

## CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday March 8, 2023 at 6:06p at the Cranston Central Library.

### **Present were:**

*Jack Tregar*

*Regina Spirito*

*Jen Cowart*

*Michael Goldberg*

*Diane Schaefer*

*Larry Warner (6:19p)*

*Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director*

*Allyson Quintanilla, Secretary for the Board of Trustees*

*Excused: R. Drayton Fair; Ed Garcia, Library Director*

### **INTRODUCTION: 6:06p**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06p. Jen Cowart was introduced as the newest member of the Board of Trustees. She is the Communications Manager for the Cranston Public School System. Prior to that she was a freelance reporter for the Cranston Herald. She is an avid user of the Library.

### **MINUTES: 6:13p**

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2023. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

### **LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:15p**

#### Administration

-The FY24 budget package was submitted to the city on 2/24.

-Due to the winter storm, the library delayed opening all locations on 2/28 until 12pm.

-Ed met with William Hall Library Trust Chair Jeff Lanphear to review building projects for a potential Champlin Foundation grant application. Ed will be working with Jeff on an application to replace all the windows in the building. The Trust is also moving forward with trying to address the concerns raised by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities and Board of Elections about the ramp entrance into the Hall Auditorium. They are commissioning a survey to see what alterations can be made.

### Buildings and Grounds

-A new security camera was installed at Central to replace the existing camera at the front entrance. This camera has four views and will now monitor the entire upper and lower parking lots and the front entrance.

-A tree came down in the heavy winds on the side yard of Central. It did no damage and was removed by Northeastern Tree.

### Programs

-CPL is now a Talking Books Library Institutional Member. Part of the National Library Service, Talking Books provides free audiobook players to residents who are blind or physically handicapped. The program is managed in RI by the Office of Library and Museum Services. As part of this membership, the library will now have an audiobook reader at Central that patrons can borrow and test. Patrons interested in signing up for their own player can ask at the Reference Desk about signing up for a Talking Books Library membership. We have applications at the desk, and librarians are 'certifying authorities' who can verify patron eligibility for the program.

-The library will be starting our first bilingual Spanish-English storytime program March 25th, April 1 and April 8th. Elena Rios and Martha Boksenbaum will be hosting the program series at Central.

-During Cranston Public Schools' February vacation week, the youth services department offered 14 programs with a total attendance of 251 over just 4 days. (Monday was President's Day.) The theme was "Mix it up!" and children mixed up batches of slime, fake snow, and mug cakes at a range of programs for different ages. Elementary age kids made spin art, and preschoolers pretended to drive cement mixers. At a program for grades 4-8 based on the popular Wednesday Addams Netflix show, tweens even mixed up batches of fake blood (it's mostly corn syrup!). It was satisfying to see the sign-ups for almost every program max out and to see staff try new things: Nomi at Auburn borrowed one of the new OLIS youth programming kits to offer a magnet tile program, and Martha at Hall hosted a field trip from a local martial arts after school program.

-As part of the ongoing 'Community Conversations' series partnering with the OneCranston Health Equity Zone, this month's program is on gender and sexuality and is being held at the Central library. The write up for this program is "we will be discussing the diverse spectrum of gender and sexual identities within our community, how to approach our LGBTQ+ peers, family, and friends with compassion and respectful curiosity, and unpacking the ways that fear and shame may interfere with people's ability to show up openly and with humility when met with new or unfamiliar language or concepts."

-Cranston Schools ArtsFest will be taking place at Central from March 2-28th. The opening reception will be on March 8th from 6-7:45pm.

-Coming Attractions: this year's Shred Day will be on Saturday April 22 from 9-12, sponsored by Ameriprise Financial in Cranston.

### Staff Updates

-Ed Garcia will be attending an American Library Association legislative briefing in Washington DC in his capacity as the Chair of the ALA Committee on Legislation. He will be in DC March 7-9th and will be meeting with members of the RI congressional delegation.

-Carla Jaggi started on 2/25 as our new full-time Circulation Assistant at the Central Library. Carla started as a part-time circulation assistant in August of 2021.

-Ed Garcia spoke at the State House on 3/1 as part of the launch of the media literacy initiative CourageousRI. Ed was asked to speak about the challenges libraries are facing with the assaults on the right to read. Ed will be serving on the advisory committee for the initiative.

### **BUDGET REPORT: 6:33p**

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023.

Adjustments will be made to compensate for the additional pay period created by the fiscal year timing.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Revision to the Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy: 6:37p

Julie Holden presented the revisions to the Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy.

A motion was made by Regina Spritio to approve the revised Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy. Jen Cowart seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

#### Upgrade to Fire Alarm Systems for Compliance with Cranston Ordinance 2.24.090: 6:43p

Ed Garcia would like to use funds from the reserve (up to \$50,000) to upgrade sprinkler systems for all branches except for Arlington, and to repair the sprinkler system at the Auburn Branch.

If the William Hall Library upgrade is more than then quoted \$7,000, the board would like to consider approaching the William Hall Trustees to assist in the payment of repairs if possible.

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the use of up to \$50,000 from the Reserve Fund to begin the work of upgrading fire alarm boxes to be compliant with Cranston ordinance 2.24.090 and for repairs to the Auburn branch sprinkler system. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

**ADJOURNMENT: 6:58p**

A motion was made by Larry Warner to adjourn the meeting. Michael Goldberg seconded the motion.  
Motion carried (5-0).