

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday April 19, 2023 at 6:07p at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Jack Tregar

Regina Spirito

R. Drayton Fair

Michael Goldberg

Diane Schaefer

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Secretary for the Board of Trustees

Excused: Jen Cowart, Larry Warner

INTRODUCTION: 6:07p

The meeting was called to order at 6:07p.

MINUTES: 6:07p

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

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:08p

Administration

-Ed Garcia and Julie Holden participated in Library town hall events with Senator Jack Reed on April 9th. Ed participated in an event that morning at Providence Public Library. The morning town hall was dedicated to sharing with the Senator information on how RI libraries partnered with PPL to provide digital skills training using ARPA funds provided by RI Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS). The Cranston Public Library partnered with PPL to offer classes at the Cranston Senior Center. Ed & Julie then attended an afternoon Town Hall at the West Warwick Public Library. Libraries from across the state discussed how ARPA funds were used at their libraries.

-New ILS system

Ocean State Libraries is moving all RI public libraries to a new Integrated Library System (ILS) this spring. The ILS is the catalog system. We are moving to a new system called Koha and a new public facing discovery system called Aspen. The implementation will take place May 18-23. CPL has developed a marketing plan to promote these changes to the public starting on April 13th. Please see attached handout which will be given out to the public to explain some of the changes.

Morphic software trial

-We are testing out an accessibility software called Morpic at the Central Library. If the trial is successful, then we will deploy the software at all CPL locations. Morpic gives easy access to features that make it easier to use the computer such as changing text size, magnifying the screen, reading selected text, clipping content, increasing contrast, reducing glare, and providing filters for users with colorblindness. Morpic will be useful to patrons who have limited computer skills or difficulty viewing the screen. It's free, easy to use, and doesn't track user information. We have contacted the St. Louis Public Library, where Morpic has been deployed on over 120 public computers. They said public response to it has been positive, and staff were enthusiastic about sharing Morpic with their patrons.

-The library received a \$2,400 grant from OLIS for the summer reading program.

-The Cranston Public Library Association Board of Directors approved a request from the library for \$4,100 to help fund the summer reading program. CPLA also received a \$500 grant from the Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation for the summer reading program.

Budget Hearing Schedule

April 10th – Library budget hearing -6p

April 20th – Budget amendments -6p

April 27th – Budget Adoption -6p

May 9th – consider potential Mayoral vetoes; Final Adoption – 6p

Buildings and Grounds

-Hall Library - the boiler ceased working on March 13th. This began a two-week upheaval of library services at Hall. Arden HVAC technicians found that the motor on the blower had seized and they couldn't bypass it. The boiler digital control motherboard had shorted out - the theory is that this is a digital piece in a damp basement and perhaps moisture caused the unit to fail. Parts for this repair proved difficult to acquire.

We closed the building completely on March 14 & 15. The temperature inside was in the 50's. We opened the building for limited daylight hours on March 16, 18, 20 but even with space heaters it proved too cold for occupation. Ed reviewed the RI Building Code and found we needed to maintain a minimum temperature of 65 degrees between Oct. 1 and May 1. The building was closed again to the public March 21-24, causing significant patron confusion after ABC6 published a dramatic headline

saying "William Hall Library closed until further notice" We re-opened on Saturday March 25 once the boiler was finally repaired.

-Reference office update - this is the last remaining office space to be renovated from its original 1983 stylings. The installation of new furniture will take place on April 20th.

-Knightsville's new hours started Monday April 3rd and so far, patrons have been showing up in the new 10-11 am hour, which is what we expected.

-Oaklawn branch will be closed on Monday, May 1st due to the May Breakfast held at the Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church. The breakfast is from 7a-11am and they traditionally use the library parking lot for the crowds. Since the Oaklawn branch is open from 10 am - 1pm, we traditionally close the building that day.

-The Parks & Recreation Department removed the old bike rack at William Hall Library for us.

Programming

-Senator Reed's Women's History Month Event - we were honored to be chosen as the host site for Senator's Reed's annual event. The national theme for this year's Women's History Month was "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." The Senator came to Central on March 24th and introduced a packed room to the panelists: Kim Kalunian, Co-Anchor and Reporter at WPRI 12; Loren Spears, Executive Director of the Tomaquag Museum; and Contessa Brown, Author and Motivational Speaker. It was a lively and celebratory event.

