

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2026 – 6:00pm

Cranston Public Library, Knightsville Branch

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Regina Spirito

R. Drayton Fair

Diane Schaefer

Jack Tregar

Ed Garcia (Library Director)

Julie Holden (Assistant Library Director)

Excused:

Lisa Kirshenbaum

Taino Palermo

INTRODUCTION:

The regular meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:10pm at the Cranston Public Library, Knightsville Branch.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2026. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (4-0). Mr. Fair abstained since he was absent from the March meeting.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrative Updates

-The Library received a \$2,000 legislative grant from Senator Lammis Vargas. The grant is to support citizenship classes at William Hall Library. We held a check presentation on March 21 at Hall.

- The Library applied for and received \$2,275.56 in unclaimed funds from the RI Treasurer's office.
- The Library's allocation in the Community Municipal Library Grant program has been increased to \$210,005. We had to resubmit budget paperwork reflecting this funding increase. The Library has moved into the subaward phase. Director Garcia is working with the Mayor's office to complete the subaward agreement.
- Chair Goldberg and Director Garcia meet with representatives of the Cranston Planning Department on March 25 to discuss library development for the Cranston Comprehensive Plan. The City creates a new plan every ten years although they are currently six years behind. We discussed the need for a new larger Arlington library and a potential new Central Library in the next 5-15 years.
- The Cranston Public Library Association participated this year in the 401Gives fundraising campaign on March 31-April 1.
- The Library has been applying for several grants. Please see the included grants report.
- The Cranston Police will be conducting Active aggressor training on April 17th for the library staff. The Library will be closed until 12pm for the training.
- The Hall Trust has appointed three new Trustees: Kristen Forbes, Leonard Baum, and Lauren Paola.
- The free Shred Day is being hosted at the Central Library on April 18th from 9a-12p.
- The Library received a \$1,000 legislative grant from Senator Hanna Gallo. The grant will support babysitting classes for Cranston teens. Director Garcia and Senator Gallo took part in a photo presentation of the grant check on April 14th at the RI State House Library.
- Director Garcia was invited to participate in the RI State Plan on Aging Community Leaders Roundtable at the Rhode Island Foundation on April 14. Ed was one of 25 leaders invited to attend.
- Director Garcia and Assistant Director Holden attended Library Advocacy Day hosted by the Rhode Island Library Association at the RI State House. Director Garcia was recognized on the floor of the House alongside Cheryl Space, Director of the Community Libraries of Providence and Benjamin Hanley, President of the Rhode Island Library Association, by Representative Chris Paplauskas (R – Cranston). Rep. Paplauskas introduced a resolution on the House floor for National Library Week. Assistant Director Holden was recognized on the Senate floor alongside Aaron Coutu-Jones, the Director of the Warwick Public Library by Senator Mark McKenney (D-Warwick) as he introduced a resolution for National Library Week on the Senate floor.

Buildings & Grounds

- Auburn's new hours began on 4/6.
- We received the results of a lead test of the water at William Hall Library through Providence Water. The results show no lead in the water at Hall.
- The Knightsville hot water heater was replaced 3/24. The funds were from a private donation.

-The Cranston Highway Department reset all the parking bumpers at Central that were displaced during the winter. They also replaced eight bumpers at William Hall Library. The Library will be charged for the materials. The Hall Trust has agreed to pay that cost.

-Remove Oaklawn shrubs: The administration intends to remove a large section of bushes between the building and Wilbur Avenue. The Trustees had no objections.

-The Library submitted a bid waiver to the Board of Purchase for landscaping. The lowest of the three quotes based on 15 cuts a season and spring and fall clean-ups was Maplewood Landscaping at \$11,800.

-The Library submitted an RFP to the Board of Purchase to bid systemwide radio box fire alarm upgrades. The funding for this project comes from the Community Municipal Libraries grant.

-William Hall ADA walkway: the Hall Trustees recently hired a construction firm to install a smooth walkway to get from Broad St to the back of the building. Currently, there is no safe way to get from the front of the property to the back handicapped entrance if you are using a wheelchair, walker, or have a stroller. The construction began on 4/7 and is scheduled to end 4/14. Due to the large amount of heavy equipment and the length of the walkway, the construction firm closed off the exit drive at Hall; we needed to unexpectedly close the library entirely on 4/7 and the Hall Trust subsequently hired police details to control the one-way entrance for the rest of the project. Director Garcia has scheduled a meeting with the President of the Hall Trust on April 28 to debrief about this project and plan out future projects.

