

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
May 7, 2019
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on May 7th at 5:00pm in the Trustees' Room, 449 Broadway. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- Karen Kosko
- Omowale Moses
- Patricia Payne
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods
- *Also present:* Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries; Joy Kim, Deputy Director of Libraries; Diana Fender, Adult Services Manager

Minutes from the March 5th meeting were approved.

New Business

- **Tech Goes Home:** Ms. Fendler told Trustees about our partnership with Boston-based, non-profit organization Tech Goes Home. Their mission is to empower communities to provide technology and advance lives. They partner with community institutions to provide courses to participants of any age. This includes persons with low-income, the un/underemployed, immigrants, people with disabilities, and those without technology. Upon completion of the 15-hour course, participants can purchase a laptop for \$50. CPL has hosted two series: one last September (11 enrolled, 8 completed) and one in January (10 enrolled, 9 completed). Overall, 13 laptops were purchased. The experience has been intense, but the observable progress and impact has been rewarding. CPL will offer the next course at Central Square this July.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to explore options for subsidizing the laptop purchase for TGH participants who need financial help.

- **Strategic Planning Update:** Ms. Kim & Ms. McCauley presented an update about the Strategic Planning process. This presentation included an overview of the planning process & timeline, key findings from community input, a draft of the mission, vision, values, and priorities, and next steps. Maureen Sullivan will attend the Trustees' meeting in June for the Trustees' first reading of the Strategic Plan. We hope to have the Trustees' approval in September, when the plan will be submitted to the MBLC.

Action Item: Ms. Kim to explore adding a reference to the branches in the plan.

Action Item: Ms. Kim to explore announcing the findings of the community survey/new strategic plan to the public in local newspapers/magazines.

- **Valente & CSQ Update:** Ms. McCauley updated the Trustees on the latest status of the Valente branch construction, as reported to the MBLC as a condition of our grant. Work is progressing

steadily to likely enable Library staff access to the new branch in September and to open for the public in November or December.

Ms. Woods updated Trustees about the April meeting of the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association and their concerns for the Central Square library, including cleanliness of the exterior of the building and presence in the library of people struggling with issues such as homelessness and alcohol abuse. Ms. Woods stated that the presentation by Branch Services Manager Jason Yee was well received. At the meeting, Ms. Woods met Michael Monestime, the Executive Director of the Central Square Business Improvement District. Trustees discussed the need to clean up this block potentially multiple times a day and improve signage to make it clear that there is a library there. Ms. McCauley shared information about ongoing work between multiple city departments to improve issues at the branch.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley review signage and explore removing the bulletin board from under the overhang.

Action Item: Ms. Woods to request the Central Square Business Improvement District include CSQ on their map of the area they support.

Action Item: Ms. Woods to invite Michael Monestime to a future Trustees meeting.

- **STEAM Update:** Ms. McCauley shared that the city is progressing with the construction bid for the makerspace/Tech Bar construction, in line with Fall completion. We are looking at The Hive having a soft opening through 2019 and an official launch in January.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to arrange for presentation on Space Explorations at a future meeting.

- Mr. Roosevelt shared that the Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk at Collins branch during school Vacation Week was a huge success!

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to see about getting CPL's author events listed in Sunday's *Boston Globe* Arts section.

- Ms. Payne announced that the June meeting will be her last as a Board of Trustee member.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary