

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 5:58p at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Jen Cowart

R. Drayton Fair

Diane Schaefer

Regina Spirito

Jack Tregar

Larry Warner

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Secretary for the Board of Trustees

INTRODUCTION: 5:59p

The meeting was called to order at 5:59p.

MINUTES: 5:59p

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 10, 2024. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 5:59p

Administration updates

-The library received a \$1,000 legislative grant from Senator Hanna Gallo for youth services programming.

-Director Garcia has been asked to serve on the Rhode Island Public Library Standards Committee by the Library Board of Rhode Island. The committee will work to revise the Minimum Standards of Public Libraries with a target date of fall 2024 completion.

-The Cranston Public Library Association received a \$500 grant from Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation to support the summer reading program.

-At their April meeting, the Cranston Public Library Association Board of Directors approved a \$7,500 request to fund the summer reading program.

Buildings & Grounds

-We are working with the Highway Department to replace several damaged parking bumpers at Central and Knightsville.

-The Arlington panic button was repaired.

-The Hall Trust is planting several new trees along the sidewalk on Broad Street.

-Ed Garcia received the quote from RISE Engineering to convert the Central library to LED lighting (estimated net cost to CPL is \$107k). The estimated annual savings is \$18,000. Ed Garcia has requested a separate quote for an LED conversion at the Knightsville Branch.

Programs

-We had 130 participants at Shred Day on April 20, even though it was pouring rain. Right near the end of the event, the paper in the truck combusted, caught fire, and started smoking. Fortunately, the fire department came right over with tankers, and the truck had to be investigated after by the fire investigator. No one was injured.

- Teen Conversation with Senator Reed

On Monday May 6th a group of 14 teens sat down with Senator Reed to enjoy pizza and a conversation about life in public service, advice for getting involved in the community, and issues important to Cranston teens. A spirited discussion about the conflict in Palestine was a main topic for conversation, and the Senator was very willing to engage honestly with the teens.

- OCHEZ Block Party and Branch 7 Outreach

On Saturday May 4th Alyssa and Martha took Branch 7 to Doric Park for the OCHEZ Block Party to celebrate green spaces in Cranston. It was a beautiful day with an excellent turn out, and for the first time we brought some of the Branch 7 collection to check out to patrons. Overall it was a huge success and allowed us to test out our process for taking out Branch 7.

Other successful April programs included:

A Journey from Despair to Hope: The Armenian Genocide and the Story of the Armenian Americans of Rhode Island (53 people)

URI Master Gardener: Container Gardening (34 people)

Living with the Dead in Rhode Island: From Cemetery Destruction to Cemetery Preservation (50 people).

Staffing updates

-Assistant Director Julie Holden has been named “Outstanding Librarian of the Year” by the Rhode Island Library Association. This is the most prestigious award RILA presents to librarians. She will receive the award at the RILA annual conference on May 22nd.

-Sarah Bouvier, Communications Manager, won two ALA PR Xchange Awards for our 2023 Impact Report and 2023 Youth Summer Reading Video - Make Some Noise! Sarah and Director Garcia will attend the ALA Annual conference to accept the awards on behalf of CPL>

-Director Garcia served as the moderator for a Q&A session with the Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel at the CT Library Association conference.

-There are 8 CPL staff members presenting at the Rhode Island Library Association Annual Conference on May 22-23.

BUDGET REPORT: 6:15p

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024.

The Cranston FY25 Budget passed on Monday. The part time and FICA lines were corrected. The approved budget still does not address the fixed cost fees (electric and gas increases, tipping and fines). Adult and Youth Services Programming will be supplemented by CPLA for FY25. Ed Garcia will bring a draft FY25 budget to the June Meeting for Board review with recommended cost savings.

The City of Cranston signed a deal with a solar electric company to receive community solar credits. The Central Library and Hall Library will be eligible for credits. Director Garcia is unsure of how consistent these credits will be, and will report to the Board about the utility line regularly.

CLOSED SESSION: 6:33p

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously (6-0) to enter a closed session to discuss the Library Director’s Performance Review. Director Ed Garcia was notified prior to this meeting that this review would take place pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and 42-46-5.

Jack Tregar made a motion to enter a Closed Session. Jen Cowart seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0).

Jack Tregar made a motion to end the Closed Session at 6:48 pm. Regina Spirito seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0). No votes were made in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:49p

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Drayton Fair. Larry Warner seconded.
Motion carried (6-0).