

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday May 10, 2023 at 6:07p at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Jack Tregar

R. Drayton Fair

Michael Goldberg

Diane Schaefer

Larry Warner (arrived at 6:08p)

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Secretary for the Board of Trustees

Excused: Jen Cowart, Regina Spirito

INTRODUCTION: 6:03p

The meeting was called to order at 6:03p.

MINUTES: 6:04p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 19, 2023. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:04p

Administrative Updates

-The new library delivery/outreach van has been ordered. Estimated delivery is early to mid July. Final cost was \$36,420. We are working on quotes to get the van wrapped once it arrives.

-On April 29th Ed Garcia was on hand along with Trustee Larry Warner at a memorial hockey game in memory of our former Trustee Fred Miller. Fred was also a long time coach and supporter of the RI Panthers women's hockey team. Proceeds from the game were donated to the CPLA in Fred's honor and \$1,473.50 was raised.

-Staff at all locations participated in extensive training for the new catalog system from April 25 - May 2. We had a delayed opening on May 2 at 11 am for an all-staff training.

- The William Hall Trust had their Spring meeting on May 9, 2023. The Board approved the request to use the Champlain Grant to replace all the Hall windows and the boiler. The Hall Trust Board will arrange an inspection and quote. The board also approved major work to remove dead and damaged trees on the property. They will also be planting some new trees. They would like our help in reaching the community to inform them of the work being done.

- We have received several complaints about the condition of the walkway between the Library and the Hall Manor. The public works department will repair the sidewalk within a couple weeks.

- The mayor is holding his spring festival, where we will have a table for library information.

Buildings & Grounds

-The Reference office renovation project was completed. (\$12,338)

-Western Cranston Garden Club did a clean-up of the Central Library property on April 22nd. There was a lot of trash and debris from the construction site of TopGolf. I have reached out to Carpionato Properties to see if they can install a trash can so that construction workers don't just discard their coffee cups and trash on our property.

-We asked the parks and recreation department to remove some shrubs at the front of the Oaklawn branch. They were obstructing the view of drivers trying to turn left onto Wilbur Avenue.

- Ed met with the new fire marshall. The previous fire marshall was inspecting our buildings every two years. The new marshall would like to inspect on a yearly basis. We have had Hall inspected so far and we are waiting on the inspection report. We are expecting minor repairs.

Programming

-Shred Day was a big success, with approximately 80 people participating.

-Upcoming event: All Politics are Local: Understanding Local Government in Rhode Island will be on May 13 starting at 10:00 am. This event is being run by John Marion and Common Cause RI and will feature experts on municipal government in Rhode Island.

-Teen Volunteering

The Cranston Public Library teen volunteer program is the core of teen services. Teens in grades 6-12 can apply on our website to volunteer at the library and they have a variety of volunteer opportunities to choose from. We hold monthly Service Saturday events, where teens can come work on projects that benefit the library or the community. Every 3-4 months the teens switch out the bulletin board in

front of the children's room. Our teen volunteers help run children's programs, clean storytime manipulatives, prepare program materials, and review media for the Teen Blog. Some service projects we've worked on during the 2022-2023 school year include baking treats for Help the Homeless RI and making 250 holiday cards for seniors. We have also begun a brand new shelf-reader training program with our first batch of shelf readers currently working on keeping all of Central's books in order on the shelves. We are currently gearing up for summer, which is our busiest time for teen volunteering.

-Cranston High School East Book Club

In collaboration with Ivy Swinski from HEZ and Elena Rios and Alyssa Taft from Cranston Public Library, Cranston High School East has held a series of after school outreach events with Heidi Blais in the East library. Ivy, Elena, and Alyssa spend an hour after school with students discussing what they've been reading, watching, and loving, talking up library and HEZ services, and giving out swag. Our final one of the year will be held on May 17th where Elena and Alyssa will give a presentation about the upcoming Teen Summer Experience at the library. Students earn volunteer hours for participating in this after school club and it has consistently drawn between 20-30 students per session.

-Story Time Update

Since the beginning of 2023, youth services has been expanding storytime services. So far, we have offered 105 storytimes in 2023, compared to 49 at this time last year. Total attendance at these programs has been 2,530. As demand for these programs increases, we are not only adding additional programs--we are increasing the variety of programs we offer. For example, instead of just offering programs for ages 0-5, we are now offering some programs that are tailored to babies, with time for open play and socialization, and others that are designed for ages 3-5 which last longer, feature more participation, and end with more complex hands-on activities. We are offering storytimes for ages 2-8 in the evenings and on weekends to accommodate working families. We have offered bilingual storytime and sensory storytime. And with the addition of Knightsville's Color Storytime on Wednesdays starting April 26, we are offering storytimes at all locations (that have programming space!)

Staff Updates

-RILA Advocacy Day: Ed, Julie, Sarah Bouvier and Tayla Cardillo headed to the State House on April 25 to participate in the annual library advocacy day. Sarah took photographs of legislators in front of a green screen in the state library, so that we can create READ posters for each of them using graphics from ALA. We saw many Cranston elected officials as well as Treasurer Diossa and Secretary of State Amore. Ed had compiled folders for each legislator with our legislative agenda and information on intellectual freedom.

-Tri-state ebook meeting: on May 1st, Ed and Julie met with several librarians from CT and MA in Mystic to discuss strategies for each state's various ebook bills going forward. It was a fantastic meeting and we have a good plan in place for the upcoming year.

-Auburn Youth Services Librarian Nomi Hague published an article on the The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) blog highlighting picture books about Palestinian Arabs for National Arab Heritage Month (Article enclosed in packet).

BUDGET REPORT: 6:35p

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023.

Review of FY24 library budget as reflected in proposed City of Cranston FY24 budget:

The next City of Cranston budget meeting is on 5/15/23. There are no expected changes to our budget as proposed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Auburn Branch Outdoor Patio: 6:39p

We are waiting on the bids to come back from the various contractors.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:49p

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