

EASTPROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 4:30pm

Champlin Program Room, Weaver Library

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

The meeting is called to order at 4:30pm.

There is a motion to accept the June 2021 minutes. All Trustees are in favor, with zero opposing.

Friends' Update

Volunteers have been sorting books and preparing for the Fall Book Sale scheduled for October 15-17, 2021. Volunteers hosted a pop-up Book Sale at the weekly Farmers Market. The Friends financially supported the Summer Reading Challenge by providing books as prizes and donating money to cover other prizes. The sale of special and collectible books at a higher price earned nearly \$400. The Friends recently received memorial contributions totaling \$1,240. The annual membership drive has 80 people joined to date.

Financial Report

There is a surplus expected for this fiscal year due to unfilled staff positions. Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget workshops are underway and a draft of the budget is available to view on open.gov. The Mayor has agreed to allow library overtime in that budget, allowing us to resume Sunday hours in November 2021. The library budget has seen an overall increase of 1.08%, including an \$10K increase in maintenance and a \$1K increase in professional trainings and conferences.

The City has filled 12 staff positions using ARPA funds, including 2 at the library.

J. May reports that in the 2020-2021 year the East Providence Public Library offered 849 programs (600 virtual) serving 10,000 people. We also recorded 61 videos and our website visits nearly doubled for the same year.

Old Business

M. Marcotte entertains a motion to vote to eliminate late fees on Juvenile and Young Adult materials.

E. Ingraham seconds the motion with all Trustees in favor.

Sprinkler system update: Delta Mechanical started their work at the Weaver Library and expect it to take about 2 months.

P. Armstrong points out that the Weaver Library cupola needs painting. J. May agrees and states that the Mayor wants the funding for this work to be included in the City's capital budget, not the library budget.

New Business

Motion to approve new service hours at the Riverside Branch Library to expand to Monday evenings until 8:00pm and add Fridays 9:00am – 1:00pm. All Trustees are in favor.

\$3,500 has been spent on the care of the Copper Beech tree on the Weaver lawn to add oxygen and nutrients to its compacted soil. Annual aerating, fertilizing, adding new soil, fungal spraying and cutting of dead parts is recommended. A wide circumference around the tree has been roped off to allow healing.

There was a Trustee suggestion of soliciting donations for the care of the tree.

The grandfather clock and window screens at Weaver Library have been repaired.

Staff update

Two new staff positions, the full time Youth Services position and the part time Adult Language Learning teacher, have been filled and both employees will begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Directors' Reports

M. Bonds-Harmon

The Summer Reading Challenge for all ages was successful. The streamlined in-person sign-up process, simple directions and new prizes resulted in an increase in signups and participation. Outdoor programs were well attended by children and community service opportunities for teens remain popular.

Fuller Creative Learning Center celebrates its 5-year anniversary. R. McCauley is creating a group of community members to guide Fuller staff in understanding the needs and wishes of the community. S. Branch will be restarting in-person craft programs at the Riverside Branch, spread out in two spaces to provide maximum spacing. Outdoor storytimes also restart at the Rose Larisa Park in late September.

J. May:

Ryan will be holding Fall music performances at Weaver Library with 45 – 50 people allowed in the program room. A Trustee suggested that the City Hall Chambers or a local school auditorium could be a larger site that would hold a larger audience.

The East Providence Public Library has been awarded a \$15k tech grant for 14 more public computers, monitors, keyboards, and 10 Wonderbooks for the Children's Room.

V. Lawson, member of the RI Senate, has selected the East Providence Public Library for a 2nd legislative grant valuing \$4k.

PBS News Hour recently selected the Weaver Library Children's Room as their location to record an interview with Brown University professor Stephanie Sy.

The Weaver Library will exhibit two paintings during the month of September. David Weed of the Sowams Area Heritage highlights the 17th century history of tribal activity in the East Bay area.

Motion to adjourn at 4:35pm, seconded, with all in favor.