

EAST PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

4:30pm

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

Absent: P. Armstrong

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by M. Marcotte.

Motion to accept the February 2021 minutes by D. Paiva. K. Dias accepts the motion with all in favor.

Friends' Update

D. and L. Paiva have been working in the basement at Weaver organizing donated books. A book sale is tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in April. Both indoor and outdoor options are being explored. The Friends have been invited to do a weekly book sale at the Farmers' Market this summer.

Financial Report

18% of the library budget has been spent at the end of the 1st quarter mark.

A part time Reference Librarian position has been posted and a full time Library Aide position is open for promotion among union members currently.

J. May hopes to replace the Children's Room assistant with a Children's Room Librarian but that needs approval from the Mayor and the unions.

As J. May reaches her six month mark as Acting Director the Trustees would like to make a recommendation to the Mayor that she be made Director. The City Solicitor will be contacted about what the protocol is and the Trustees will send a letter to the Mayor with their recommendation and request for information about how to proceed.

Directors' Reports

M. Bonds-Harmon Report

P. Schwieger of our Youth Services Department is collaborating with three other cities/towns on a statewide virtual "Rooster Games" for children using the RI Children's Book Award titles. She is also participating in "Project Ready" a professional development series which provides antiracism curriculum with an aim to improve library services to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) youth. P. Schwieger is also serving a 3 year term on East Providence's PreK School Improvement Team.

The staff at Fuller Creative Learning Center are planning on financial literacy programming for Money Smart Week in April. They also plan to offer bundles of seeds from the URI Master Gardener program again. Fuller continues to see occasional drop-ins for use of their laptops and 3D printer.

Tax preparation assistance appointments are full and going smoothly at the Riverside Branch Library.

Saturday hours at the branch begin on March 6th.

J. May Report

The East Providence Public Library will be receiving a \$2,000 legislative grant to go towards enhancing our outdoor space with 5 benches for the Weaver Lawn and a picnic table for the Fuller Creative Learning Center. Staff will be pursuing OLIS non-competitive summer reading mini-grants totaling up to \$1,250.

The Planning Dept. is also seeking a \$75,000 grant to bridge the digital divide in East Providence. It would provide hotspots, refurbished hardware and basic computer literacy classes to families/individuals in East Providence. As a grant partner, the library would receive funds to hire an instructional librarian to conduct the classes.

March 29th at 7pm is the discussion for our organizational read, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi.

The Library Department has been a team player in the City vaccination effort with a number of library staff

volunteering at the callcenter, vaccination site and from home or their work stations.

D. Paiva makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40pm.K. Dias seconds it.