

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
November 12, 2019
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on November 12th 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
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods (in conference)
- *Also present:* Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries

Minutes from the October 2nd meeting were approved.

New Business

- **Behavior Policy Update:** Issue has arisen with “First Amendment Auditors” visiting public libraries and taking video of staff. If requested not to, these groups have been creating controversy that it is their First Amendment right to video.

The CPL has consulted with the Law Department, who found our behavior policy sound, and approved an edit to the policy to explicitly state that video of staff is prohibited.

Motion: Trustees voted to approve this amendment, as it is consistent with the existing behavior policy as has long been in place.

- **Valente Updates:** Ms. McCauley thanked Trustees for their ongoing support of the Valente project. She reported that the city-wide King Open Complex Event on Oct 26 was very successful and that the Deputy Director’s remarks were well-received. 500+ guests explored the new branch.

On Opening Day, November 4, 2019, we welcomed 375 patrons to the branch. This was followed by a successful voting day on November 5. Some minor issues/improvements remain, but overall, things are going very well at the new Valente.

Action Item: Given the Valente branch’s connection to the school, the Library Director to think about additional options for donating our used books- perhaps connecting with Jennifer Scott.

- **Central Square Branch Updates:** In response to community feedback from our strategic planning process, the CPL received a \$350,000 appropriation from City Council. This will fund a feasibility study and interior improvements to the Central Square Branch. We are planning shelving upgrades, new furniture and carpeting, as well as signage for wayfinding and improvements to the Tech Center and Lewis Room. The study will include potential future lighting improvements.

Action Item: The Trustees requested photographic documentation to clearly show the before and

after state of the CSQ branch. Trustees suggest hosting a reception to open the new space.

Though the Library has received no recent complaints about conditions at CSQ, Ms. Woods reported some recent issues she had observed.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to invite Michael Monestime to attend a future Trustees' meeting to continue the conversation, see where the BID is now and see where Trustees can help.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to share slides of the Chicago Housing Authority and Chicago Public Library branch designs.

- **STEAM Update:** Ms. McCauley informed Trustees that The Hive Opening Celebration will be Wednesday, February 12 from 3:00-5:00 PM, with snow date of Wednesday, March 4. The makerspace will be the focal point, with the studio spaces opening later. The Tech Bar, featuring laptops, hotspots, devices and STEAM kits for check out, is also planned to open for Feb 12.

The City of Cambridge STEAM Initiative has joined the Nation League of Cities, a national commitment to provide equitable access to quality STEAM learning experiences for all age groups.

Action Item: STEAM Programs Manager to attend a future meeting, perhaps to discuss CPL's plans for the Science Festival and how it can be used to promote new STEAM spaces.

- **Strategic Planning:** Ms. McCauley shared the following examples of projects in our strategic areas.
 - **Learning & Literacy:** Continue (and possibly expand) the Community Learning Garden, an outdoor classroom for learning about pollinating, growing, composting, etc.
 - **Learning & Literacy:** Continue the *International Briefing* series, which informs patrons about global issues that impact democracy.
 - **Welcome & Inclusion:** Continue with MBTA Outreach efforts to inform the public about library services. **Action Item:** Trustees requested outreach at the Kendall Square station.

Library Update & Upcoming Events

- Ms. McCauley invited Trustees to attend the **Valente Branch Celebration** on Wednesday, November 20 from 11:00-12:30 PM. The reception includes remarks, photos and a ribbon-cutting, with additional activities (STEAM Kamishibai Storytelling, DNA Testing & Genealogical Research) continuing throughout the day.
- Trustees are invited to attend the next event in the *Horizons* series, geneticist **Eric Lander** on Nov 18 at 6:30 PM in the Lecture Hall. Please RSVP to Paula.
- **Action Item:** Ms. McCauley to send a link to the Dream Big program video and details for the author event on December 12.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Axelrod, Chair