

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Cranston Central Library.

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Regina Spirito

Jen Cowart

R. Drayton Fair

Diane Schaefer

Jack Tregar

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Quintanilla, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Lisa Kirshenbaum

INTRODUCTION: 6:00 pm

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

MINUTES: 6:00 pm

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 18, 2024. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administration updates

As of January 1, 2025, 36 part-time employees were raised to \$15 an hour to comply with the new state minimum wage.

Cybersecurity insurance has been completed. The original price was increased from \$2800 to \$3000 because the original quote expired.

The library is implementing Multi Factor Authentication on several systems with a completion target of the end of January. Two Ocean State Libraries systems including our ILS and our CPL email/communications will be included in the rollout.

The library applied for a \$12,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation to replace 14 computers that cannot be updated to Windows 11. Microsoft has announced a date of October 25 to end support of Windows 10.

The library has applied for funds for additional children's books and program supplies for Branch 7 with a legislative grant from Senator Hanna Gallo.

The Auburn branch closed one hour early on December 20th due to snow.

Buildings & Grounds

Received final quotes from Metro Alarms for fire alarm upgrades to "radio box" equipment. Reviewing with the Fire Department.

Programming

The Adult Services department has a full schedule of computer classes posted for January including an Online Privacy & Security basics class on January 23 at Central.

AARP Tax Preparation is scheduled at Central from February 7 - April 11. This is by appointment only; there are no walk-ins.

Staff Updates

Zach Berger, Hall Librarian is now the co-chair of the Rhode Island Library Association Mentoring Committee.

P/T Librarian Zaidee Everett was hired for a full time position at Johnson & Wales University.

Hoopla Sustainability:

The board discussed the decision by administration to cancel the Hoopla service. The cost to provide this service to all of the Cranston Public Library patrons is too high to maintain and is unsustainable. In the past 12 months, only 0.046% of our 36,000 cardholders have been able to access the service. The inclusion of low quality AI created content and content that does not comply with our Collections Development Policy creates a significant amount of work for our librarians.

Ed Garcia and Julie Holden have been reviewing other programs to potentially replace this service that would better fit the library budget, and the needs of the Cranston Public Library patrons.

BUDGET REPORT:

The Gifts and Restricted Accounts Report, and the budget actuals as of December 31, 2024 were presented and reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Board officers:

Jack Tregar nominated Michael Goldberg to be the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Regina Spirito volunteered to remain as Vice Chair.

A motion was made to elect Michael Goldberg as Chair and Regina Spirito as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees by Drayton Fair. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried. (6-0).

Appointment of Board liaison with the Cranston Public Library Association Board of Directors:

A motion was made to appoint Michael Goldberg as liaison with the Cranston Public Library Association by Regina Spirito. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried. (6-0).

Appointment of Board standing committees:

Personnel Committee: Drayton Fair, Regina Spirito, Michael Goldberg

Finance Committee: Diane Schaefer, Jack Tregar, Michael Goldberg

Review of the Annual Report:

The 2024 Annual Report was presented to the Board of Trustees.

A motion was made to approve the 2024 Annual Report by Jack Tregar. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried. (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 6:51pm

A motion was made by to adjourn the regular meeting of January 15, 2025 by Drayton Fair. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (6-0).