

EASTPROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Meeting

October 6, 2021 4:30pm

Champlin Program Room, Weaver Library

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

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

M. Marcotte called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

September 2021 minutes were reviewed with one typo found. M. Marcotte made a motion to accept the minutes, with typo corrected, with P. Armstrong seconding the motion and all Trustees in favor.

Friends' Update

176 Friends' annual memberships have been paid. Promotion of the Fall Book Sale is underway. The library will be open 1-5 on Sunday 10/17 for the Book Sale only. Memorial donations to the Friends, given in the name of library patron, now total over \$2,000.

Finance Report

The City Council approved the City budget 3 to 2 after 1 public hearing and 3 workshop sessions.

The State Grant in Aid application has been submitted and we will be receiving an additional \$36,000 in state aid. The amount increased from \$411,000 to \$447,000.

Gratitude to staff member C. Balasco who attended multiple training sessions for the City's new accounting system and has come up to speed very quickly.

Old Business

The Weaver Library Fire Sprinkler basement update phase was completed in one month. Work will begin upstairs when needed pipes arrive; there has been an interruption in the supply chain.

New Business

Trustees B. Ingraham and K. Dias, were both reappointed to the East Providence Board of Library Trustees for three more years.

We applied for an ARPA competitive mini-grant through OLIS for the Weaver and Riverside Children's Room. We hope to purchase two "Krayon Kiosks," iPads, and chairs. The Foundation submitted the same grant to the RI Foundation. If both grants are awarded, Krayon Kiosks for potentially all three locations could be purchased.

Fuller Creative Learning Center has reached its 5 year anniversary. Coordinator, R. McCauley states that registration and attendance numbers for programs have reached pre-Covid numbers. J. May wants to grow Fuller again with a third staff person. Options include a new staff person who is there for half of their week and the other half at Weaver. Or, as M. Marcotte, K. Dias and P. Armstrong suggest, a new staff person who is at Fuller full time but could be pulled for Weaver coverage only if needed.

Staff Update

The City has denied the request to acquire a new generalist PT Librarian position in place of the PT Reference Librarian for which we interviewed in March 2021. We will either wait until April 2022 when the Eligibility List expires or call the next names on the list.

Directors' Reports

M. Bonds-Harmon's Report

Because Fuller has seen an increase in program attendance and Ryan has been steadily increasing Weaver's adult programming, staff needs there have intensified. We are regularly sending staff there Thursday evenings and a few Fridays in October.

Riverside staff have been focused on weeding and facility improvements. J. May intends to apply for a Champlin Grant to cover a laminate floor in the program room, new carpet throughout the library and possibly a window application/shade to protect the book stacks. Funds from the Friends that were pegged for

Riversideuse but were never spent could also go towards new chairs in the program room.

TheChildren's Department has introduced new outdoor programming. Reading Buddyappointments are happening and the backpack kits are popular with families.More families are observed using the Children's Room and plans for newfurniture/displays are underway.

J. May's Report

J.May is speaking with an Eagle Scout who is seeking approval for a project thatwill benefit the library. He will construct a fence around our Copper Beechtree, providing the labor and materials for free.

InNovember and December 2021 we will start the hiring process for 2 full timepositions and 2 part time positions. The City's Capital budget includes \$55,000for a new HVAC system at Fuller.

Fullerand Weaver will soon have new outdoor LED lights installed.

M.Marcotte asks about the status of the Library Foundation. B. Ingraham and J.May provided an update.

The Foundation, which was started 2 years ago, wasintended as a second source of funding to support Literacy and the FullerCreative Learning Center. It is a 501c3 so anyone who donates can take a taxdeduction. The Foundation has a board, bylaws, meets quarterly and intends tosubmit annual reports to the Trustees. The Foundation Board includes, L. Akin,K. Simpson, M. Carlozzi, I. Walker, B. Ingraham, J. May, D. Whitman, and S. Fish.

M.Marcotte entertains a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:53pm. K. Dias secondsthe motion.