

Cambridge Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees  
January 8, 2019  
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Trustees' Room, 449 Broadway. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- Omowale Moses
- Patricia Payne
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods
- *Also present:* Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries; Joy Kim, Deputy Director of Libraries; Maureen Sullivan, Consultant
- *Absent:* Karen Kosko

Minutes from the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

New Business

- **Strategic Planning:** Ms. McCauley & Ms. Kim shared the key work done so far, as well as speaking about the benefits of managers participating in the process. Ms. Sullivan provided Trustees with a process overview, including how and when the community will be engaged to provide input, and when Trustees can expect an outline, draft and final plan. Ms. Sullivan then led the Trustees through a discussion of CPL's current mission, vision, and values and any changes they would like to see. All Trustees agreed that they need to embrace a leadership role in this planning process & outcome.

**Action Item:** Ms. Kim to lead the Steering Committee in drafting an updated version of CPL mission, vision, and values with Trustee feedback in mind.

**Action Item:** When finalized, Ms. Kim to share with Trustees a list of organizations with which the CPL plans to perform outreach as part of the planning process.

**Action Item:** Ms. Sullivan/Ms. Kim/Ms. McCauley to share Aspen Report and any other relevant articles to inform the Trustees.

**Action Item:** Ms. Kim to identify a date in March to hold a follow-up meeting with the Trustees.

- **Central Square Incident:** A patron recently reported an incident of masturbation and pornography viewing at the CSQ. This patron also wrote a related letter to City Council, complaining about the CPL's lack of filters on public computers. Ms. McCauley shared with the Trustees details of the incident, the staff's response, the full investigation that followed, as well as the city's process to respond to the issue.

A collaborative response from the Library, City Manager, Cambridge Police, Law Department and Women's Commission upheld the Library's position to protect patrons' first amendment rights to view constitutionally-protected materials, including pornography.

As a result of this review, the Library is reviewing staff incident response training and will provide additional training as needed. The Library will also empower staff to relocate patrons viewing sensitive materials to workstations or seating areas that are not in direct lines of sight of high traffic areas/children's areas.

**RESOLUTION:** Trustees affirmed their support of the Library's commitment to patrons' right to intellectual freedom and privacy.

**RESOLUTION:** Trustees affirmed their support of the City's response to the Library incident re: pornography.

**RESOLUTION:** Trustees are committed to maintaining an atmosphere of respect and safety for patrons and staff in the Library, requiring library users to be considerate of the rights of others to work safely and undisturbed.

- **Collection Shifts Update:** Ms. Kim shared that all collection shifts are complete in preparation for STEAM except for the romance collection. Originally intended to stay on L1, we are proposing instead to reduce this collection by 10% and move it to the mezzanine. Trustees questioned circulation for these materials and Ms. Kim shared that they are less popular than other collections in Cambridge.

**MOTION:** Trustees approved a 10% reduction to the romance collection and moving this collection to the mezzanine.

#### Library Update & Upcoming Events

- Ms. McCauley provided an update of recent Library events and highlighted some upcoming programs.
- Trustees are invited to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> annual **MLK Jr. Day Celebration**, which will be held the Central Square Library on Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30pm.
- Trustees are invited to attend the opening lecture of the **Horizons: Exploring Breakthroughs in Science and Technology and their Impact on Society** series on Monday, February 4 at 6:30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Woods, Secretary