

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2025

Cranston Central Library, James T. Giles Room

6:00 pm

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Regina Spirito

R. Drayton Fair

Diane Schaefer

Jack Tregar

Taino Palermo

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Ally Van Wyk, Administrative Assistant

Excused:

Lisa Kirshenbaum

INTRODUCTION:

The regular meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:02 pm at the Cranston Central Library.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 8, 2025. Drayton Fair seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Michael Goldberg attended an OLIS Zoom meeting on being a Competent Trustee. OLIS intends to produce a course for RI Library Trustees.

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrative Updates

-No waiver needed for Auburn to close the 5-6pm hour on Fridays as discussed in the October meeting. Cranston Public Library met Standard 4 as of July 1, 2025, and that carries for the entire

fiscal year. If the library is still open 63 hours as of July 1, 2026, we would need to submit a waiver at that point, as part of our Standards Certification for FY27. This is only if the proposed Minimum Standards for Public Libraries revision is not approved. The revised standards propose the unique hours for our population be reduced to 60.

- The 2025 PLA Public Library Services for Strong Communities survey has been completed.

- The Friends of the Cranston Public Library annual book sale to place on 11/1 at the Hall Library. The sale earned \$2,275.

- The library was unable to hire a Public Services and Outreach Librarian with our current posting. We interviewed and offered the position to two candidates who ultimately declined the position. We will evaluate the position description and look to repost in January 2026.

- The staff holiday breakfast and meeting will be on Thursday December 11 starting at 8:30am. The Trustees are invited to attend for breakfast.

Buildings and Grounds

- Oaklawn volunteer painting project with Cranston Cares and the Cranston Rotary moved to April 2026

Programming

As part of the Flight Path grant, we are adding 2 new “adult & child” binocular kits to our Cool Tools, which will include 2 binoculars and a Rhode Island birding pocket manual.

The Youth Services team held an extremely successful “K Pop Demon Hunters” program that drew 84 participants in the Giles Room and featured a rousing “sing a long” of pop songs from the movie and a make-your-own ramen bar.

“Archaeology of Cranston” drew 54 people to William Hall with State Archaeologist Charlotte Taylor, which took a look at Native American soapstone quarrying, the coal mining days of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the homes of Native people & European settlers in Cranston.

Staff Updates

- Dave Bartos and Martha Boksenbaum presented on graphic novel collection development at the recent New England Library Association annual conference held in Newport.

- Director Garcia received a citation from the Cranston City Council at their October meeting in honor of Ed being given the Page Turner Award from the RI Center for the Book.

BUDGET REPORT:

The FY26 budget actuals as of October 31, 2025 were presented and reviewed. We are still waiting on the Final FY25 actual spend from the City.

- The Library and City of Cranston are still working with RI Energy to resolve the late fees incorrectly charged to the Library accounts.
- Ed Garcia will work on a future report reviewing the different between FY 24 and FY 25 electricity usage, to reflect savings from replacing the lighting system in the Central Library.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Reading Program 2025 Recap Report:

The Summer Reading Program Recap Report was presented to the Trustees.

Approval of 2026 Holiday Schedule:

The drafted 2026 Holiday Schedule was distributed to the Board.

A motion was made to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule as presented by Drayton Fair. Jack Tregar seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Approval of 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule:

The drafted 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule was distributed to the Board.

A motion was made to approve the 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule as presented by Drayton Fair. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 6:30pm

A motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting of November 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm by Jack Tregar. Drayton Fair seconded. Motion carried (6-0).