

EAST PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 2021

4:30pm

Present: M. Marcotte, Chair, K. Dias, C. LaRoux, D. Paiva, E. Ingraham, P. Silva, P. Armstrong

Staff: J. May, Acting Library Director, M. Bonds-Harmon, Head of Reference Services

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 by M. Marcotte.

Motion to review and approve the January 6, 2021 minutes by D. Paiva with all in favor.

Friends' update

The Friends received eight letters with donation checks totaling \$400+ in response to the bulletin that was mailed out.

Financial Report

Programming costs remain light; we are under budget in that area.

The Riverside phone bill will now be the responsibility of the library to pay.

The Mayor has lifted the spending freeze. Purchases over \$2500 continue to need Mayoral approval.

Old Business

Jenson Hughes has started the design phase of Weaver's sprinkler system update. This phase is expected to take several months. They will also provide us with a digitized final copy of the plans. Installation will take 2-3 months. If we are awarded the Champlin Grant a direct payment would be made to Delta Mechanical in July.

Pandemic Response

J. May made a presentation to the City Council on January 19th regarding library services while the library doors are closed.

In person computer appointments resumed last week.

Chief of OLIS, K. Mellor, is encouraging us to find a way to reopen the library buildings before the Mayor's Executive Order expires.

J. May expects the library's doors to open on Wednesday 2/17. East Providence hosts a convenient testing site for staff to access and 5 staff members expect to be vaccinated soon. If virus cases trend down, testing capacity remains high, and there are still no library transmissions, May hopes the library will move towards a full schedule by spring or the end of March. The public appreciates consistent hours and May is keeping that in mind when determining a new schedule for Riverside. Any discussion of reducing Riverside's hours will need a vote. M. Marcotte would like to move in stages and get the library open first before jumping ahead to a discussion of full hours.

A part time Reference Librarian will be requisitioned to fill the one that will be vacated soon.

C. LaRoux stressed the importance of the library being open. He would rather see the library open and close for exposure than completely closed.

M. Marcotte would like to see the library open with limitations and staff on teams.

The Board of Trustees was unanimous about wanting the library buildings to be open as soon as possible.

May will address this with the Mayor immediately.

Directors' Reports

M. Bonds-Harmon reports that the Fuller Creative Learning Center is seeing use of its 3-D printer. They are planning to offer programs on financial literacy this spring. They are continuing existing series due to patron requests. Fuller will also receive a \$250 stipend for a collaboration with Age Friendly RI that will be put towards programming.

The Riverside Branch library has the AARP on site to provide safe, socially distanced tax prep assistance.

AARP volunteers utilize the community room two days/week for the drop off and return of documents.

The postcard outreach project continues with wide participation across the community and staff. Our personalized book selection service launches next week. Computer appointments are going well. Staff took a lot of time on the front end to fine tune our procedures to keep patrons and staff safe while also providing the assistance that is expected.

Our part time Librarian, A. Duarte, has submitted her resignation for her first full time professional position in Dracut, MA. Co-workers are proud of her career advancement and celebrate the mentorship that we provided at the East Providence Public Library.

The Youth Services department has launched a new reading challenge “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.” J. May describes two recent examples of EPPL staff kindness and staff’s positive reputation around the state. Public Services Librarian, M. Perry, provided notary service to a dying woman. Library staff at Jamestown Public Library made positive remarks about our Youth Services Coordinator, P. Schwieger, who is known for providing exemplary youth services to our community.

Three staff members are participating in a Facilitator Training for Learning Circles. This is a collaboration between RILA and Peer 2 Peer University (P2PU), a community based approach to learning. Once completed, facilitators have committed to leading a Learning Circle about how to talk about race for library staff across the state.

Reading Across RI is in its 19th year and is encouraging library communities to hold an organizational read for this year’s title *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds. The library has 12 copies available for this purpose and there should also be copies of the audiobook/eBook to download from eZone. The Trustees were invited to join the virtual discussion with staff, and the Friends’ and Foundation Board members on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 7pm.

Motion to adjourn at 5:47 by K Dias with all in favor.