

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
June 1, 2021
Minutes

The Board of Library Trustees met virtually via Zoom on June 1st at 5:00pm. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod, Kaija Langley, Omowale Moses, James Roosevelt, Nancy Woods. *Also present:* Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries
- *Absent:* Karen Kosko

Public Comment & Minutes

- There was one attendee from the public who expressed her appreciation for the Library and its services!
- Minutes from the March 2nd meeting were approved.

New Business

- **Hive Policies:** The opening of our new creative space was delayed from last March by the pandemic, but we hope to open it this summer. These policies document the guidelines for patrons, equipment, and the spaces in The Hive. *Trustees unanimously approved the Hive policies as submitted.*
- **Meeting Dates for FY22:** Trustees reviewed the proposed meeting dates for FY22. *Trustees unanimously approved the proposed meeting dates.*
Action Item: Ms. McCauley to post these dates on the Library's website for the public.
- **Library Reopening:** Ms. McCauley shared excitement for the opening of Library Express at the Main Library tomorrow! This will allow patrons into the building for the first time since last March. Appointments are not required, but all patrons will be required to wear masks until June 15. Only the first floor will be accessible for browsing. There will be no seating (except on the patio) to encourage short visits. Collins Branch will begin Holds Pickup service on June 7.

After a 2-week adjustment, we anticipate offering further services at Main including public computing, seating, additional browsing, and access to the Children's Room. We plan to transition the branches to Library Express in late June/early July. Hours will remain modified for a while, with a gradual increase in hours over the summer. By the end of the summer, we anticipate we will probably be close to resuming our full open hours.

Summer programs will be either outdoors or virtual, and we anticipate being able to return to some in-person programs in the fall. We anticipate opening meeting rooms in the fall. Staff are both anxious and excited for reopening. We have offered lots of training to help them prepare.

Trustees engaged in a discussion about how virtual programs really extended patron access to the Library. Our virtual programs seemed to engage more diverse and elderly patrons. Ms. Woods shared that the access to the speakers feels much closer virtually- as though they are speaking to you one-on-one. The *Voices for Justice* series is an excellent example of how we extended our reach and it was such a success! Our quality to high-quality programming continues.

- **Library Update:** Ms. McCauley provide updates for some of our recent programs, highlighting the Racial & Social Justice series for Families & Teens, Senior Wellness series, Cambridge Room series. **Action Item:** Ms. McCauley to send Trustees a link to recording of the American Treasures program from the Cambridge Room series and information on attendees of the Career Skills series.

The events in celebration of Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month were very successful. Charles Yu, author of National Book Award winning *Interior Chinatown*, was so imaginative and had reflections on his heritage woven into his work. Hoa Nguyen's *A Thousand Times You Lose Your Treasure* was a beautiful program with the very talented poet. She shared incredible stories and photos of her mother's life as a stunt motorcyclist in an all-women Vietnamese circus troupe.

Ms. McCauley updated Trustees that there were few City Council questions about the Library's FY22 Budget. The Library had the opportunity to explain how the expansion and variation in branch hours are not about serving the highest usage, but rather serving community members who have different schedules. She reflected that in the past 5 years, we have built The Hive makerspace, gotten approval for branch expansion, and are seeking an appropriation to start the CSQ building study.

Anti-racism efforts are going well. Consultants are leading training sessions for the Task Force and managers and developing a charter with our mission and purpose. We will look to the City's anti-racism expectations and ensure they are incorporated into our own. This work is about process and intentionality and will be lots of work to infuse into everything that we do.

Library Upcoming Events

Ms. McCauley informed Trustees about upcoming CPL programs including:

- **June 2:** Incomplete Victory: Why 2020 Wasn't Really the Centennial of Women's Suffrage
- **June 3:** Getting Started in Irish Family Research
- **June 5:** Virtual Story Time with Drag Kings, Queens and Friends
- **June 8:** Celebrate PRIDE featuring George M. Johnson, All Boys Aren't Blue
- **June 10:** Interview Techniques to Tell Your Family's History
- **June 10:** Mindful Parenting: A Virtual Workshop with Zeenat Potia
- **June 16:** Library at Home: Family History
- **June 16:** Career Skills: Preparing for a Successful Virtual Interview
- **June 16:** A Taste of the Caribbean with Chef Malcolm Green
- **June 17:** Healing the Historical Trauma of Slavery through Genealogical Research
- **June 17:** 2021 Juneteenth Celebration: Chun Yu and Michael Warr present Two Languages/One Community

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary