

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
December 4, 2018
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on December 4th 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
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods
- *Also present:* Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries; Joy Kim, Deputy Director of Libraries

Minutes from the November 13th meeting were approved.

New Business

- **Rossi Event:** Those who attended reflected on the success of the evening, the event, and how pleased Mr. Rossi appeared to be. Ms. McCauley updated Trustees that the naming of city buildings is by the authority of the City Manager's Office.
- **Strategic Planning:** The upcoming session with Trustees is on Dec 13, 3:30-5:30. It will include an overview of the planning process and gather Trustee input on the CPL's mission and values. On this visit with the consultant, the Steering Committee meeting will also plan for the community forums that will be scheduled in early in 2019. The consultant will also lead an all-staff session.
Action Item: Ms. Kim to share documents with Trustees that will help inform their opinions and decisions around planning.
Action Item: Ms. Kim to explore rescheduling the Trustee session to accommodate Ms. Woods.
- **STEAM Update:** The Trustees reviewed the STEAM Report, which reflects the progress of the various STEAM committees engaged in planning work, including the STEAM Design Committee, Launch Taskforce Committee, Collections Committee and Programming Committee.
- **Collection Shifts Update:** Ms. McCauley shared that all collection shifts are complete except for the final shift, which is currently in progress. It will complete early in the New Year. Trustees asked if there have been any patron complaints about the materials being moved and Ms. McCauley informed them that the Library has not received any complaints.
- **Gender Neutral Bathrooms:** Ms. McCauley shared that all the branches already have gender-neutral bathrooms and that the Main Library currently has a single gender-neutral bathroom in the Admin Office. There are plans to install a second one on L1 in the new makerspace. Both gender-neutral bathrooms at Main will have limited access- based on when these areas are staffed or by requesting access outside of staffed hours. This raises the question "What about the rest of the library?"
Mr. Roosevelt stated that this issue poses both ideological and architectural question. Our

position ideologically is not hard- we want to be inclusive and accommodate everyone- but the architectural question is how to implement in a way that makes everyone comfortable. This issue is one that the city is also looking at, specifically for City Hall, but also all public buildings. The Library will keep abreast of developments in this area.

- **Dog Park Proposal:** Ms. McCauley shared that there is a City Council order for the City Manager to determine the feasibility of fencing off an area on the North side of the Joan Lorentz Park for a dog park or at other suitable location in mid-Cambridge. She recently attended a city meeting about it and a public meeting will be held soon. There was a discussion that there is already a lot going on with the high school, library, park and playground in close proximity and fears for the Library building's aesthetics and the safety of children playing nearby. Ms. McCauley urged the board to think about this proposal.
RESOLUTION: Trustees feel a thorough investigation is needed to examine the appropriateness and availability of this and other options and want to be involved in the public process.
Action Item: Trustees will continue this discussion in the new year, inviting representatives from City Council, Community Development, the Joan Lorentz Park Committee and the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association to participate.
Action Item: Mr. Roosevelt to look for the criteria used for other areas designated as dog parks in Cambridge.
- **Friends/Foundation Meeting:** Ms. Axelrod informed Trustees that she & Ms. McCauley recently attended a meeting with Friends and Foundation representatives and it was very positive. All attendees agreed that there was a need to better-define each organization's role. They look forward to finding better ways to work together and to communicate with one another. More meetings will take place in the New Year.

Library Update & Upcoming Events

- Ms. McCauley provided an update of recent Library events and highlighted some upcoming programs in December.
- Trustees are invited to participate in a communal reading of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, which will be held the Main Library on Monday, December 10 at 11:30am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary