

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 6:02 pm at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Regina Spirito

R. Drayton Fair

Diane Schaefer

Jack Tregar

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Nancy Gianlorenzo, Knightsville Branch Librarian

Allyson Van Wyk, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Lisa Kirshenbaum, Dr. Taino Palermo

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 March 12, 2025. Drayton Fair seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

KNIGHTSVILLE BRANCH LIBRARIAN REPORT:

Building

- Weeding is an ongoing project. Since last Fall, I have primarily focused on weeding the Teen collection, the Juvenile DVDs, the Picture Books and Early Readers. The nonfiction weeding has enabled us to display books on the top shelves for adults and books on the bottom shelves for children.
- LED lighting was installed upstairs in October. The brighter lights have contributed to the welcoming atmosphere of the building.
- Recently, I used gift money to purchase new furnishings for the Children's area. The play kitchen keeps the kids entertained before and after Storytime, giving parents and grandparents time to choose books. The shelving unit for board books makes it easier for patrons to browse. The rug helps to define the area, tying everything together.

Programs

- Program attendance has been steadily increasing, demonstrating the effectiveness of our programming efforts.
- Storytime for ages 0-5 continues to be popular. Usually, there are 30-35 adults and children attending each week. A few times, there were over 40 people here for Storytime!
- Our school vacation programs for Grades K-5 have also been well attended. Some families are now our regular patrons after attending these programs.

Staff

- The Knightsville staff is dedicated and hardworking. Patrons often comment on the pleasant surroundings and the friendly, knowledgeable staff.
- The continued support of the library administration and the Board of Trustees ensures that our staff is supported and valued.

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrative Updates

The budget hearing schedule is as follows: April 12 library budget hearing, April 21 budget amendments, and April 23 budget adoption.

Buildings and Grounds

The awning about the entrance to the Arlington branch at the Senior Center is torn in several places and needs to be replaced. We have received a quote and the Senior Center has indicated they will split the cost with the library. Our portion of the replacement cost will be \$750.

The switch over to the new VOIP system and installation of new phones was completed.

Ed has contacted four vendors to provide quotes to the William Hall Library Trust for the boiler replacement project funded by the Champlin Foundation.

Programs

The March blood drive at the Central Library resulted in 12 blood donations.

The annual Shred Day will take place at the Central Library on April 19th.

Staff Updates

Adult Services Librarian Katherine Boden has been accepted into the New England Library Association 2025 New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) Mid-Career Leadership Cohort. This three-day leadership event will take place between May 12-15 in Stowe, VT.

Ed Garcia and Julie Holden were recognized at the State House on the floor of the House by Rep. Paplauskas and Senator Gallo at introduction of National Library Week resolutions on April 8th.

On March 14, the President signed an executive order effectively eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). If fully enacted, these cuts would have a devastating effect on Rhode Island libraries. OLIS receives 40% of their funding from IMLS. This loss of funding would severely affect key programs like interlibrary delivery, Talking Books Plus, summer reading program, and OLIS CE training for library staff. RI Attorney General Neronha is co-leading a lawsuit in federal court with 20 other states against this action. Director Garcia was in Washington DC and met with the entire RI delegation about these potential cuts to funding. He also attended the hearing in-person in the Federal Court building in Providence.

CPL holds citizenship classes at the William Hall Library in partnership with the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI), which is run out of the Providence Public Library. Some funding for the classes in Cranston, Pawtucket, Providence, and Warwick was recently cut by the US Immigration and Citizenship Services. We are evaluating if the classes will be able to continue with this loss in funding.

Microsoft no longer considers Libraries as an educational institution to be eligible for discounted software licenses. For the first time, CPL will have to pay for software licenses for Microsoft Office. This may be as high as \$20,000 over the next four years.

BUDGET REPORT:

The budget actuals as of March 31, 2025 and the FY 2026 Library Budget Forecast were presented and reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Revision of Exhibits and Display Policy:

The revised Exhibits and Display Policy was distributed and reviewed.

A motion was made to approve the revised Exhibits and Display Policy, and rescind the current Art Exhibit Policy by Jack Tregar. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 7:12pm

A motion was made by to adjourn the regular meeting of April 9, 2025 by Drayton Fair. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (5-0).