

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting for December 3, 2024

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Michael Baenen, Joy Kim, Maria McCauley, Carson McGrath, Risa Mednick, Irene Monroe, Jim Roosevelt, Liz Werby, and Jason Yee

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2024 Meeting**

Chairperson Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for revisions to the November draft minutes. No edits were suggested; the minutes passed unanimously.

3. Library Updates

Deputy Director Joy Kim and Assistant Director of Libraries Jason Yee met with the Trustees to provide an update on the Library's safety protocols. The safety of patrons and staff is a top priority for library leadership at the Cambridge Public Library. Public libraries must consider and plan for a wide range of possible emergency situations, ranging from fires to medical emergencies to unsafe patron behavior. Each emergency situation is unique. The Library takes a people-centered approach, thinking of both staff and patrons, in establishing its policies and protocols. Staff receive training from their first day on the job on topics like emergency evacuations and locations of fire and safety equipment. Jason Yee shared an overview of how the Library approaches safety issues related to patron behavior across locations. The goal of patron interactions around behavior is to preserve the patron's ability to use the Library by clearly communicating how the behavior needs to change and then providing support for the patron to do so. This may involve utilizing the Library Social Worker or the City CARE Team to connect patron's with resources.

Next, Director Maria McCauley shared a few brief library updates, including on facilities matters. It is anticipated construction at the Collins Branch will begin in January. The all-gender restroom construction at the Main Library is moving along and approaching 50% complete. Maria discussed a few recent programs held across departments. The Adult Services team held a puzzle swap which welcomed 33 community members and recently wrapped up the 12-week Tai Chi Paradigm series. Patrons shared their experiences with noticeable health benefits. The Boudreau Branch held a Family Movie night with a showing of Shrek while the Central Square Branch welcomed over 100 attendees to a Shop for Free event in November. The O'Connell Branch held a Coffee and Chat with 35 neighbors. The O'Neill Branch offered a Sewing 101 program, allowing participants to receive their Hive Sewing Badge. The Valente Branch coordinated a Shop for Free event at the Main Library for teenagers and saw over 325 teens attend for new

winter coats, gloves, hats, etc. The Youth Services team welcomed 195 patrons to the Storytime Excerpts from the Nutcracker with José Mateo Ballet Theatre.

4. Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for more questions or comments from the Trustees. Trustee Michael Baenen expressed his excitement on hearing all the wonderful events happening at the Library each month. Holiday wishes were shared, and the meeting was adjourned.