Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm

ROLLCALL
Patty Armstrong - present
Kathy Dias - present
Betsy Ingraham - present
Chris LaRoux - present
Peg Marcotte (Chair) - present
Don Paiva - present
Paul Silva - present

Also attending:
  Meredith Bonds-Harmon, Library Director
  Pamela Schwieger, Assistant Director

Review & approval of January 4, 2023 minutes
Minutes of January 4, 2023 meeting
Don made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Kathy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS
The Friends of EPPL report was received and placed on file.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Financial report
Meredith reported that our spending is mostly on target for a quarter through the year. There is an error with the overtime budget line at 100% because we have spent some of our overtime budget.

Personnel
Two staff members were injured on duty in the past couple weeks
Youth services coordinator went over to HR this week
Fuller aide is still vacant. We have to go back to applicant list from 10 months ago
ALL PT instructor started this week
Part time ref librarian - the two candidates we offered the job to both declined so we need to advertise this position again

Buildings & Grounds
The city would like to combine the Riverside carpeting project with carpeting for City Hall. Meredith spoke to Ralph in the Controllers Office about putting together the bid.

The city wants to have city employees repair the exterior trim at Weaver Library, and we will hire a company for the cupola project.

Meredith wants another month to see if these projects are moving ahead in a timely and acceptable manner before the Board votes on the city taking over these projects.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Pam informed the board of all the special programs & displays that the library is providing for Black History Month.

OLD BUSINESS
Discussion of state law and city ordinances related to the authority of the Library Board of Trustees
Discussion of the board’s initial consultation with a lawyer
Patty made a motion and Betsy seconded the motion to approve and accept the engagement agreement of Timothy M. Bliss, Attorney at Law

Updated information on proposed East Providence Community Center
Discussion about the public library in regional news
Neo Nazi protestors at Taunton Public Library Drag Storyhour

NEW BUSINESS
Racist/hate graffiti appeared in the public bathroom at Weaver Library
Discussion and vote on pay grade change for Assistant Director and Youth Services Coordinator
Meredith has updated the library’s staff organizational chart
Discussion about reasoning of changes, justifications of pay grade changes, questions about whether these increases could be covered within our budget for FY24

Paul made a motion and Kathy seconded to accept the new organizational chart so that positions having similar duties and responsibilities under the same work conditions are compensated on a uniform basis

Betsy made a motion and Patty seconded it to hire a part time librarian at the rate of $22.00/hour in an effort to be competitive with other RI public library job postings
Trustee bylaws
The Board will read bylaws and form a committee to suggest amendments in March.
Discussion and vote on new policy "Library-Initiated Programs and Displays"
Tabled discussion until March meeting
State aid for FY24
Our projected State Grant in Aid for FY 2023-2024 is being reduced by $67,951
This is due to two reasons: two ARPA funded salaries, unable to fully expend our appropriated budget
OLIS live webinar series on Legal Issues for Libraries
The Board is invited to register for this webinar series
Communication between Trustees and City Council
Chris has been in contact with Councilperson Rick Lawson who is interested in staying abreast of the library needs.

**ADJOURNMENT**: Patty motioned to adjourn. Chris seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:52.