

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday April 13, 2022 at 6:03p at the Cranston Public Library.

Present were:

Jack Tregar

Michael Goldberg

Diane Schaefer

Mary Ann Slocomb (attending via Zoom)

Regina Spirito

Larry Warner

Edward Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla (Administrative Assistant, Board Secretary)

Absent: Taino Palermo (Excused)

MINUTES: 6:04p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 9, 2022. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:07p

Administration

-Oaklawn branch will close on May 2nd due to the May Breakfast celebration at the church. We allow them to use our parking lot.

-The library is currently making microfilm/digitizing Cranston Herald (2021) & Neighborhood News (1930) to add to our online newspaper archive. The Neighborhood News is an Edgewood newspaper. We found a box of these in storage at Hall.

-The library is working with the City Council to pass a resolution calling on the General Assembly to provide full state aid funding to libraries (attached).

-Library advocacy day, RI assoc and all other groups go to state house and advocate for libraries. On Tuesday each week. Bookmarks, giveaways, candy, etc. OSL, School Libraries, etc. Thursday they released resolutions for national library week.

-Survey to figure out what ARPA funds should be spent on. Ed will be presenting about this at the next City Council meeting.

Buildings and Grounds

-Scheduled re-striping of the Auburn parking lot by the Highway Department 4/12/22.

-There was major damage to the lawn at Central around all the sidewalks due to snow plowing. The Parks & Recreation department will be bringing some new loam and repairing the damage this month.

-There were several damaged parking space bumpers at Central and one at Auburn due to snow plows. The Highway Department repaired and replaced them in March. One remains at Central in an incorrect location that needs to be replaced. We are generally charged for the bumpers.

Programming

-Community Health Celebration Night recap

The library joined 17 other local health agencies at the Senior Center for a rare evening event on March 29th. Attendees from the community went around the room talking to each agency and picking up brochures, pens, and other items, and enjoying light refreshments. There were lots of raffle prizes and our Teen Team volunteers did a craft with the kids. The library spearheaded this event as part of our Healthy Families initiative, which is the first time we have coordinated a health fair as far as we know. We thought it was a great success, and all the agencies involved were happy to be at an in-person event. Councilwoman Jessica Marino attended.

-Holocaust Program

On Sunday, March 20 we hosted the Spring Baxt Lecture organized by the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center. Forty-one attendees heard Harold Veisz share the story of Gerda III, a Danish fishing boat currently docked at the Mystic Seaport Museum. This boat was part of a civilian fleet that rescued thousands of Danish Jews during the Nazi occupation. Several attendees commented that this was the first in-person event they've attended since the pandemic began!

-Our Brains and Healthy Aging

On Saturday, March 19, Terry Fogerty, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Disease Center at Rhode Island Hospital, presented an excellent, interactive program called Our Brains and Healthy Aging as part of the Healthy Families at Cranston Public Library series.

The event was well-attended by 27 people. Terry was extremely knowledgeable, engaging, and had a very easy rapport with the audience. Patrons received an overview of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, learned the differences between changes in behavior of a normally aging brain and a brain at risk for disease, and practiced tips and tricks to keep an aging brain healthy.

Staff

-Julie Holden was invited to join the OneCranston Health Equity Zone LIT committee (Local Implementation Team, or board).

-Our 8 staff members who attended the Public Library Association Conference in Portland, OR at the end of March all had a great time and attended multiple professional development sessions. We also celebrated at the Kline Award Gala along with the Central Arkansas library system and were able to meet Jerry Kline in person and thank him. See attached photo.

Cranston Public Library Association

-The following collection projects were awarded to library staff from Joseph B. Merrick 2021 funds:

Oaklawn (Tayla)- \$350 - replenish classic children's books

Central Youth Services (Edna) \$1000- update the 700s juvenile collection at all locations

Central Adult Services (Katherine) \$500 - update computer, coding and technology books

Knightsville (Nancy) - \$250 - large print books

Central Adult Services (Zach) -\$500- poetry book representing underrepresented/marginalized communities.

Auburn (Nomi) -\$500 - update children's non-fiction country books

Central Teen (Alyssa) - \$1600 - Hi/Lo teen collection. These are high interest/low reading level teen books to support reading skills.

William Hall (Robin/Cassidy) -\$750 - Updates to various non-fiction sections.

Legislative update

-S2842, the Senate version of the library ebook bill, was introduced on April 5th. The lead sponsor is Cranston's Sen. Hanna Gallo, along with several other co-sponsors, including Sen. Josh Miller, also from Cranston.

BUDGET REPORT: 6:22p

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022.

The budget forecast for the remainder of the year was distributed. Two categories will have a large surplus:

-Online Resources (database and ebook fees). Previously this category was split up and paid out in advance for the future year, so 2022 was paid for in 2021. We are no longer allowed to do this, so those funds will be reallocated for 2022. In 2023, funds will be distributed as normal for the 2023 year.

-Part Time Hours. Several of our part timers retired or left for school. We are allocating more hours to our current part timers, and only hiring new staff where required. We are working on a list of repairs and updates to spend this amount down. Proposed expenses are: purchasing new children's furniture, a new book drop, and sealing the windows at Auburn; Painting the Oak lawn exterior (current quote includes scraping and historical building restoration); and upgrading all locations fire alarms. The remaining Library Operations line could be used to repair/replace the sidewalks at Central after damage sustained by snow plowing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Manual 2022 Updates: 6:05p

Ed Garcia presented the changes to the board manuals.

Revision to Meeting Room Policy: 6:57p

Ed Garcia presented the modified Meeting Room Policy. Changes were made to clarify the name of the Giles Community Room, and to indicate that the use of William Hall meeting spaces on Saturdays will not generally be permitted due to limited staffing.

A motion was made by Larry Warner to approve the revised Meeting Room Policy. Michael Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0).

Discontinuation of Library Card Replacement Fee: 6:58p

Currently there is a \$1.00 fee to replace a library card. This is one of the only remaining fees at Cranston Public Libraries, and can be prohibitive to low income families. The cards are not costly for us to print.

Larry Warner proposed making the basic library card design free but charging for an upgrade to the different card illustrations, e.g. the student designed cards and the William Hall 100th anniversary card.

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the discontinuation of the library card replacement fee. Regina Spirito seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0).

Closed Session:

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to begin a closed session. Regina Spirito seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0). The Board of Trustees moved into closed session at 7:13p to discuss a personnel issue.

A motion was made by Larry Warner to end the closed session. Diane Schaefer seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0). The Board of Trustees ended the closed session at 7:40p. No votes were taken in the closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 7:40p

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:41p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to adjourn the meeting. Mary Ann Slocomb seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0).