

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting for January 7, 2025

Location: Hybrid – Main Library & Zoom

Attendees: Meagan Albright, Michael Baenen, Karen Kosko, Maria McCauley, Carson McGrath, Risa Mednick, Jim Roosevelt, and Liz Werby.

1. Public Comment: None

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for any corrections to the December 3, 2024 meeting minutes. Jim noted that he was left off the list of attendance; Executive Assistant Carson McGrath flagged this error and fixed the mistake. No other corrections were mentioned. The minutes were approved with motions by Trustees Michael Baenen and Karen Kosko.

3. Youth Services Overview with Meagan Albright

Manager of Youth Services, Meagan Albright shared a presentation on the overview of the department and her perspective and experience on library services for youth. First, Meagan introduced herself to the group and went into detail on her over 18 years of library experience. She explained youth services librarians are often intergenerational librarians, supporting not only youth patrons but caregivers, parents, grandparents and more. The Cambridge Public Library offers youth programs across all branches, including sing alongs, LEGO Club, the Summer Reading Program, etc.

Meagan noted that kids can sign up for their own library card at the age of 5 with full privacy rights and that many of the Youth Librarians visit schools across Cambridge to celebrate with kindergarteners as part of the Kindergarten Card Campaign. The Youth Services team also partners with other youth-serving community organizations on initiatives that support the development of literacy skills and a love for reading, such as Book Bike and Arts in the Park. Meagan shared a few unique programs offered through the Youth Services department including a Baby Sign Language Series for caregivers and babies at four Branch locations, as well as CPR for Parents and Caregivers. She said both of these programs were in response to patron need. Lastly, Meagan said to save the date for the Library's upcoming Curious George Lecture on March 19. The Library is excited to welcome cartoonist and children's book illustrator Jerry Craft for the annual lecture.

4. Library Updates

Director Maria McCauley opened her updates by informing the group that the City and the Cambridge Public Library Staff Association (CPLSA) agreed on a three-year successor collective bargaining agreement. The contract will be effective from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

Director McCauley said the Adult Services team was busy in December hosting an array of programming including a weekly virtual Zumba Gold class that welcomed 25 participants a week

and Virtual Culinary Classes for Older Adults on Food Prep 101 and Holiday Dishes. Maria noted the Library also recently had a big transition to a new Museum Pass Reservation system. The Adult Services team, along with the support of IT, successfully migrated from Plymouth Rock TixKeeper to Springshare LibCal in less than three weeks.

The Boudreau Branch hosted a cookie swap at their Cookbook Book Group in December, along with a button making workshop. The Central Square team held an end-of-year celebration with their ESOL students with support from the Cambridge Public Library Foundation. Director McCauley shared a few photos of the students provided by the Literacy Project showcasing the celebration. The Program Manager from History Cambridge joined the O'Connell team at the December Coffee and Chat. The O'Neill Branch welcomed over 110 children and caregivers to their Noon Years Eve party at the end of the month. The Valente Branch also hosted a Noon Years Eve part with 120 patrons in attendance.

Lastly, Director McCauley provided updates from the Collection Services and Youth Services teams, as well as on digital equity. Collection Services deployed phone charging hubs to all Library locations and received the Toniebox orders to process this spring. Toniebox is a screen-free listening experience for kids 3+ that play stories, songs, and more. Maria said the team is excited to bring this new item to the collection. Youth Services debuted a new special mini-series, Story Time and Sing-Along in Mandarin. Maria shared the Library's Digital Navigator surpassed 200 tech help sessions; the Cambridge Public library navigator is #1 in the region for tech help sessions.

5. Meeting Adjourned

Jim raised a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved.