

EAST PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees

May 4, 2022

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

Staff: M. Bonds-Harmon, Acting Director, P. Schwieger, Youth Services Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Marcotte at 4:31pm.

The April minutes were reviewed, corrected, and approved with a motion by M. Marcotte.

Friends Update:

Book Sale – The Friends held a successful Spring Book Sale in April. Twenty-six Friends' members volunteered at the book and bag sale. Total proceeds amounted to \$5,496.

Book Donations – The Friends continued to donate books to worthy causes. In April, we donated 3 boxes of Portuguese books and books by popular authors to the Senior Center, two boxes of children's books to the Little Free Libraries project of the East Bay Community Action Program and three boxes of young adult books to Carl Sweeney's Faith to Hope Drive.

Membership – The Friends' added 39 members during the book sale. With additional recruits, to date, we currently have 341- our most members yet, and have exceeded this year's goal of 300.

Financial Report: M. Bonds-Harmon is learning about the budget, and making sure the library is on track to spend the budget by the end of fiscal year. There was discussion about the maintenance budget and how it has almost been spent because the sprinkler system went over budget. The majority of the professional services line item has not been spent, however, we have many programs planned for the summer that will be paid through this part of the budget.

Old Business:

Library Director Search:

The second application deadline is Friday, May 6. There are ten applicants including three new applicants, so far. Joyce screened the last batch. M. Bonds-Harmon will screen the new applicants and make sure to get cover letters from HR. She will send the applications to the interview panel for final selection for interviews.

Consultant during interim:

C. LaRoux will serve as a consultant to M. Bonds-Harmon while she is Acting Director. This was arranged through N. Gonsalves, Director of Administration, Acting Director of HR.

Weaver Library fire sprinkler system

Delta, the installation company, is just waiting on EPFD to sign off on the new system.

Vote on 2022 Holiday Closing Schedule

We do not have the 2022 holiday closing schedule from the city yet.

Take It Outside grant

We did not get the grant. Pam gave further explanation as to what the play space would look like. P. Marcotte expressed concern over teens and young adults using the playground inappropriately. P. Armstrong suggested installing a motion sensor light to discourage inappropriate use.

Drag Story Hour

Much discussion was had. Patty was not in favor, and expressed her concern with the term "drag." Pam shared the library's reasoning as to why we are planning this event. EPPL is committed to creating a more equitable, diverse, and including community; and opposing marginalization and underrepresentation within East Providence. Drag Story Time is a celebration of diversity within a literacy experience. It gives children and their families positive role models who break gender stereotypes, and encourages children to accept the differences of others and themselves. We are adding this event to the list of Pride events that the city hosts during the month of June each year.

New Business:

LORI Summer Reading Mini Grant

Pam explained the mini-grant award and described the legislative grant that will be used for the permanent StoryWalk structures for the Weaver Lawn.

Trustee LaRoux temporary leave of absence

Chris will attend the meetings, but he will not vote.

Staff Update:

Youth Services Assistant

Stephanie Faria has started.

Head of Reference Services

Lisa Perry is operating in that position until the city formally approves her for the job.

Young Adult position

Pam and M. Bonds-Harmon finalized the job description and it was sent to HR today.

Director's Report:

Our computer and tech classes have restarted. Amber's classes have started in earnest including once a month at Fuller and Riverside. Numbers are low, but growing.

Second Champlin grant opportunity in June. They are usually open to equipment type items. We are still considering what to apply for and some ideas include:

- New flooring, new program room chairs for the Riverside Branch

- Children's room desk

The city has \$700,000 in CDBG funds to disperse. They are looking for organizations to spend those funds.

C. LaRoux is helping M. Bonds-Harmon brainstorm ideas for a strong application.

East Providence Library Foundation member, I. Walker, will be invited to attend a Fall 2022 Trustee meeting to talk about the Foundation.

Adjournment: Peg adjourned at 5:44.