-Central: a woman has been using black marker to vandalize the women's restroom at Central nearly daily with a small amount of writing in some of the stalls. Custodians are able to remove the marker with graffiti remover; we are working on determining who it is to give her a warning.

Programming

The Cranston Arts Commission continues its "Curious About..." program series at Central. The first one was Curious about Crochet and this month is Curious about Lace Making.

Thanks to Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island and 10 of Miss Alyssa's teen volunteers, we are displaying a few pinwheels in the front gardens of the Central library for the month of April.

Pinwheels are the symbols of child abuse prevention.

Staff Updates

None

BUDGET REPORT:

Director Garcia presented the fiscal year operating budget report for the period ending March 31, 2026.

Director Garcia arrived late to the Board meeting coming directly from Mayor Hopkins' FY27 budget address. Director Garcia did not have time to thoroughly review the budget proposal, but noted the overall library budget was level funded.

The library's budget hearing with the City Council will be on Saturday, April 18th. Director Garcia will be in attendance to present the budget to the Council.

The resolution to fully fund state aid to libraries will be considered by the Council on Monday, April 20. Director Garcia will be in attendance to speak to the resolution.

KNIGHTSVILLE LIBRARIAN REPORT: By Branch Librarian Nancy Gianlorenzo

Building

Last August, we received a \$181,717.79 bequest from the Estate of Frank DePasquale. The funds were placed in a Cranston Public Library Association account and restricted for use at the Knightsville Branch.

We have recently made the following purchases: a new hot water heater, a bookcase for the Juvenile Graphic Novels, a diecut machine and a toy garage and vehicles for the Children's area.

Last May, the building alarm system was installed.

Weeding is an ongoing project. Since last Fall, I have primarily focused on weeding the nonfiction collection, Adult Fiction and Large Print.

Programs

Storytime for ages 0-5 continues to be popular. Due to increased demand, we added another weekly program in January. We now have Storytime on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Our school vacation programs for ages 2-8 have also been well attended. In February, 59 children and adults attended our Teddy Bear Picnic Story Hour!

Staff

None of our services would be possible without the dedicated, conscientious and hardworking Knightsville staff. Many patrons tell us that they prefer coming here because they feel comfortable using a smaller branch.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ratification of collective bargaining agreement with NAGE R1-97 including revised language in article on compensatory time: The Trustees previously ratified the new collection bargaining agreement at their March meeting. NAGE R1-97 asked for clarifying language about carry over of compensatory time into the next calendar year. Director Garcia worked with legal counsel and the union Executive Board on clarifying language.

A motion was made by Drayton Fair to ratify the collective bargaining agreement as presented. Jack Tregar seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Adoption of Library Card and Borrowing Policy revision:

The Library Administration requested that the Board of Trustees adopt the new Library Card and Borrowing Policy. The bulk of the policy is a statewide policy through Ocean State Libraries (OSL). That policy was adopted by the OSL membership at their March 2026 meeting. This policy adds some Cranston local policy including local use only cards for Cranston residents who do not have the relevant photo identification to qualify for a full access RI card, local use only cards for out-of-state people who work in Cranston, and local loan rules and borrowing limits. It was noted that Assistant Director Julie Holden served on the OSL committee that spent two years revised this policy. This action also calls for two policies to be rescinded by the Board. The "Cool Tools Lending Policy" and the "Address Confidentiality Program Policy." The relevant portions of the "Cool Tools" policy which governs lending of our tool collection was absorbed into the local borrowing policy section of the Library Card and Borrowing Policy. OSL adopted the "Address Confidentiality Program Policy" which governs OSL's voluntary participation in the RI Address Confidentiality Program for battered women, as part of the OSL Library Card and Borrowing Policy. As such Cranston Public Library does not need its own separate policy.

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to adopt the Library Card and Borrowing Policy as presented and rescind the Cool Tools Lending Policy and Address Confidentiality Program Policy. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting of April 15, 2026 at 6:58pm by Jack Tregar. Diane Schaeffer seconded. Motion carried (5-0).