-April Vacation Week programming had a full slate with at least 20 programs for various ages scheduled across all branches.

Staff Updates

-Tayla Cardillo, Oaklawn Branch Librarian, has been named the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies Recent Alumni of the Year. She will be presented the award at the GLIS 60th Jubilee on May 12th.

-Teen Librarian Alyssa Taft recently had an article published in Computers and Libraries Magazine about starting a teen blog. Please see attached article.

-Ed Garcia and Julie Holden attended the RI League of Cities and Towns annual conference on March 23rd.

-Elena Rios was featured in the Cranston Herald for an author visit she organized for the students at her former school. Article attached.

-RI Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Month

On March 30, 2023, the Rhode Island Holocaust and Genocide Education Commission (RIHGEC) kicked off the first annual observance of RI Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Month, taking place in April. Featured speakers included members of the General Assembly, state educators and librarians, as well as members of the RIHGEC and other community leaders. The program focused on resources and materials about genocides that are readily available to the general public through libraries within the state. Dave Bartos, coordinator of adult services at the Cranston Public Library, has been partnering with the RIHGEC since February; the RIHGEC is seeking to expand its reach to the public libraries in the state, and Dave has been working with the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center since 2019, so this was a natural partnership. Dave delivered remarks at the event, calling for a commitment to intellectual freedom. He cited his work with the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Rhode Island Library Association, and shared the mandate from that committee that "free people deserve to read freely." Libraries - public, school, and academic - work to provide accurate and authoritative information so that Rhode Islanders can learn about the past honestly, grapple with these difficult and complex issues, and move forward as a stronger society. A commitment to "Never Again" begins with education and awareness, after which we must all take action to build solidarity with our community, reject division, and stand together against the demonization of any minorities. Dave called for us all to use this observance to reaffirm our belief in a society where everyone is afforded the freedom to be their authentic selves, without fear of persecution or violence, and the freedom to learn from the past and, having learned better, to do better for each other in the future.

Following the event, the RIHGEC and guests were invited to the Senate Chamber, where the proclamation declaring April to be Holocaust & Genocide Awareness Month was read in full before being enacted by the Senate.

Full video of the RIHGEC event at the State House Library can be found at this URL:

<https://ritv.devosvideo.com/show?video=ea9d77162d5d&apg=c7e3a6c7>

The event was also covered by The Armenian Weekly

This upcoming Saturday, April 22, is Shred Day co-hosted by TW Financial Group. This event is always well attended by the community. The Western Cranston Garden Club will also be cleaning up the Central Library's side yard.

On Saturday, April 29, Ed Garcia will attend an RI Panthers hockey game where funds will be raised in former Trustee Fred Miller's memory.

Rep. Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung will be visiting one of Auburn's ESL classes. She has donated another \$1,000 to support this program, which has been overwhelmed by registrants.

The Hope Recovery Center recently distributed information and 80 boxes of narcans to patrons during a two hour information session in front of the Central Library entrance.

BUDGET REPORT: 6:29p

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023.

We will be increasing our insurance policy budget to accommodate an increase due to an increase in claims by the City.

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

The draft City of Cranston FY24 budget was distributed. The requested increase to the library's budget is reflected. A 10% increase was budgeted for insurance. The next amendment hearing will be April 20th.

Purchasing a New Library Van: 6:46p

Our current van has low miles but high wear from driving around the city and on/offloading materials daily. A new van needs to be purchased and outfitted for delivery use.

A motion was made to approve the use of up to \$45,000 from the reserve funds to purchase a new van to be used for library deliveries and outreach by Diane Schaefer. Michael Goldberg seconded. All in favor (4-0).

NEW BUSINESS:Revision to the Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy: 7:01p

A motion was made by R. Drayton Fair to approve the revised Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy pending the requested changes. Michael Goldberg seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

Cranston Tree Planting Program at Central Library: 7:09 p

A motion was made by R. Drayton Fair to approve planting three trees on the Central Library property through the West Bay Land Trust Tree Planting Program. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

Approval of Auburn Branch Outdoor Patio: 7:15 p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the use of up to \$15,000 pending final approval by the Board for an Auburn Branch outdoor programming patio. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

Media Preservation Policy: 7:31 p

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg to approve the Media Preservation Policy. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 7:39p

A motion was made by R. Drayton Fair to adjourn the meeting. Regina Spirito seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-0).