CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6:00pm at the William Hall Library, 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905.

Present were:

Jack Tregar, Chair
Regina Spirito, Vice-Chair
Julie Colangelo
Roberta Costa
Fred Miller
Fred Raisner
Mary Ann Slocomb
Ed Garcia, Library Director
Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Also in attendance was Adrienne Gallo Girard, William Hall Branch Librarian.

Minutes

A motion was made by M. Slocomb to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting pending the following addition:
Day Program Policy – It is proposed the library rescind this policy because it was determined that the policy is against the ADA law according to the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities.

R. Spirito seconded. Motion passed (6-0) Note: There were six (6) members present at the time of motion.

Library Administration Report

Highlights of the Library Administration Report presented to the Board by the Library Director and Assistant Library Director are note below:

The Cranston Public Library Association received the following grants:

1) $250.00 from Pawtucket Credit Union for the summer reading program
2) $500.00 from Cranston Municipal Employees Credit Union
3) $750.00 Talk Story grant from the Asian Pacific American Librarian Association (APALA) for a bilingual Khmer/English story program
The Auburn branch received new program chairs last month courtesy of money from the Auburn Library Association.

J. Holden discussed her ongoing involvement in the Net Neutrality movement. She was a panelist on the ALA Chapter Relations webinar entitled “Stated Respond: The Fight for Net Neutrality Continues” on March 28th. The panel is looking for strategies to repeal net neutrality. She noted that Washington State is the first state so far to sign a law that prevents internet service providers from blocking and slowing down content online.

Youth Services is offering “Brick by Brick” through the end of May. This is a three night series of family Lego programs in collaboration with the Cranston Public Schools Family Center and involves readalouds and building activities using the library’s collection of over 5,000 bricks. Library staff chooses a theme and reads two books on the topic. There is then a design challenge that families participate in together. This has been a popular program so far with sixty (60) in attendance at the first session!

The following handouts were included in the Board package for informational purposes:

1) A list of Teen Book Clubs and summary/history of the Rhode Island Teen Book Award (RITBA)
2) A copy a section of the Mayor’s Budget Address discussing the proposed “Fine Free” switch for Cranston Public Libraries.

3) The library’s Annual Shred It Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

4) Cranston Public Library Fundraiser at Pizzeria UNO on Tuesday, April 24, 2018

The Highway Department replaced the parking bumpers at Central.

130 people attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration last Thursday – photographs taken at the event will be available at the next Board meeting.

This past Saturday was Cambodian Culture day. The library partnered with the Rhode Island Center for Southeast Asian Studies to hold this event. 61 people were in attendance to enjoy the activities. Three (3) Buddhist monks from Rhode Island temples attended the event as well.

Capital Project Update

1) Roof bids – the City Engineer and Purchasing Agent re-bid the project and received two (2) bids. The low bidder was Eagle Cornice
Company at $179,880.00.

2) The contract for the restroom improvements has been signed. E. Garcia stated that they are working with company for asbestos abatement before the restroom work can begin.

3) Admin remodeling projects are currently on hold for now because of the impending roof repairs.

- A flyer for The Summer Weeding Program was included in the Board package. The URI Master Gardener Program donated an assortment of free flower, vegetable, and herb seeds packets to the library. Patrons may also participate in a program in which they can keep a diary of the progress of their garden on various library social media accounts and enter a raffle to win gift cards.

- Rhode Island Library Day is Saturday, April 14th which will also be Fine Amnesty Day. Patron fines will be waived on overdue items returned on that day.

- Work continues on the Champlin Grant, which will be geared to requesting funds for the first floor renovations of the William Hall Library. The last renovations were in 1989, and a number of items need to be addressed: painting, repairing hardwoods, switch to LED lights, replace doorknobs to be ADA compliant, study room renovation. E. Garcia stated that per the contract the library is
responsible for the repairs/renovations and the cost for all items is approximately $396,000.00 per an architectural firm hired to prepare a cost estimate. If approved, the grant would be received in November.

Budget Report

E. Garcia reviewed the Budget Report July 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018 with the Board.

Property Maintenance continues to be monitored. If something is not essential, it will be held off until next FY.

There was some discussion on encumbered items. E. Garcia explained that these are items that have been purchased, but not yet paid for.

Hall Librarian Report

A Girard discussed the librarian report included in the Board package. The following are highlights from the report:

A review of Adult and Youth Programming: Springs concerts will run from March through May and are always a popular attraction. The Travel Time Toolkit is a multi-week program for school age children which engages them with history, activities, and crafts. The I-Spy story time is also available for ages three through
five that includes literature, crafts, and puzzle solving.

Collection: Inventory and re-cataloging is ongoing to ensure patron satisfaction.

Book Sale: The Cranston Public Library Association Book Sale will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 10:00am – 3:00pm.

The Pawtuxet Farmers Market will be held on the front lawn of the library on June 9, 2018 from 9:00am – 12:00pm during Gaspee Days.

Finance Report

A copy of the Detail Expenditures and Revenues for the library from the April 9, 2018 City Council Budget Hearing was included in the Board package. E. Garcia stated that he spoke about the Fine Free Program at the meeting and the council seemed supportive.

Unfinished Business

Update on Carpionato Properties parking lot proposal – E. Garcia stated that there is nothing new to report.

Committee Update on 50th Anniversary of Formation of Cranston Public Library – Next Open House is scheduled for June at
New Business

Mary Ann Slocomb introduced herself as the new member of Board. She will be filling the remaining term of Rosemary DaSilva. She is a retired hospital librarian and brings with her an extensive background in community involvement, specifically as a member of the Cranston Public Library Association Board as well as starting a fund for “Innovative Programming Ideas” with her husband. The Board welcomed Mary Ann and looks forward to her continuing service.

Public Comment

There being no public comment, a motion was made by F. Miller to adjourn. M. Slocomb seconded. Motion passed (6-0).

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine S. Kinder