



Westwood Public Library Update
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director
June 13, 2022

Library Services and Programs

Adult Programming

We had a great turn out for our hybrid Book Buzz: Beach Reads edition where library staff booktalk current and favorite books that will be especially fun to read this summer. We had 8 in person attendees and 12 virtual attendees. Claire also hosted author Jenna Blum in person at the branch where she talked about her book *Woodrow on the Bench* about her senior Black Lab and what his last seven months taught her.

Youth Services

June has been especially busy with the Children's librarians doing their summer reading outreach visits to all 5 elementary schools. Librarians visit each library class to talk to the kids about the summer reading program, prizes they can win, and booktalk a list of new books specially curated for each grade level.



Islington Branch

Library staff have been thinking of creating new and interesting ways to draw more people into the branch and to let the public know all the resources the branch has to offer. Suzie Canale (Adult Services) and Caroline Tighe (Circulation) put together the first annual Plant Swap! They had tables set up in front of the the branch with plants for patrons to take a plant/leave a plant and even had a small FOL book sale pop up filled with garden related books as well as coloring pages and seedling craft for young children. We had over 118 people attend over the 3 hours and some had never been to the branch before this event. It was a great way to advertise the branch location and create an intergenerational program (we had senior citizens, middle schoolers, and young children all participating). We are continuing to think of more ways to utilize the front space of the library for community driven events.



Strategic Plan

The leadership team met in May to synthesize the research findings and recommend and inform on the strategic priorities, core values, and the new mission and vision. Conni and I then put together the final draft of the Strategic Plan with 6 Initiatives and 18 objectives for 2023-2025. I am extremely happy with the outcome. All initiatives are based on community feedback, data findings, and staff input; some are things we already do but want to do better, while others are brand new innovations that will delight and excite the community. After approval of the plan, we will spend the rest of the summer making an implementation plan so that we are ready to begin rolling out the action items in January 2023. We said from the beginning we wanted a living, breathing plan, and I think we have done just that. We created a plan that is flexible, memorable in which the staff and community can look forward to and recognize. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments on the plan in the coming week before we move forward with approval.

Staffing

Joan Courtney Murray and I am in the process of finding an interim Library Director for my planned family medical leave beginning in September. We are in talks with one stand out candidate who has recently retired and has many years of Director experience including personnel, budget, the state aid financial report, Minuteman Network, and more. We will be in communication with the Chair of the Trustee board on next steps and planning introductions to the board as well as the overall plan for the duration of the leave which will be Sept 2022 to January 2023. More information to follow. I am happy that the library, staff, and board, will be in very good hands during this busy time of year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director