EAST PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGMINUTES
Wednesday, June 2, 20214:30pm
Champlin Program Room,Weaver Library

Present: M. Marcotte, Chair, P. Silva, E.Ingraham, D. Paiva, C. LaRoux
Excused: P. Armstrong, K. Dias,
Staff: J. May, Library Director, M. Bonds-Harmon,Head of Reference Services

Called to order at 4:38pm by M. Marcotte.P. Silva made a motion to approve May 5, 2021 minutes. All seconded the motion.

Friends' Update

The Friends continue to plan for weeklybook sales at the Farmers Market.

Financial report

42% of the annual budget has been spent.

J. May has created an expenditure list. Two self-checkmachines will be repaired for $2,000. Weaver's window screens will be repaired for $500. A new fire alarm box estimated at 15K will beneeded. Facilities recommends replacement of outdoor lights for $5,000-$6,000.

Old Business

Fire sprinkler system work should startin July.

An estimated $10,000 in library fineswill be collected this year compared to $40,000 in 2019. The statewidedecision to waive fines concludes on July 1st and it willreturn to local control in each city/town.

Senate Legislative Grant: A $2,000 checkhas been returned from the vendor because they cannot provide the product. Anew vendor will be found to provide the additional picnic tables/benches.

New Business

Resuming services:

Evening hours at Weaver have returned.We are now offering the 60 unique hours weekly as required by State standards.Weaver recorded its highest door count figure since reopening on 6/1/21.

Meeting room use has resumed at bothWeaver and Riverside. Capacity is only six people in at Riverside as children'stoys and furniture still stored there.

LTO services continue uponrequest.

Computer sessions have returned to 60minutes in duration.

J. May would like to see a half-day onFridays return to the Riverside Branch.

Staff Update

The full time Library Aide position hasbeen offered to an East Providence resident.

The new full time Youth ServicesLibrarian position has been posted to the public.

Discussion of Removing Fines forJuvenile and YA materials:

Since the national movement of removinglibrary fines, one third of RI Public Libraries have removed some percentage offines in an effort to promote equity by removing barriers to library use. Ourfirst goal is for our patrons to return to their library, not the collection offines. In 2018 automatic renewal of materials was instituted statewide. In 2020we saw only $5,000 in fines collected mostly in replacement costs for materials.The breakdown of collected fees was: 78% adult, 13% teen, 9% juvenile. Forclarification: we are discussing the removal of juvenile and YA overdue finesnot replacement fees for lost/damaged materials. Additionally, EPPL has alwaysprovided 2 months of fine amnesty ("Food for Fines") and has not fined seniorcitizens for at least 20 years. Overdue fines cap at $10. Benefits to removing Juvenileand YA fines include staying true to our motto of "patron first" because weknow that removing overdue fines increases access. Based on reporting fromother libraries, other benefits include an increased number of new librarycards, increased returns of lost books, and fewer negative interactions betweenlibrary staff and

patrons due to fines. Seventy-six percent of materialsare returned on time in RI.
J. May will clarify with City Solicitor,M. Marcello, that the city ordinance related to library late fees has beenrepealed and that the Library Board of Trustees has the authority to remove fines.
The proposed removal of fines would beattached to the materials not to the library card, that is, late adultmaterials would still carry fines. Evenat their highest, fines/replacement fees and copier/printing fees were only1.6% of the library budget.
D. Paiva asked what stops patrons fromusing cards that have fees accrued. Answer: the self check machine indicatesthey must check out at the front desk and that staff person clearly sees in redthat they have fines due.
P. Silva likes the idea of removingshame and barriers to library use.
B. Ingraham agrees with P. Silva andwould like to see some limits or monitoring of chronic late/lost materials.
C. Laroux supports the removal ofoverdue fines on juvenile materials and cites the shame factor.
M. Marcotte supports zero fines forchildren and teens and once materials are X number of days past due, the cardcannot be used for new materials. Once the past due item is returned, the finewill be waived.

Directors' reports

M. Bonds-Harmon:

The Youth Services department hasobserved an increase in children and families using the Children's Room.Outdoor programming to include a movie, concerts, Storytimes, and summerreading programs have been planned for the summer.
The Fuller Creative Learning Center willhold their Charlie Cart Kick Off event on Wednesday, June 9th at 5:30pm.eRecycling and a shredding event are upcoming and the recording studio has seenincreased interest.
The Riverside Branch has collaboratedwith EBCAP and EP HEZ to offer a "Take & Make" craft & info kit free tofamilies. Outdoor Storytimes at Rose Larisa Park are planned for thesummer.
Museum passes have returned. A summerreading program for all ages is in development.

J. May:

The Farmers Market kicks off on June24th with the Jesse Liam Band. The July 15th Market will feature a Covidvaccination clinic and food trucks.
Our newly digitized collection of EPHSyearbooks has had a high number of clicks.
The City and RI Tree Council are fundingneeded mitigation work for the our Copper Beech tree.

Adjournment

M. Marcotte motioned to adjourn at5:47pm. D. Paiva seconded the motion with all in favor.