

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2026

Cranston Central Library, C-Lab

6:04 pm

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Regina Spirito

R. Drayton Fair

Lisa Kirshenbaum

Diane Schaefer

Jack Tregar

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Ally Van Wyk, Administrative Assistant

Excused:

Taino Palermo

INTRODUCTION:

The regular meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:04 pm at the Cranston Central Library. Chair Goldberg started the meeting by encouraging the Trustees to view the CPL staff art exhibition during the month of January.

MINUTES:

The following amendments were made to the minutes:

- The William Hall Library Anniversary Celebration will take place 5/2, not 3/2.
- Budget Report: Should be “new fire alarm company”
- Library Use Policy Approval: Revise to “Ed Garcia will bring the policy to the City Solicitor to ensure the language surrounding “under the influence” is acceptable, as recommended by Drayton Fair.”

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the minutes as amended of the regular meeting of December 10, 2025. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrative Updates

- The Annual report will be presented at the February meeting.
- At the January meeting, the Cranston Public Library Association elected Jessica David as President and Michael Goldberg as Treasurer.
- The library was recently accepted into the RI Historical Records Advisory Board (RIHRAB) On-site Assistance Program. This program brings assistance from members of the RIHRAB to the library. We plan on using their guidance for archival best practices for special collections. We intend to relocate historical objects in our collection to Central to house a secure special collections area. The program also comes with a \$1000 grant for purchase of archival materials.
- Director Garcia attended a City department meeting concerning the budget. The city had a budget deficit for FY25 and is looking at another one for FY26 and FY27. The Chief of Staff will be scheduling a meeting to discuss any potential impacts on the library.
- The Mayor has made two changes to his executive staff. Chris Paplauskas is replacing Paul McCauley as Deputy Chief of Staff, and Nicole Renzulli is the new Communications and Government Affairs Director.

Buildings and Grounds

- The Library received notices from Providence Water concerning potential lead pipes at the Auburn branch and William Hall Library. Administration is reviewing options. The notice concerning the William Hall Library was sent to the Hall Trust.

Programming

- Noon Years Eve

The library held an all-ages Noon Year's Eve Party on December 31st in our community room. The event drew a crowd of over 200 people who showed up to do themed crafts, set intentions for the new year, and browse nonfiction titles for goal-setting inspiration. We ended with a massive dance party complete with noise makers and glow sticks, then counted down to a virtual ball drop at noon. Patrons of all ages had a great time ringing in the New Year at the library!

- Included with this report is an FY25 museum pass circulation report. The Museum pass program is funded by the Friends of the Cranston Public Library. 914 passes were circulated in FY25.

-The January art show at the Central Library is an exhibition of work by CPL staff. The exhibition will be up the month of January with an opening reception on January 12.

Staff Updates

-Assistant Library Director Julie Holden will be serving on the combined Cranston and Warwick Health Equity Zone Opioid Use Taskforce.

BUDGET REPORT:

The FY26 budget actuals as of December 31, 2025 were presented and reviewed.

- State Aid has not yet been released due delays caused by a State-level financial software rollout. OLIS has communicated that the payments should be released soon.

-The library still has not received the FY25 audited financial report from the City of Cranston. Administration is waiting for that report before completing the final audited FY25 budget results for the Trustees.

The FY25 Gifts and Restricted Accounts Report as of 12/31/25 was presented and reviewed. Director Garcia reviewed a new format for this report to provide more clarity for the Trustees. In response to questions from Lisa Kirshenbaum and Regina Spirito about the new format, Director Garcia discussed his intention to create a Financial Policy which incorporates the longstanding practices of the Trustees and the Library for financial matters incorporating all relevant statutes and regulations giving authority to the Trustees over library funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Board Officers:

Drayton Fair nominated Michael Goldberg as Chair and Regina Spirito as Vice Chair to the 2026 Board Officers. Jack Tregar seconded. Motion carried (6-0)

Lisa Kirshenbaum nominated Michael Goldberg as CPLA Liaison. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

The Committees will stay as listed in 2025.

Approval of the Flag Policy:

The revised Flag Policy was presented to the Board.

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the Flag Policy as presented. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Insertion of “Minimum Shifts” section into the Employee Handbook:

The proposed revision to the “Minimum Shifts” section of the Employee Handbook was distributed to the Board.

A motion was made by Regina Spirito to approve the Minimum Shifts language as presented. Drayton Fair seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board did not move into closed session as was originally posted on the agenda pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(2) for a discussion of collective bargaining with NAGE R1-97. Chair Goldberg informed the full Trustees that NAGE R1-97 communicated in writing their intention to open negotiations concerning salaries for 2026 and 2027 in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:53pm

A motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting of January 14, 2026 at 6:53pm by Jack Tregar. Drayton Fair seconded. Motion carried (6-0).