

East Providence Board of Library Trustees

December 1, 2021 4:30 PM

Fuller Creative Learning Center

Present: M. Marcotte, C. LaRoux, E. Ingraham (via Zoom), P. Armstrong, K. Dias

Absent: D. Paiva, P. Silva

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

M. Marcotte calls the meeting to order at 4:40pm.

K. Dias makes a motion to accept the November minutes. All in favor.

Friends' Update

The proceeds from the Book Sale are the highest we've seen at \$6,500 – this includes the raffle, Collector's Corner and the presale.

The Friends will be purchasing folding plastic book crates and spent \$280 on poinsettias for library holiday décor.

Financial report

The maintenance budget should be spent in 2022. There are a number of roof leaks at Weaver Library and a roofer is scheduled to assess.

The sprinkler system replacement project continues in the Weaver "attic" and fire alarm boxes now have a cost between \$25 - \$35K. The library's contribution is \$10K.

Outdoor lighting at Weaver should come to about \$10K.

The outdoor trim at Weaver also needs to be painted.

Old Business

Weaver Library has opened on Sundays. We have sent a press release to the East Providence Post as well as purchased a frontpage ad.

Fines Discussion and Vote

M. Marcotte proposed discussion of the elimination of all overdue fines.

Currently, overdue fines on juvenile materials have been eliminated. Fine status does not influence the late or on time status of checked out materials. When an item is seven days overdue, the library card is frozen (unable to be used) and a late notice is sent. A second late notice is sent at 14 days. Around the state, 70% of libraries are fine free. Neighboring Barrington Library recently went fine free. Overdue fines collected were a miniscule (less than 1%) of our budget. All the large library systems in our state are now fine free.

P. Armstrong makes a motion that the East Providence Public Library go fine free. The motion is seconded and all attending are in favor.

New Business

J. May would like to increase the Page position from \$11.50/hr to \$12.50/hr and the part time Library Aide positions from \$12.50/hr to \$14.50. SGIA funds pay for our entire part time staff salary budget. M. Marcotte makes a motion to proceed with a raise for both positions. All in favor.

Staff Update

There were no internal candidates for the Youth Services Assistant job posting and it has recently been posted externally.

The part time Digital Services and Reference Librarian has posted externally.

The Assistant Director position has posted internally.

Directors' reports

M. Bonds reports that the Children's Room will be adding Wonderbooks to their collection. Wonderbooks are a print book with a ready-to-play audiobook inside.

The Riverside Branch reports that Monday evenings (the one night they are open until 8:00pm) have been quiet and Storytime registration has been low.

In person program attendance at Fuller continues to remain strong with the attendance number doubling from November of the previous year.

J. May reports that Dr. Geoff Berg, leader of Great Books, has donated \$1,000 for the purchase of an OWL camera. This camera will be used for hybrid programming – where participants can join in both in person and virtually.

M. Marcotte makes a motion to adjourn at 5:30pm. P. Armstrong seconds it with all in favor.