

## CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday June 14, 2023 at 6:04p at the William Hall Library.

### **Present were:**

*Jen Cowart (arrived at 6:20p)*

*R. Drayton Fair (arrived at 6:31p)*

*Michael Goldberg*

*Diane Schaefer*

*Regina Spirito*

*Larry Warner*

*Ed Garcia, Library Director*

*Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director*

*Allyson Quintanilla, Secretary for the Board of Trustees*

*Excused: Jack Tregar*

### **INTRODUCTION: 6:04p**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04p.

### **MINUTES: 6:04p**

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 10. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

### **LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:04p**

#### LORI Grants

The library received two grants from the RI Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) under the LORI competitive grant program.

Project Title: Library Collections Diversity Assessment

Grant Award: \$9,200

The Cranston Public Library will conduct a diversity assessment of its collection and purchase recommended materials. Library staff are committed to building collections that reflect the community and represent a wide range of experiences. Using Ingram Library Services "iCurate inClusive" product, staff will learn where there are gaps in the collection and purchase recommended

materials that reflect the diverse composition of the community. The grant includes funds to conduct the assessment as well as funds to purchase materials. We will have staff members who are current URI GSLIS students or recent graduates purchase materials as part of this project to help them gain collection development experience.

Project Title: Library Outreach “Branch7”

Grant Award: \$19,555

Cranston Public Library is launching “Branch7”, a new library outreach van. The library will be outfitting a vehicle with storage, filling it with materials, and wrapping it with visible branding so that it can bring meaningful library experiences to neighborhoods that are far from the library’s physical locations. Starting in summer 2023, “Branch7” will deploy to strategic locations in underserved neighborhoods to provide access to essential library services like registering for library cards, checking out materials, and participating in the summer reading program. The funds will be used to outfit our new van with books, book carts, chairs, wifi capability, supplies for outdoor activities and promotional materials.

-Due to the resignation of Councilman Matt Reilly. There will be a special election held to fill the Ward 6 council seat. The Central Library will be a polling location on 9/5 and 10/3. CPL will partner with the Cranston Herald to host a candidate forum at Central on 9/19.

-Koha/Aspen launch update: on May 22, the new ILS system launched on schedule and on time. While there are still many challenges, we are working through them the best we can.

-The Library joined the RI Commerce partnership with EducationSuperHighway to increase enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program in Rhode Island. Only 33% of eligible households in Rhode Island are taking advantage of this program to receive a discount of \$30 per month off their internet bills. The library will help promote the effort using our social media channels.

-On June 5th, the Central Library hosted the Cranston East and Cranston West Top 10 students acknowledgement breakfast.

-The Spring issue of the Bridge has a three page feature on William Hall Library. Branch Librarian Robin Nyzio helped the writer with research.

### Buildings and Grounds

-The City Highway department completed repair of the walkway between the Hall Manor and William Hall Library.

-The Hall Trust will be conducting a powerwash of the exterior stone of the building from July 24-28th. The vendor will be Stay Clean Power Washing.

-Top Golf site environmental concerns. Throughout the construction of Top Golf, there have been large dust clouds and airborne debris coming from the site onto library property and other surrounding properties. It had become a nuisance especially for our HVAC system. We learned that under RI Code of Regulations 120-05-5, there was a DEM requirement for this type of airborne dust to be strictly controlled onsite by watering down the site constantly to prevent dust from escaping. After consultation with the Mayor's and Carpionato Properties this issue was addressed. For the past two weeks, there has been no dust and we have seen trucks watering down the site. The trash issue that was previously reported to the board was also addressed. We will keep the board informed if there are future issues with the construction.

### Programming

-The library will be hosting Safety Saturday at Central on June 17 10a-12p. Local safety organizations such as Cranston Police & Fire, several veteran's groups and the Hope Recovery Center will be on hand with safety information and giveaways such as free SHARPS containers, gun locks, COVID tests and naran.

-The library hosted an eWaste pick-up event at Central with Indie Cycle on June 10th.

### Summer Reading preview

This summer the Cranston Public Library is partnering with the local Health Equity Zone, the Cranston Historical Society, and the Police and Fire Departments to host a one-of-a-kind book fair in an underserved neighborhood in Cranston. The event will take place at Governor William Sprague Mansion on June 17th, the evening after the last day of school. Every child who attends will get to choose a free book from a special book fair in the mansion, while other activities will take place on the grounds and at the Fire Station across the street. In order to have the greatest impact, this event will be held in the middle of Census Tract 147, a neighborhood where fewer than a quarter of children have public library cards (22%), and almost half of households (48%) make less than \$50,000 a year. This event is designed to make children in Census Tract 147 feel like "VIPs" and to bring families from other parts of Cranston to this neighborhood for a core summer reading event: the summer reading kick-off.

