

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:00p at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Jen Cowart

R. Drayton Fair

Regina Spirito

Jack Tregar

Larry Warner (arrived 6:11pm)

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Secretary for the Board of Trustees

Excused: Diane Schaefer

INTRODUCTION: 6:00p

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.

MINUTES: 6:01p

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2024. Jen Cowart seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT: 6:01p

Administrative Updates

-The Mayor moved our Capital budget request to repair the Central Library parking lot to FY26.

-When OSL launched the new Aspen discovery platform in May 2023, the Hoopla digital platform became discoverable in the library catalog and not just via a website link. Each time a patron borrows a title on Hoopla, CPL is charged a usage typically between \$1.99-\$3.99. At our current rate of usage, the cost has become unsustainable. The usage of Hoopla has more than doubled since it became discoverable in Aspen with the majority of usage coming from patrons borrowing digital audio books. To date we have spent \$12,000 this fiscal year on Hoopla content. Starting on March 1st, I have placed a \$1,000 monthly spending limit. To achieve this there will be a daily budget limit each day there will

now be a daily lending budget limit. It is possible that a patron will be blocked from borrowing due to the cap being met for the day. They will receive this message that explains the cost and budgeting process for Hoopla. We are evaluating Hoopla statistics and looking to see if we can make other adjustments to make this product more sustainable.

-Senator Reed will be holding his annual Women's History Month event at the Central library again this year. The date is Monday March 25. The panel has not been announced yet.

Buildings & Grounds

RISE engineering conducted an energy audit of the Central Library. We are awaiting a quote for replacement of all light fixtures to LED.

Programs

New museum passes added to our offerings. Audrain Automobile Museum in Newport (pass admits one person for free admission). Offered free to the library by the museum. Roger Williams Park Zoo (starting March 1st) Pass saves \$3 off the regular ticket price for up to four daytime general admission tickets. Courtesy of the Friends of the Cranston Public Library. Rhode Island Computer Museum program series - In order to better serve young people in upper elementary school, the youth services team has started offering hands-on technology programs for grades 4-8. We found that our K-5 programs were attended almost exclusively by children in grades K-3, but when we grouped grades 4 and 5 with the middle school, we had great success in attracting audiences and offering more complex programs. To expand the range of topics we could offer, we are partnering with the Rhode Island Computer Museum to offer a series of 4 "content creation" workshops for grades 4-8 in the coming month. Topics range from sound engineering to stop motion animation. This series is funded by a grant from Senator Hanna Gallo.

-Shred Day is going to be on April 20 from 9 am - 12 noon in the Central library parking lot.

BUDGET REPORT: 6:11p

The budget report was distributed reflecting July 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: 6:23p

Ed Garcia presented the following library legislative updates to the Board of Trustees:

-H7335/S2589: STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

-H7386/S2281: FREEDOM TO READ

-H7508/S2514: UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES –eBook LICENSING

-H7575/S2429: PROTECTION FOR LIBRARY WORKERS AND EDUCATORS

Director Garcia gave an update on the resolution for full funding of library state aid from the Cranston City Council. Garcia testified at the Council Finance Committee. The Committee unanimously passed the resolution to the full Council for consideration. All committee members asked to be added as sponsors of the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:43p

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jack Tregar. Drayton Fair seconded.

Motion carried (5-0).