

EAST PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees

September 7, 2022

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

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

Absent: P. Silva

The meeting was called to order by M. Marcotte at 4:32pm.

The May minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by D. Paiva.

Friends Update:

Farmers Market

The Friends continued to host a pop-up book sale at the Farmers Market. Because of the extreme heat at five of the markets, the Friends distributed 200 free bottles of water to vendors and market patrons.

Volunteer Hours

A total of 11 Friends volunteered in June, July and August sorting books and working at the Farmers Market for a total of 104 hours in June, 172 hours in July and 186 hours in August.

Monetary Donations Received

In August, the Friends received a check for \$250 from the EP Athletic Club in memory of John and Lillian Chalmers. It was from their 25th annual John Chalmers Memorial Golf Tournament.

Book Donations to Other Causes

In August, the Friends donated 46 inspirational books to Riverside Sisters for distribution to victims of domestic violence.

Collectors' Corner Presale

In preparation for the Fall Book Sale, the Friends assembled a collection of about 70 Lovecraft and horror genre books. The collection was sold to Paper Nautilus Book Store for \$800.

Fall Book Sale

The Fall Book Sale will be held at Weaver Library on October 14-16. A Members Only Preview Night will be held on Thursday, October 13 from 6 to 8pm.

Financial Report: .

FY23 City Budget

M Bonds-Harmon presented a library department overview and the library budget last night at the city's budget hearing. The Mayor had either level funded each budget line or had given us a slight increase. The lines that had increased were utilities, part time staff pay, professional development.

M Bonds-Harmon pointed out that we had spent \$12,000 in August in the maintenance line because DPW charged an extra \$10,000 to the library because the sprinkler system came in over budget. DPW had taken the money out of our budget without prior notice. M Bonds-Harmon has since communicated with Dan Borges.

The RI General Assembly is now meeting the law, and providing state grant in aid at 25% so we will see an extra \$66,000.00 in our state grant in aid.

Old Business:

Library Director Position

M Bonds-Harmon will sign her contract this Friday at 11:00, and officially become the director of the library.

New Business:

Copper Beech Tree:

P Armstrong proposed that we commission a painting of the tree. M Bonds-Harmon will reach out to the East Providence Arts Council. P Armstrong thinks it should be at least 15-20" in size. B Ingraham suggested having an unveiling.

M Bonds-Harmon will remind our parks supervisor about laying down the mulch which was supposed to happen in August.

Proposed East Providence Community Center

There was a recent article in the EP Post. M Bonds-Harmon said that the mayor sees the library involved. M Bonds-Harmon would like to see the library involved, assuming it is a space that is well designed to the specifications that the library would want and need.

P Marcotte said that the mayor had suggested closing Fuller and moving it to the new Community Center. P Marcotte told the Mayor that we would need additional staff to work at the community center if we did have a library space there.

J May had proposed a kiosk for lending books and bringing programs there.

P Armstrong proposed being proactive with our wishes as to how to be a part of this.

M Bonds-Harmon reported that the architect sent out a survey to everyone on the committee. M Bonds-Harmon and J May completed this survey with thorough details of the library's needs within that space. In the letter the Mayor wrote to the state office outlining the project, he mentions the library offering digital training

and workforce development. M Bonds-Harmon thinks we could use the large capacity space since we are limited to the indoor space of the program room at Weaver Library. M Bonds-Harmon wants to offer quality services rather than just more and more, and not ask the staff to do more with the same.

M Bonds-Harmon asked if the Trustees think of Fuller as the building on Dover Ave or the services that the Fuller staff provides. P Marcotte said she thinks of people going to the Fuller building and participating in programs.

Solicitation Policy

It became apparent that we needed one this summer as election candidates asked to solicit support on library property. M Bonds-Harmon is still working on this.

December staff training

That information will come at the next meeting.

2023 Trustee meeting dates

M Bonds-Harmon asked if the dates look ok. C Balasco will update the meeting dates on the Secretary of State website.

Staff Update:

Teen Services Librarian started yesterday.

Fuller Assistant position is open to the general public and closes tomorrow.

Assistant Director - after Friday at 11:00, we should have a vacancy for that position.

Director's Report:

Our first community camp out related to our summer reading theme. Three staff and eight volunteers worked on this. LL Bean came and made crafts, and gave out free sunglasses. Activities were crafts, games, campfire, etc. Michelle alerted the police so they could keep an eye on the yard overnight.

P Marcotte asked that they could be informed beforehand next time because they look at things through legalities.

P Schwieger reported on the new StoryWalk.

Farmers Market

M Bonds-Harmon will be evaluating how the market went this year, and deciding what kind of criteria we should be using to determine the future of the Farmers Market including feedback from all involved (farmers, staff, shoppers, director, etc.).

Exterior painting of building

This was submitted as a capital budget project and rejected. P Armstrong suggested testing the paint for lead paint, and expressing our concerns about the lead paint being inside and outside the Children's Room. It was also suggested that we use the research that staff member R Yuski has been doing and promote Weaver Library through the EP Post and newsletter.

Adjournment: P. Marcotte adjourned at 5:51pm.