items will be ordered once the insurance claim reimbursement is received. Ed Garcia will report at a later date whether or not our premium will be increased for the next calendar year.

Programs

-Vaccine clinics update: the clinic scheduled for 1/29 was canceled due to the blizzard. All appointments were given the option of rescheduling for the 2/5 clinic instead. The comfort dog was very successful, and we hope to partner more with them in the future.

-Test kit distribution: the library received several boxes of test kits from the City of Cranston allotment. We handed out 2 boxes (4 tests total) to each patron/household at the Central library only. The

distribution went smoothly and we are out of kits at this time. We also gave 1 box to each staff member who wanted one.

-Storytimes: After consulting with the youth services staff, the decision was made to cancel all storytimes for January; in-person kids events will start up in February.

-Outdoor story times have been proceeding at Auburn in the outdoor space.

Staff

-Martha Boksenbaum attended the ALA LibLearnX virtual conference.

Additional Updates

- Governor is ending the mask mandate for indoor facilities starting Friday.

- Ed Garcia will be lifting the mask requirements previously enforced in the Children's room. Signs will be posted encouraging mask use, and disposable masks will be made available at multiple locations for patrons.

BUDGET REPORT: 6:36p

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

The Legal budget is expected to be exceeded, which is normal for years with contract negotiation. Ed Garcia predicts we will expend in total around \$9,000.

NEW BUSINESS: 6:45p

Ratification of collective bargaining agreement with NAGE R1-97- 2022-2025: 6:45p

Taino Palermo motioned to enter the closed session for discussion of the collective bargaining agreement. Mary Ann Slocomb seconded the motion.

Ally Quintanilla was removed from the discussion for the duration of the closed session.

A motion was made to end the closed session by Larry Warner. Regina Spirito seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0)

Ratification of employment contract with Library Director- 2022-2026.: 6:58p

Lary Warner motioned to enter the closed session for discussion of the Library Director's employment contract ratification. Michael Goldberg seconded the motion.

Ed Garcia, Julie Holden, and Ally Quintanilla were removed from the discussion for the duration of the closed session.

A motion was made to end the closed session by Michael Goldberg. Diane Schaefer seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Larry Warner to ratify the employment contract with the Library Director, Ed Garcia. Michael Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0)

Review of Equity & Inclusion Policy: 7:11p

The currently approved Equity & Inclusion Policy was approved in 2018. Due to a recent incident where a patron entered the wrong bathroom by mistake, revisions to the policy are being suggested.

Ed Garcia is suggesting that the last line of the policy be removed, as the meaning is still implied in the rest of the policy without explicit statement.

To address the incident, new clearer signage is being ordered to put on the bathroom doors.

A motion was made to approve the edits to the Equity & Inclusion Policy by Mary Ann Slocomb. Diane Schaefer seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0)

2022 General Assembly session legislative update: 7:20p

Ed Garcia presented the RILA 2022 Legislative agenda.

State Aid: Working on attaining the state aid funding needed to bring libraries back to the 25% as prescribed in the law.

Broadband program: RI is one of the only states that doesn't have a broadband program. Will have library representation on the council if passed.

RI as a sanctuary state: designate certain areas as protected. Libraries are included in this bill as protected spaces.

E-book licenses: Julie has been the lead for past 2 years. Publishers keep raising prices and shortening the amount of time they can lease them until we can purchase the license again. Same bill as introduced last year. Senate version was revised. Last week Julie was at the state house testifying. There is broad support to help libraries. MD passed an ebook bill and is now being sued.

Ed will send talking points out to board members to reach out to local representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 7:30p

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:31p

A motion was made by Larry Warner to adjourn the meeting. Michael Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).