The youth summer reading theme is "Make Some Noise!" which is a variation of the statewide theme, "Raise your Voice." Each week of programming is based on a sound: Roar, Chomp, Vroom, Zap, Tweet, Boing, Click and Splash! For example, during "Chomp" week, we have programs about sharks, dragons, and snacks. There are also 8 raffle prizes based on those sounds. Children can earn raffle tickets by reporting the time they spend reading online or by doing a speech bubble book review. The speech bubbles are available at all libraries and in the promotional brochure that went home with all public school children. The library is also offering four activity kits that encourage children to express themselves by pretending to be reporters, songwriters, protestors, and playwrights. Teens can participate in the raffle, volunteer at the library, and attend more sophisticated programs, including a comic writing workshop and AI camp.

The adult summer reading theme is "Find Your Voice," also a variation on the statewide theme. From June 12 through August 19 we've got a variety of programs that play with this theme, including a poetry reading workshop and showcase, a how to get published panel featuring local authors and Steven Porter from Stillwater River Publications, autobiographical comics workshop with graphic novelist Jonathan Todd, and a Puppet Poetry performance as our grand finale. We will also feature three take and make kits, made possible through a mini grant from the Office of Library and Information Services: no sew sock puppets, Morse Code keychains, and flower pot wind chimes. Summer reading participants will be encouraged to use Beanstack to track their attendance at events, completion of a take and make kit, and several reading challenges - each completed activity will count towards an end-of-summer prize drawing.

We will hold 65 children's programs, 18 teen programs and 15 adult programs this summer.

#### Teen volunteer overview

On Saturday June 3rd we held our Summer Teen Volunteer Orientation in the community room. We had 165 teens apply for the program and 94 were able to come in person to orientation. We went over volunteer expectations and they signed up for what volunteer opportunities they were interested in. They also helped put bookplates in the free books for the upcoming Summer Reading Kickoff event and counted out packets of brochures being sent to the elementary schools. It was a very busy event and it was wonderful to see the teens so excited to help out over the summer! We can't wait for summer reading to begin.

#### AI Camp

CPL is partnering with the Artificial Intelligence Lab, University of Rhode Island to host the AI Summer Camp. This camp is designed for those entering grades 4-8. During the camp, students will learn about the fundamental concepts of AI and explore real-world applications of AI, such as image recognition, speech recognition, and natural language processing.

#### Staff

-Several CPL staff presented at the recent Rhode Island Library Association Annual Conference. Dave Bartos presented alongside a librarian from the National Library of Medicine on graphic medicine. Graphic medicine are graphic novels and comics with a health, wellness and disease theme. Tayla Cardillo and Dave Bartos hosted a live podcast recording for Downtime with the Cranston Public Library with guests ALA President-elect Emily Drabinski and Associate Executive Director of ALA's Office on Intellectual Freedom Deborah Caldwell-Stone. Alyssa Taft presented along with a high school librarian Book Talk Blitz - 75 booktalks in an hour! Also Julie Holden, Tayla Cardillo and Tina Ash (CPL part-time staff member) did an incredible amount of work on the RILA conference committee.

-On June 1st, Julie Holden was invited to attend the IMLS Information Literacy Convening 3 at the Providence Public Library. Librarians, museum directors, and information experts from across the country came to Providence for this 2 day event. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 directed

IMLS to create "...an Information literacy taskforce tasked with developing guidance, instructional materials, and national strategies on information literacy, including, at minimum, the creation of a website to disseminate best practices on information literacy and toolkits specially designed to help people of all ages understand, evaluate, and discern the reliability and accuracy of information. Julie was asked to be on a panel showcasing the partnership & funding chain between the National Library of Medicine, the NNLM Region 7 staff in Worcester, and the grant that led to the local "Healthy Families at the Cranston Public Library" initiative.

-Ed Garcia attended Internet For All: ConnectRI Broadband Summit on June 1st. This all day event at CCRI Newport was hosted by the RI Broadband Office and NTIA. The summit was a review of a new federal program that will bring millions of dollars in federal funding to Rhode Island for broadband infrastructure and digital equity.

-Ed Garcia, Martha Boksenbaum and Tayla Cardillo will be attending the American Library Association (ALA) annual conference in Chicago between June 22-27.

Attached was a report from Hall branch librarian Robin Nyzio.

#### **BUDGET REPORT: 6:30p**

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS: 6:35p**

##### Review of Auburn patio project bids:

A motion was made to accept the lowest bid from Chirico Construction by Drayton Fair. Michael Goldberg seconded. Motion carried (5-0)

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### Revision of Computer, Internet, & Wireless Use Policy: 6:44p

A motion was made by Larry Warner to approve the Revision to the Computer, Internet, & Wireless Use Policy pending the grammatical edits. Diane Shaefer seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

##### Revision of Media Preservation Policy: 6:48p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the Revision to the Media Preservation Policy. Larry Warner seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

##### Revision of 3D Printer Policy: 6:49p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the Revision to the 3D Printer Policy. Larry Warner seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:00p**

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