

Cambridge Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees  
June 8, 2017  
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Trustees' Room, 449 Broadway. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- Patricia Payne
- Karen Kosko
- Nancy Woods

*Also present:*

- Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries
- Karen Brown, Deputy Director of Libraries
- Reinhard Engels, Manager of Innovation and Technology of Libraries

Minutes from the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

#### Correspondence/Feedback

- Ms. McCauley notified members of the Board that CPL's Our Path Forward initiative is to receive CCTV's **Rossi Award for Creative and Responsive Leadership** in the fall.
- Ms. McCauley notified members of the Board that she has been invited, and has accepted, membership to CCTV's Honorary Board.

#### New Business

- Ms. McCauley initiated a discussion about the City Council's request to rename part of the main library to "Richard C. Rossi Building". Patricia Payne suggested the discussion be tabled until all Board members were present.
  - **Action Item:** Since the Board is set to adjourn for the summer, the Admin Office will try to schedule a special meeting in the next few weeks.
  - **Action Item:** Maria to invite David Maher to attend the special meeting.
- Mr. Engels presented the results of the Urban Library Council's Edge Assessment:
  - CPL was ranked slightly above average. Highest scores were in Planning and Policies, Technology Management, and Staff Expertise areas. Lowest scores were in Digital Literacy and Strategy & Evaluation.
  - Findings were not surprising, but will help in making a case for how and where to make improvements.
  - CPL has already started surveying patrons and is developing a new technology course. CPL is partnering with innovatorsforpurpose to develop a 2-week course to teach 3D modeling concepts to grade-schoolers within a low socio-economic group.
  - Reinhard noted the length of relevancy of course technology is unknown, however, that the conceptual knowledge will remain relevant long-term.

- Friends and Rotary Club members recently funded the purchase of a 3D Workstation, featuring a 3D printer, 3D scanner, a virtual reality headset and an augmented reality headset. (Trustees were invited to try these devices at the end of the meeting.)
- Ms. McCauley presented the CPL's End of Year Major Accomplishments.
- Ms. McCauley opened the discussion about *Cambridge Reads*, a topic at Ms. Kosko's request, to explore what happened with the program.
  - Ms. Brown provided a history of the program. The original vision was to select works of significant authors, have community conversation, and have the author come and speak. Despite lots of outreach and PR, the success of the program varied, it was difficult to get community conversation to happen, and it was hard to book significant authors with the funding available. A conscious decision was made to suspend the program.
  - Ms. McCauley stated that it was important to identify how success for any given program should be defined and judged. (E.g. Number of attendees, digital media interest.)
  - Ms. McCauley stated that, for any program, she needs to consider the amount of staff resource time it would take to support and where the program fits in terms of the other work the CPL is doing.
  - Ms. Kosko expressed that one of the best parts of Cambridge Reads was the connection between the libraries and schools. She was unsure what had happened to the program, as there was no communication about it ending.
  - Ms. Woods suggested perhaps some of the newer programs we've initiated have filled the void where Cambridge Reads used to be.
- Ms. McCauley notified members of the Board that the Citizen Exam Preparation Class with Maria B. was a success, having 22 attendees.

#### Special Events

- Ms. McCauley let the Board know about the Cambridge Housing Authority Kickoff, held at the Central Square branch on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Beginner's Genealogy Workshop has begun- it runs from June 5<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. McCauley let the Board know about 3 upcoming events: Fenway Health Panel on June 15<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Daina Ramey Berry on June 29<sup>th</sup>, and 2017 Summer Reading Kickoff on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Board members are invited to attend all events.

**Action Item:** Ms. Janet Axelrod requested the Admin Office send a list of meeting dates for FY18 to all Board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Woods, Secretary