

EAST PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 4:30pm

Champlin Program Room, Weaver Library

Present: K. Dias, C. LaRoux, D. Paiva, E. Ingraham, P. Armstrong

Absent: P. Silva, M. Marcotte

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:27pm by E. Ingraham.

K. Dias made a motion to accept the April 2021 minutes. D. Paiva seconded the motion with all in favor.

Friends' Update

The Friends plan to offer a weekly book sale at the Weaver Farmers' Market. Books were donated to Wyatt Detention Center and the Boys & Girls Club this month. The Friends approved a purchase up to \$1,000 of preschool sized chairs and tables for Fuller.

Financial Report

Two outdoor lights were broken at Weaver and will be replaced. Facilities is considering replacing all the lights with an estimate close to \$15,000.

Joyce will ask programming librarians to submit budgets for proposed spending. Programming costs will increase with the return of in-person programs.

J. May does expect that some money from our budget will be returned to the City as we have had 4 vacant staff positions. She has begun an expenditure list as she expects several building and equipment repair expenses, i.e. \$2000 self-check machine repair. eZone spending will also be higher.

Old Business

Covid Response: May 6th capacity limit is at 80% and by May 28th it will be at 100% providing that 3 feet of physical distance be maintained. J. May is expecting OLIS to remove library browsing time limits. She would like to rescind the modifications to the current meeting room policy and reopen it to outside organizations for use.

The mask mandate remains for indoors and is removed for outdoors on 5/20.

As of 5/28 the temperature screen will be removed from library buildings.

Starting June 1st, Weaver will be open 4 evenings/week and library staff will be working as one team, in the building, with the exception of our ALL teachers who will be teaching their classes virtually from home.

P. Armstrong makes a motion to accept the May 8, 2021 updates as written in the COVID control plan to resume the Meeting Room Policy and Patron Conduct Policy. K. Dias makes a motion to second it with all in favor.

The Charlie Cart has arrived at Fuller and a kickoff event will be held in early June. Four sets of children's tables and chairs have also been purchased for Fuller.

New Business

We have been awarded \$1250 in LORI summer reading grants.

We have also received \$825 in donations from a patron that recently passed away.

There was a tree planting event at the Riverside Branch Library and benches were donated by a new organization Young Families of Riverside.

J. May introduced the topic of removing children's overdue fines. If approved, a possible kick off event/promotion could coincide with a back to school in the fall.

P. Armstrong and K. Dias question if removing overdue fines for adults also removes the impetus for on-time returns. Warwick Public Library has dropped children's and teen's fines and there has been a positive outcome with more activity on children's library cards. The Library did a lot of communicating around this initiative with the public schools.

Staff Update

J. May was appointed official Library Director on April 27th. A new Youth Services Librarian position has been approved. We are not eliminating the Youth Services Assistant position but will fill it at a later date.

Directors' Reports

M. Bonds-Harmon Report

The Reading Buddies service will return in person at the picnic tables outside. Youth Services Coordinator, P. Schwieger, has been invited to serve on at least two committees in collaboration with East Providence Schools.

Fuller saw 65 walk-ins in the month of April. Additional sewing machines were donated.

The patrons of the Riverside Branch have been enjoying the new trees, outdoor benches and indoor seating.

Device Advice, an in-person and walk-in service, has resumed. There are several chairs added back to the floor for 30 minute seating. Computer sessions have increased from once to twice a week. Monthly adult book clubs are now adding in person discussion in addition to virtual discussion.

J. May hopes to offer a vaccination clinic at the Farmers' Market to further encourage vaccination in the 02914 zip code.

B. Ingraham motions to adjourn at 5:30pm and is seconded by P. Armstrong.