

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
March 4, 2020
Minutes

The Board of Library Trustees met on March 4th at 5:00pm in the Trustees Boardroom. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod, Karen Kosko, Omowale Moses, Nancy Woods
- *Also present:* Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries; Joy Kim, Deputy Director; Michael Monestime, Executive Director of the Central Square Business Improvement District.
- *On the phone:* James Roosevelt

Minutes from the February 4th meeting were approved.

New Business

- **CSQ BID:** Mr. Monestime provided a recap of the Central Square Business Improvement District (CSQ BID) efforts since its beginning on October 1, 2019. This group provides supplemental services to those offered by the City of Cambridge, with the mission of making Central Square cleaner, safer, and more welcoming. Twelve BID ambassadors work in 2 shifts from 7 am – 8 pm, 7 days/week. Mr. Monestime said that the BID has been receiving lots of positive feedback and shared Cleaning & Outreach statistics from Oct-Mar. He invited the Trustees to visit the new website at <https://centralsq.org/>

Mr. Monestime mentioned some recent successful events (Small Business Saturday, MLK Day of Service) the BID has supported and shared plans for a number of upcoming efforts (repairing CSQ post office stairs, wrapping big belly trash receptacles with public art). He shared some difficulties with finding meeting space for the BID outreach coordinator and CSQ residents. **Action Item:** Mr. Monestime to set up a meeting with the Deputy Director and CSQ Branch Manager about possible collaboration. **Action Item:** Mr. Monestime to send Trustees CSQ artwork maps.

The BID is working with the First Baptist Church, hoping to partner on opening the church basement to the homeless. Signage for parking garage was taken down for the recently-created Sylvia Lopez Chavez mural, but is scheduled to go back up soon. There is a request by the creator of the Dot Matrix art installation to paint over a portion of the new mural. **Action Item:** After Mr. Monestime speaks with Jason Weeks, Trustees to write a letter/meet with Arts Council about painting over the new CSQ mural.

Mr. Monestime invited Trustees to visit during BID office hours, Wednesdays 3:00-5:00pm. **Action Item:** Ms. McCauley to send Library events to Mr. Monestime for promotion.

- **CSQ Discussion:** Ms. McCauley reminded the Trustees how the \$350,000 appropriated by City Council for CSQ improvements is being used (interior improvements such as new furniture, carpets, signage and fixture repairs, as well as a lighting study). If funded, our future work could include implementing lighting recommendations and conducting an Assessment & Building Program study. In addition to rolling out CSQ improvements, CPL

staff are engaged with multiple major projects and staff capacity is highly stretched due to these projects, on top of ongoing work.

- **STEAM Update:** The Tech Bar will open to the public on March 19th. The service desk here will provide (in-library and out-of-library) device checkout and basic technology advice. Starting in March, Take Home Tech will be available from all CPL locations and includes Chromebooks, go-pro cameras, electricity usage monitors and portable DVD players.

Following the Opening Celebration on March 19th, The Hive will open to the public on Tuesday March 24th. STEAM staff will initially focus on welcoming specific youth and community groups to the space, with limited equipment and programming for patrons. The Hive will gradually increase its offerings for the public over the coming months and additional classes will roll out as new equipment is introduced.

On March 20, the CPL will host a Grow with Google workshop at the Main Library. It will provide jobseekers, small business owners and entrepreneurs with courses to increase their digital skills, as well as one-on-one career advice.

Mr. Moses updated Trustees about MathTalk (<https://mathtalkpbc.com>), in support of early math learning, which hopes to activate spaces in the Library and have the Library become a resource where kids can access opportunity. This effort aligns with the Math Matters theme, a priority for the City's Family Engagement team. **Action Item:** Mr. Moses to invite the Trustees on a tour when MathTalk relaunches this spring.

- **Other News:**

- Ms. Axelrod shared that she had received a call about concerns related to a recent art display at CSQ. The Trustees discussed the importance of intellectual freedom and that the Library must treat everyone the same, which can be difficult in matters that suggest hate speech/imagery for some patrons.
- Ms. McCauley informed Trustees that the CPL is fielding staff concerns about the coronavirus. The Library is sharing Public Health and CDC information, ordering more cleaning products, scheduling increased wipe-downs of facility surfaces, promoting proper hand-washing and encouraging employees to stay home if they are sick.
- Ms. McCauley updated Trustees about a recent power outlet vandalism issue at the Main Library and that, on the advice of the City's Law Department, CPL will follow our Privacy Policy.
- Ms. McCauley shared with Trustees that a new mural may soon be installed at the Valente Branch, due to a donation from a Cambridge resident through the Friends.

Library Update & Upcoming Events

- Ms. McCauley informed Trustees about recent successful CPL programs.
- Ms. McCauley notified Trustees of an upcoming reception to unveil and celebrate Kehinde Wiley's limited-edition print, *Head of a Young Girl Veiled* (2019), on April 7 at noon. (This piece is on loan to the CPL by an anonymous donor through the CPL Foundation.) A screening of the 2014 documentary *Kehinde Wiley: An Economy of Grace* to follow in the Lecture Hall. **Action Item:** Ms. McCauley to send Trustees an invitation the unveiling of Kehinde Wiley's limited-edition print.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary