

**Minutes Board of Trustees for October  
Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

**Attending:** Michael Baenen, Muna Kangsen, Karen Kosko, Jim Roosevelt, Maria McCauley, Elizabeth Werby

**Guest:** Social Worker, Marie Mathieu

1. **Public Comment:** None
  
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair moved for minutes from the September meeting to be approved. The motion was seconded by Michael Baenen and James Roosevelt and the minutes were approved unanimously.
  
3. **Social Works Services Overview:**
  - CPL Social Worker was the first Library social worker in the state, and that came with a lot of requests for information to get a sense of what Library Social Work can look like
  - The Social Worker started in March 2021, and began by making contacts with groups to find out where to fit in the eco-system of service providers in the city, and communicating with other service providers to avoid duplicating services
  - Social workers have been able to serve many patrons in many different capacities. From July 2021 to June 2022 the Social Worker served 200 unique patrons. From July 2022 – June 2023, the Social Worker served 419 unique patrons and held 502 meetings. Follow-ups are needed sometimes depending on the patron's needs.
  - Worked with local colleges to have students in the MA program join the team and so far, 14 students have worked in the program. Partnerships with Lesley, Boston College, and Simmons University have been successful.
  - Featured in several organizations, presented at the Mass Library conference, and working with Social Worker at BPL to create a presentation for the ALA
  - Social work team offers various services but being able to connect with partners in other organizations makes it possible to assist patrons dealing with a wide variety of issues. Over 30 patrons attended the October 2 session of Housed in Cambridge, an initiative which brought various departments associated with housing together to share information and answer questions to get housing information. Notary services provided by the social work team are used regularly.
  - The social work team holds drop-in hours on Mondays at Main and Tuesdays in the Central Square Branch. Appointments across the system will be held in the fall. Appointments are also handled over the phone or in branch locations
  - Appointments rely on language line for translation. Anyone can be referred Library social worker. Access is an important consideration
  - The social works team regularly partners with Cambridge Public Schools, and Substance abuse advisory committee to deliver services.
  
4. **Director's Update:**

**I. Recruitment:** Library currently has 24 openings to fill. The position of Assistant Director for Branch services is moving forward and will soon be complete. We are close to hiring someone for the position of the Director's Executive Assistant.

**II. Facilities:**

- i. Lewis Room in CSQ has been closed for a while now, but plans and specs are in the process of being completed
- ii. O'Connell HVAC: Library received approval to update, work is in progress and 60% complete per contractor – work should be complete by the end of the month
- iii. A fire alarm system will be installed in the Collins branch which will be connected to the Fire station
- iv. Based on conversations that the Director had with the Superintendent of Buildings, Lecture Hall upgrades may occur in two years.

**III. Council Order for Free Menstrual Products at Library**

In response to a City Council order calling for free menstrual products to be dispensed in certain locations, the CPL has installed a dispenser in the women's room on L2 of the Main Library. Sixteen more dispensers will be installed in women's rooms and gender neutral bathrooms across the system.

**IV. Program updates:**

**Adult Services**

- Zumba
- Navigating solo in person
- Exhibition on L2: Cousins
- Romance Book Group launched

**Branches**

- Nature Club created
- Chess Hour at Boudreau is popular and outgrowing table space
- O'Connell participated in Cambridge Science
- O'Neill branch welcomed back Emily Hurley
- At Valente: first ever anime afternoon with 24 participants
- Summer Patio Project at Valente
- O'Connell Branch added Spanish Language materials to youth collection
- Digital Equity has launched its Fall programs
  - Internet basics
  - Intro to Library Resources
  - One on One Tech Help workshops are offered at the Main Library and the Central Square Branch. Patrons can drop-in or make an appointment.

- Digital Equity Manager recently gave a presentation to the Community Engagement team.

## **STEAM**

- STEAM academy kicked of the year with a program on artificial intelligence
- NeuraFutures art installation will be held at Main as part of the Cambridge Science Festival. The installation features devices known as **Brain-Computer Interfaces** (BCIs). BCIs access the user's brain via sensors that are worn on or implanted inside of the head. 35 real-size physical prototypes, or props, of the neural devices featured in different BCI-fi, each of which represents different permutations of answers, will be on display at Main.
- The Science of Ice Cream program which occurred as part of the Cambridge Science Festival attracted a lot of patrons.
- The Hive held open house as part of Science Festival

## **Youth Services**

- Cambridge School Volunteers in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services are now providing mentoring and homework help for teens.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Bike visibility
- Teen Hangout in the Hive
- Board Walk at Fresh Pond
- Evening Story Time at Collins
- Basic of Cream-based Soup

## **Friends and Foundation**

- New Executive Director of the Foundation will start in a couple of weeks. Kate Flaim has done a great job as volunteer president.
- Friends and Foundation have been meeting to explore consolidation.
- DOL is in support of merger and believes it should have occurred much sooner. Impacts on staff time a consideration. DOL welcomes Trustees thoughts.