

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:02 pm at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Regina Spirito

R. Drayton Fair

Tai Palermo

Diane Schaefer

Jack Tregar

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Lisa Kirshenbaum

INTRODUCTION: 6:02 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Regina Spirito to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 12, 2025. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administration Updates

Last year, the RI General Assembly passed legislation requiring all employers with 50 or more employees to display a poster of Veterans benefits created by the DLT. These posters were distributed to all locations recently to post in staff rooms.

Administration is conducting a review of our policy & procedures manual. Several policies needing revision will be brought to the board for approval in April and May.

Director Garcia was asked to attend the Chief of State Library Agencies (COSLA) Voices for Libraries advocacy meeting in Washington DC. Ed accompanied RI Chief of Library Services Karen Mellor to meetings with the RI congressional delegation.

Buildings & Grounds

The City of Cranston has included the library buildings in a fire alarm upgrade project for city buildings that has been included in the FY26 Capital Budget. The Auburn restroom project was approved by the Plan Commission at the recent Capital Budget hearing.

Programming

Senator Jack Reed hosted a Women's History Month panel at the Central library on March 3rd. The event drew over 80 people and was attended by local business leaders and elected officials.

Teen Programming Update:

Volunteering

The last three months our teens have earned 503 hours of community service, and 92 individual teens have participated in our program. Highlights include making Valentine's Day cards for the senior center, helping with a successful slate of February break programs, and coming to the Stadium Elementary outreach event.

Cranston East Bring Your Own Book Club

At our December 10th CHSE Bring Your Own Book Club meeting we had 36 students. We switched up the format a bit to try and increase discussion among peers, and it was successful. Our next Bring Your Own Book Club will be on March 11th.

Branch 7 visit

We brought Branch 7 to Stadium Elementary for an after school family event in February. We had 59 people show up after school in the gym to check out books, get library cards, and do construction (and destruction) activity stations. We took 5 teens volunteers with us which was incredibly helpful, as they ran all of the stations and helped us set up/break down.

Staff Updates

none

Updates from the Cranston Public Library Association

The CPLA has begun marketing donations using required minimum distribution from retirement accounts. The information is listed here:

<https://www.cranstonlibrary.org/support-library/other-ways-to-support-the-library/> and will also be in upcoming newsletters.

The CPLA has begun a fundraising effort to sell branded merchandise to raise funds for the library. The first campaign will be stickers that can be placed on water bottles and other items. Sarah has created six designs which will sell for \$5 apiece. These will be initially sold at the Central circulation desk and will roll out to the branches in the coming weeks.

BUDGET REPORT:

The budget actuals as of February 28, 2025 and the FY 2026 Library Budget Forecast were presented and reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS:Approval of Bicycles Policy:

The Bicycles Policy was distributed and reviewed.

A motion was made to approve the Bicycle Policy by Jack Tregar. Taino Palermo seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Approval of Revision to the Collection Development Policy:

A revised Collection Development Policy was distributed and reviewed.

A motion was made to approve the revised Collection Development Policy as presented by Taino Palermo. Jack Tregar seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Update on Library-Related Legislation:

Ed Garcia gave an update on current Library-Related Legislation to the Board.

CLOSED SESSION:Closed Session pursuant to RI Gen. Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (3)

A motion was made at 6:54 pm to enter into closed session pursuant to RI Gen. Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (3) by Jack Tregar. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

No votes take in closed session.

A motion was made at 7:05 pm to end closed session pursuant to RI Gen. Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (3) by Jack Tregar. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 7:05pm

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