

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
March 5, 2019
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on March 5th at 5:00pm in the Trustees' Room, 449 Broadway. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

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

Minutes from the February 5th meeting were approved.

New Business

- **Strategic Planning:** Ms. Kim provided an update about the latest progress in the Strategic Planning process. The community input period is in its final week. Survey has over 1000 respondents so far, more than twice the amount from the last time the CPL did a SP survey. Forums are progressing well, though with relatively low attendance. We did, however, have a great turn-out of 25 youth at the Teen session. Idea Walls are also up through-out the community and location information will be recorded along with the community comments.

Action Item: Ms. Kim to check if we have Idea Walls in all Teen Centers in Cambridge.

Action Item: Once finalized, Ms. Kim to share Maureen's schedule through June with the Trustees.

Trustees reflected that the Library is special because the space/librarians feel safe for community members. The Library needs to be able to link patrons to the wider services they need throughout the city (e.g. social workers) and participate in discussions related to the Library, its services and patrons. Ms. McCauley shared that we are currently building relationships with other departments, such as CPD, that may help us accomplish this. Ms. Payne commented that, if patrons feel unsafe getting to or in the Library, this is an accessibility issue and requires a solution beyond the CPL alone.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to add an agenda item to the next meeting to discuss Central Square issues in the context of strategic planning.

Trustees wanted to know if the Valente community was participating in the community input for strategic planning.

Action Item: Ms. Kim will reach out to the Valente community when the branch reopens to ensure we have ongoing conversations with this community.

- **STEAM Renovations Document:** Ms. McCauley shared the document outlining the upcoming changes to the Computer Classroom and Information Commons. The classroom is now offline and will no longer function as a public space after the renovations are complete. Tech Bar renovations will cause periodic closures of the Information Commons areas, impacting our services. Patrons may be distressed by temporary loss of seating, the overflow space being reclaimed to a teaching space, as well as by fewer workstations. However, increasing the number of portable devices and enabling patrons to work wherever they choose within the Library moves us towards more equitability. Ms. McCauley assured that we will maintain our seating counts once the renovations are completed. This document is posted on the STEAM website and will be updated as needed.

MOTION: Trustees approved the document detailing the changes to the public computing area at the Main Library.

- **STEAM Update:** Ms. McCauley shared that the makerspace/Tech Bar construction bids are due at the end of the week. These renovations are likely to commence late spring/early summer. There is a capital request to fund screens for monitors that will enable patrons to view online content more privately. We are working with the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to expand availability of the Fuller Room. Priority will be given to those with accessibility issues, but when not in use, the space will be available to all patrons. We are also trying to determine how to maintain access to this space during construction or defining alternative options- clear communication and signage will be critical. Also, considering construction noise impacts and impacts on service animal safety.
- **Friends & Foundation Meeting:** Ms. Axelrod reported on another successful meeting between the groups. Both wish to continue to empower people to give to the Library and to reduce ongoing confusion. There appears to be willingness to be flexible and desire to support the Library in doing its work.

Library Update & Upcoming Events

- Ms. McCauley provided an update of recent Library events and highlighted upcoming programs.
- Trustees are invited to attend the **Friends and Foundation Boards' mixer** on Mar 15 at 5:30 PM.
- Trustees are invited to attend the **Maura Roosevelt** author event on Tuesday, March 26th, 6:30 PM in the Lecture Hall. A reception to follow.
- The next *CPL International Briefing* **Cuba: Why the Revolution Still Matters with Aviva Chomsky** will be held Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 PM.
- The next *Stringed Theory* event **Salsa Guitar with Gian Carlo Buscaglia** will be held on Monday, March 25 at 6:30 PM.
- The next *Horizons* lecture **DNA Testing and the Pursuit of an American Identity** will be held Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary