

EAST PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees

October 5, 2022

Present: M. Marcotte, E. Ingraham, C. LaRoux, P. Armstrong, P. Silva, K. Dias

Staff: M. Bonds-Harmon, Director, P. Schwieger, Youth Services Coordinator

Absent: D. Paiva

The meeting was called to order by M. Marcotte at 4:30pm.

The September minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by P. Armstrong.

Friends Update:

Book Donations to Other Causes

In August, Friends donated 46 inspirational books to Riverside Sisters for distribution to victims of domestic violence.

Farmers Market

It was a slow year for book sales at the market, with proceeds totaling \$283. We distributed about 250 children's books and about 100 adult books.

Book Sale

The Fall Book Sale is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 13 to Sunday, Oct. 16 at Weaver. Two raffles will be held. The Taste of Fall raffle will feature gift cards to local businesses and restaurants. A special raffle will feature a turned wood bowl made by a winner in the Spring Raffle, Tom Van Gyzen.

Pumpkin Stroll

The Friends have solicited donations of pumpkins for the library's Pumpkin Stroll on October 27. They have allocated up to \$200 for prizes for the pumpkin carving and costume contests.

Museum Passes

A new museum pass has been added. Friends will pay the \$300 annual fee for The Providence Children's Museum.

Beech Tree Painting

The Friends discussed the commissioning of a painting of Weaver's copper beech tree to hang in the library. They will vote on funding at the next meeting.

Financial Report:

M Bonds-Harmon presented both the City of EP and the EPPL budget reports. We have one month left of our fiscal year and Meredith highlighted the budget lines that appeared to be most underspent or overspent.

Technology & software was a significant amount over. Most of this is from our wifi hot spots. Meredith met with the staff person who manages them for our inventory outline, usage and justifications.

Old Business:

Copper Beech Tree Painting Commission:

Meredith spoke with Jennifer Gilooly Cahoon about this, and Jennifer shared information and many ideas for this project. Jennifer suggests offering \$2,000, and creating an online form to call for artist applicants. The artist will be able to show examples of their work along with their connection to East Providence. Meredith wants to have a committee to work together to choose an artist. The selection committee will consist of a FEPPL, a trustee, a staff member, a local artist, and possibly additional people.

External painting of Weaver Library

Council member Cahoon added \$50,000 to the capital budget to have the exterior trim and cupola of the original Weaver Library repaired and painted.

New Business:

Solicitation Policy

We distinguished between active and passive solicitation. We do allow candidates with nomination papers to ask for signatures outside the library.

This policy was approved by the board of trustees after a motion by P. Armstrong.

December 5, 2022 staff training 9:00-12:00

Pam has been in contact with Bill Stein of House of Hope RI. This organization services the homeless population of RI, and they have done staff trainings for other RI libraries in the past. The training that we are hoping to schedule will cover: crisis de-escalation, a day in the life of a homeless person, and possible triggers of traumatized people, and an understanding of how they are using the library as a safe space.

Invite other city departments, i.e. EPPC, City Clerks Office, HEZ, Police and Fire, etc. P. Armstrong suggested we ask the EP Post to write a story about this training.

The closing of the library 9-12:00 on 12/5/22 for this training was approved by the board of trustees after a motion by K. Dias.

Pay rate increases for 2 part time vacant positions

We have two instruction staff positions vacant. Meredith is proposing to increase the pay rate from \$20 to \$22. It is difficult for our students when there is a gap in classes. Meredith is hoping that the increase in hourly rate will help to retain staff.

Trustee members expressed support if the library budget could fund these increases.

Cranston Library - recent meeting room use controversy

Meredith shared information about the protesting that occurred at Cranston Public Library in September over the rights of transgender youth.

There was conversation about how we could update our Meeting Room Use policy to help prevent this from happening at EPPL. Meredith is in the process of updating our Meeting Room Use policy which will specifically address this issue. She will report back to the board about this at a future meeting.

Community Meeting at Fuller

A community group is scheduled to hold a meeting at Fuller Creative Learning Center (FCLC). When FCLC was established, the outline of services did not include meeting room space. P. Marcotte expressed disagreement with meetings happening there now. P. Armstrong suggested that the “rules” of Fuller need to be reviewed.

Staff Update:

Fuller Assistant interviews on 10/6

PT ESOL teacher vacant

PT Instruction/Reference Librarian vacant

Assistant Director vacant

Director's Report:

Meredith is shelving her report including her report on the Farmers Market until the November meeting.

Adjournment: P. Marcotte adjourned at 5:43pm.