

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday March 9, 2022 at 6:03p on the Cranston Public Library Zoom.

Present were:

Jack Tregar

Michael Goldberg (arrived 6:06p)

Diane Schaefer

Mary Ann Slocomb

Regina Spirito

Larry Warner

Edward Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Absent: *Taino Palermo, Allyson Quintanilla (Administrative Assistant, Board Secretary)*

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mary Ann Slocomb to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 9, 2022. Larry Warner seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administration

-The library received a \$1,000 legislative grant from Senator Hanna Gallo to support children's programs.

-The library received a \$2,000 legislative grant from Senator Josh Miller to support ESL classes at William Hall Library.

-The children's staff at the Central library discovered 2 books (one on gender identity, one on LGBTQ rights) that someone had damaged by completely ripping off the spines of the books. See attached photos. Vandalizing library materials is a misdemeanor under RI general law 11-44-15. Possibly also a hate crime targeting LGBTQ under GL 12-19-38. We filed a police report and the Cranston Police will also be reporting this incident to the AG's office. All departments were asked to review their collections and report any vandalism immediately, as well as look at these collections at least once a week moving forward.

-A librarian from Massachusetts posted online that she had found a few Holocaust denial and white supremacist ebooks in the library's Hoopla collection. These ebooks were from an obscure publisher, and we do not think anyone from Hoopla vetted this collection before automatically adding them to all library accounts. Ed has asked Hoopla to remove these titles from our Cranston account as well as some other disturbing titles that do not fit our collection development policy. We are in contact with Hoopla to try and resolve this issue going forward.

-Julie Holden and Emily Brown attended a webinar from Coastline Employee Assistance Program, which is a free service provided to all city employees and their family members. The EAP offers "in the moment" support and/or counseling referrals for issues at work or at home. They offer monthly Wellness Sessions, Alcohol & Addiction referrals, Legal/Financial referrals, Student Loan help, Bankruptcy help, Eldercare & Childcare referrals, and even Convenience Service referrals like snow removal and the like.

-We delayed opening the library on 2/25 due to the winter storm. Central opened at 10am, the branches opened at 11am. We also closed Auburn an hour early at 5pm.

Buildings & Grounds

-The Arlington branch reopened on Monday February 28th. Several staff members graciously assisted in the effort to restock all the shelves and prep the library for reopening. The computers and surviving collections are all available, and the adult books and dvds are slowly arriving to fill the shelves. The library was closed for a total of 6 weeks.

-William Hall: The hot water heater tank let go on Monday Feb. 14. It was installed in 2014 and something became corroded and it lost all its water all over the floor of the boiler room. Consequently, its circulator pump seized up. Cost to remove tank and install new one plus the pump was \$5,552.00

Programming

-All programming is ramping up in a major way now that the Omicron wave is over. A full suite of storytimes and school age activities are scheduled for every day in March except for Sundays.

-Healthy Families Upcoming programs include:

- Substance Abuse Prevention: An Interactive Learning Experience
- Eat the Rainbow (also funded in part by a grant from Senator Hanna Gallo)
- Una vida saludable dentro de su presupuesto
- Seated Tai Chi for Arthritis
- Our Brains and Healthy Aging

In addition, we are planning our huge Community Health Celebration Night on March 29 at the Senior Center with sandwiches and raffle prizes, plus over a dozen local community health agencies.

-The Teen Room now has a 'Comfort Cabinet' filled with emergency supplies that teens might need like deodorant, feminine hygiene products, and combs. This cabinet and supplies were funded by the Healthy Families grant.

-Computer Classes at the Senior Center: computer classes and individual support for seniors, with in-person training in English with support in Spanish. These classes/tech times are presented in partnership by the Cranston Public Library, Providence Public Library, and the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center. Funding provided by the RI Office of Library and Information Services through the American Rescue Plan Act

-Save the Date: Shred Day is set for Saturday Apr 23, 2022 ; on this same day the Financial Planning Association will hold their first post-Covid Free Financial Planning Day in the Giles Room.

Cranston Public Library Association

-CPLA received a \$2,000 grant from BankNewport to support the summer reading program.

Staff

-Ed Garcia was appointed chair of the American Library Association Committee on Legislation starting July 1, 2022. This is a one year appointment.

BUDGET REPORT:

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022. Mr. Tregar asked why the part time salary line was not being expended as quickly as previous years; Mr. Garcia explained that we had lost several part timers due to the pandemic, but that allowed us to be more optimally staffed during the frequent spikes in Covid cases that kept people at home. The library is much busier now.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of FY2023 Library Operating Budget:

The FY2023 Library Operating Budget was presented to the Board.

A motion was made to approve the FY2023 Library Operating Budget by Larry Warner. Mary Ann Slocomb seconded the motion. Motion carried. (6-0)

Creation of the Board of Trustees Bylaws revision committee:

A sub-committee of the Board of Trustees was formed including the Library Director, Larry Warner, and Taino Palermo to review the Board of Trustees Bylaws and report back with any recommended changes no later than the June 2022 meeting.

A motion was made by Mary Ann Slocumb to appoint the Library Director, Larry Warner, and Taino Palermo to the Board of Trustees Bylaw revision committee. Diane Scheafer seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:57p

A motion was made by Mary Ann Slocumb to adjourn the meeting. Regina Spirito seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0).