

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
September 14, 2021
Minutes

The Board of Library Trustees met virtually via Zoom on September 14th at 5:00pm. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod, Karen Kosko, Kaija Langley, James Roosevelt. *Also present:* Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries
- *Absent:* Omowale Moses, Nancy Woods
- *Additional Guests:* Marie Mathieu, CPL Social Worker; Amelia Craig, Assistant Director of HR; Jason Yee, Assistant Director

Public Comment: None

New Business

- **Welcome Marie, Library Social Worker:** Ms. Mathieu shared that she is happy to see this new role being so well received by patrons. She has been meeting with community partners and working on connecting patrons with resources. Ms. Mathieu has been making herself available to both library patrons and those outside the CSQ Branch, working with outreach workers in the community.
CPL will be hosting two MSW students from the Boston College School of Social Work from September to May, which will increase the number of patrons we can assist. Ms. Mathieu will also be providing training in mental health first aid to staff. She answered questions from Trustees about her work and role in library.
- **Welcome Amelia, Assistant Director of HR:** Ms. Craig has been at the Library for about two months and is very focused on recruitment. She discussed current vacancies at the Library, anticipated new positions and our approach to the recruitment and hiring processes. Ms. Craig is working with Marie planning for recruitment fairs, networking with other community groups, and other ways to forward the City's commitments to equity, diversity and inclusion. She also spoke to new opportunities for promotion within roles for library staff.
- **Branch Enhancements Update from our Assistant Director:**
 - Park outside of O'Connell is on schedule and should be open by end of the year.
 - Valente received the ALA-AIA Library Building Award from 2021.
 - Boudreau currently closed for siding and roofing maintenance should be reopening at the end of the month.
 - Collins Branch roof replacement has been funded by the City and at beginning stages of project.
 - Central Square new furniture is in and being enjoyed by patrons. Still waiting on final work in Lewis Room at Central Square that is dependent on roof work happening first.

- **Central Square Branch Update:** Mr. Yee and Ms. Mathieu gave an update on the Central Square Branch and neighborhood activity.
- **Library Update:**
 - Ms. McCauley provided updates on library news and staff, and how the Library has been handling ongoing COVID impacts.
 - Main will return to full Monday hours on 9/20. Sunday hours at Main and Saturday hours at CSQ have been restored.
 - CPL is currently using a hybrid programming model and letting departments decide the programming model they are most comfortable with – virtual, outdoors, etc.
 - Update on the library’s ongoing anti-racism work.
 - Provided an update on our Mayor’s Summer Youth program work this summer.
 - The Hive hosted Fab16 Conference for makerspaces and attended Port Pride Festival.
 - Ms. McCauley gave some building facilities updates for Lewis Room, Lecture Hall, and Collins Branch roof.
 - Mr. Yee gave some updates on staffing and programming in the Hive.

Library Upcoming Events

Ms. McCauley informed Trustees about upcoming CPL programs including:

- **Sept 18:** Story Time with Author Kaija Langley: *When Langston Dances*, Joan Lorentz Park at 11 a.m.
- **Sept 20:** Professor Lawrence Blum Presents: Integrations: The Struggle for Racial Equality and Civic Renewal in Public Education, Lecture Hall at 6:30 p.m.
- **Sept 27:** PARK SOUNDS with Cellist Kett Lee, Joan Lorentz Park at 6 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary