

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees Minutes

January 11, 2022

The Board of Library Trustees met virtually via Zoom on January 11th at 5:00pm. The following members were present:

- Karen Kosko, Kaija Langley, James Roosevelt, Nancy Woods. Also present: Maria McCauley

Public Comment & Minutes

- There was no public comment, but a community member attended to listen in.
- Minutes from the December 7th meeting were approved.
- A moment of silence was held in memory of Janet Axelrod, former Chairperson of the Library Board of Trustees.

New Business

Chairperson Discussion: Ms. Axelrod was planning to retire at the end of June and had identified Ms. Langley as a candidate for the next Chairperson of Trustees. Ms. McCauley opened the floor for discussion and formal vote. The Trustees unanimously voted on Ms. Langley as new Chairperson of the Board.

Library Updates: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have its impact. Ms. McCauley acknowledged library staff for their hard work during this long haul. The City and Libraries are currently open. The Boudreau Branch is now reopened. The Library continues to juggle staffing schedules on a day-to-day basis in order to keep all locations open. The Library continues to deal with staff shortages due to hiring and COVID impacts, despite ongoing hiring and internal promotions. All Library programming is now virtual, except for some outdoor story times which are being held weather permitting. We are excited about our 47th MLK Day program happening on Wednesday, January 12th headlined by Clint Smith, New York Times bestselling author. The Valente Branch is now open on Saturdays. Search for new Trustees to fill vacancies is ongoing.

December Program Updates: Since the Hive opened in July, 700 individuals have received basic training for using the space. We held a 12-week long Tech Goes Home program that ended in December. Library staff members are trained to facilitate this program, which supports technology literacy initiatives. Participants who graduated from program received a Chromebook and Hotspot upon completion. The program covers basic internet safety and computer skills and introduces users to digital library resources. December also saw a holiday performance by Crepusculum, a choir made up from Berklee and other local college students. Eric Nyugen presented on his novel *Things We Lost to the Water* on January 4th. Ms. McCauley is proud that we were able to host and promote an up-and-coming author.

Upcoming Program Updates: Outdoor songs and stories with Main Library youth services staff will continue taking place every Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday as weather allows. Branches are also hosting limited outdoor programs as they are able. We are offering virtual baby lapsit and storytime as an alternative to outdoor youth programs. Starting in January, we will also be holding fully virtual parent / child bookgroups. For January, the Hive will be hosting virtual programs including graphic design, GarageBand editing workshop and safety trainings. Wellness for Seniors virtual programs will continue into January with low-impact fitness, and yoga / dance classes. Active older adults lecture and workshop series will run February thru June, supported by the Cambridge Public Library Foundation and Cambridge Neighbors. We will be hosting a Financial Workshop Series for young adults in partnership with Babson Financial Literacy Project. The program will take place once a month for the next 4 months. An additional Little Liberation Library is being added near the Moses Youth Center / JFK Apartments, bringing the total to 5. Once this one is installed, a new date for ribbon cutting will be announced. We are currently working on coordinating the speaker for the 2022 Curious George Lecture, which will be held virtually this year. Plans are also underway for the 2022 Summer Reading Program.

Friends and Foundation Updates: The Friends of the CPL and the Cambridge Public Library Foundation have both done well on their annual appeals this year. The Friends fund the summer reading programs, museum pass program (which will be increasing this year!), national library appreciation week, staff training day, etc. The Foundation's support is sometimes donor directed (early youth programming, senior programming, STEAM programs, etc.), in addition to the unrestricted funds that Maria gets yearly. Both groups support large initiatives in different ways – Friends supported the construction of Learning Lab, while the Foundation supported the Tech Bar.

ACTION ITEM: Maria will find out more about Friends plans for garden tour in spring at meeting tonight.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary