

East Providence Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting: May 3, 2023 at 4:30pm at Weaver Library

Meeting called to order at 4:29pm

ROLL CALL

Patty Armstrong - present

Kathy Dias - absent

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
- Guest: Sarah Fish, Foundation President

Discussion with Foundation President Sarah Fish

Review & approval of April 5, 2023 minutes

- Minutes of April 2023 meeting
 - Paul made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Financial report

- The Mayor has said that it is going to be a tough year for the budget, and that he knows that we have already trimmed our operating costs so the focus could be on personnel.

Personnel

- We had one internal qualified candidate for the youth services coordinator position. She was offered the job, but declined because she was being asked to do more and take on additional responsibility without an increase in pay.
- We interviewed 2 applicants for the Digital Services librarian position. One applicant passed the interview and will be offered the job.
- 17 people applied for the PT Fuller aide. We will interview 7 on May 18.
- Our administrative assistant's last day is this Monday. Meredith, Pam and Deb will temporarily absorb her job duties in her absence. We need to wait 60 days before we are able to post this job internally

Buildings & Grounds

- Cupola paint and repair project is moving ahead
- We had two bids for the Riverside carpeting. One was over budget, and one was significantly under budget.
- We had 25+ applicants for the beech tree commission project.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Usage Stats for January 2021 - April 2023
 - Weaver door count
 - Riverside door count
 - Self Directed Program Attendance
 - In-Person Offsite Program Attendance
 - In-Person Onsite Program Attendance
 - Virtual Program Attendance
 - eZone Checkouts
 - Weaver Physical checkouts
 - Riverside Physical checkouts
- Pam reported on our upcoming June Pride programs
 - Meredith shared that a RI bill was introduced to prohibit public and charter schools, as well as public libraries, to offer books considered obscene, including fines and jail time for librarians.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion of state law and city ordinances related to the authority of the Library Board of Trustees

NEW BUSINESS

- Trustee bylaws - vote to approve amendments. Patty motioned to accept them as amended. Betsy seconded, and the bylaws passed unanimously.
- LORI project grant
 - Applied for a grant for multi-language learners
 - We are hoping to hire a social worker for our ALL dept., purchase foreign language children's books, and set up a chess area with signage and instruction books in several languages.
- Trustee appointments
 - Do our trustees need to be appointed by the councilperson from the ward they live in?

ADJOURNMENT: Patty motioned to adjourn. Don seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:03.