

Cambridge Public Library

Board of Library Trustees Minutes

February 1, 2022

The Board of Library Trustees met virtually via Zoom on February 1st 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.
- Minutes from the January 11 meeting were approved.

New Business

Honoring Janet Axelrod: Dr. McCauley shared what the Library has done so far to honor Janet, including a note in the weekly Director's letter, and link to City Council resolution on website. Foundation and Friends both would like to honor Janet in some way. Dr. McCauley shared that Janet did plan to leave a gift from her estate to the Library through the Foundation.

The Trustees shared their thoughts and ideas for remembrance. Ms. Langley supports the idea to create Fund in memory of Janet that can be as broadly used as possible. Members of the community can donate to it and Janet's estate gift could be added as well. The Trustees support this idea. Noted that we don't yet know what the language around Janet's estate gift is.

Dr. McCauley asked for ideas / suggestions about how the Friends could participate in remembering Janet. After discussion, decided that naming the upcoming poetry & Jazz series in her honor would be a good fit.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. McCauley will reach out to Janet's husband to share these ideas and get his thoughts.

Honoring Cindy DiRusso: Longtime O'Neill Branch staff member Cindy DiRusso is retiring February 4 after 40 years of service. Ms. Langley shared a lovely photo of Cindy and some kind words about what she has meant to the North Cambridge community over the years.

Library Updates: We have filled 40 vacant positions since the beginning of July and still have 30 vacancies. Currently in the process of interviewing for Assistant Director of HR position. Recruitment has been Administration's chief area of focus. Dr. McCauley shared some of the COVID impacts on staff, which has been difficult over the last month. Library staff member Saffana Anwar received one of the City's first Anti-Racism and Equity awards. The Central Square Branch structural study is continuing. We are also doing a study of restrooms at the Main Library to see what the costs would be to add a gender-inclusive restroom. Dr. McCauley also reviewed the upcoming budget cycle and the library's capital and operational budget requests for FY23. Budget decisions will be finalized in May.

Program Updates: The Youth Services continues to do outdoor programming weather permitting. The 2022 Annual Curious George Lecture featured speaker will be Rita Williams Garcia. Event will take place on April 9 at 11am, and will be held virtually. Dr. McCauley shared some Fall Appeal updates from the Foundation. Kaija is now an ex-officio board member of the Foundation.

ACTION ITEM: Press Release announcing Kaija's appointment as Chairperson of Board of Trustees.