

**QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023
REPORT**

A meeting of the Programming Committee was held at the Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432 on Thursday, April 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Committee Chair, Andrew P. Jackson.

I. CALL TO ORDER

| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|----------------|
| Andrew P. Jackson | Committee Chair | Present | |
| Julissa Gutierrez | Board Member | Excused | |
| Cloyette Harris-Stoute | Board Member | Present | |
| Peter Kauffmann | Board Member | Present | |
| Eli Shapiro, Ed. D, LCSW | Board Member | Excused | |
| Eve Cho Guillergan Esq | Non-voting Member | Remote | |
| Dennis M. Walcott | President & CEO | Present | |
| Nick Buron | Chief Librarian & Sr. VP. | Present | |
| Franny Kent | Director of Programming | Remote | |
| Jeffrey Lambert | Director of Strategic Planning & Operations, Adult | Present | |

II. AGENDA

A. Report(s)

Nick Buron, Chief Librarian and Sr. VP, was asked by the Programming Committee Chair, Andrew Jackson, to give the Board an introduction to the Programs and Services Department (PSD), and to the Summer Meals and Summer Reading Programs and Reimagining Ravenswood presentations.

Mr. Buron introduced Jeffrey Lambert, Director of Strategic Planning and Operations, and Franny Kent, Director of Programming, who presented on those two topics.

At the end of the presentations, Mr. Buron informed the board that Franny Kent has resigned from the Library. Mr. Buron thanked Ms. Kent for her leadership in the Programs and Services Department. Dennis M. Walcott, President and CEO, also thanked Ms. Kent on her service to Queens Public Library and wished her well on all her future endeavors.

1. Summer Reading & Summer Meals Program (ID # 2884)

Franny Kent, Director of Programming, reported that the 2023 Summer Reading theme is “All Together Now,” which will focus on areas such as kindness, community, advocacy, and unity, as well as prioritizing multi-lingual support within the community. With the assistance of PSD, branches will distribute free books, conduct staff-led programs, single and multi-session clubs, and a variety of programs throughout the summer. In July, and for the first time, the Library will host, alongside Brooklyn (BPL) and New York (NYPL) Public Libraries, a Weekend book giveaway event. New York Life is funding this event, and approximately 5,000 books will be distributed at Flushing, Corona, Arverne, and Central libraries and through the bookmobiles. She also reported that there will be seven Summer Reading kick-off events through June at the East Elmhurst, Ozone Park, Hunters Point, Queensboro Hill, Seaside, South Ozone Park, and Rosedale branches.

Ms. Kent reported that the Library will be participating in the free summer meals program, offering lunch. In 2022, the Library served 25,616 summer meals in 32 library locations. She also informed the Committee that each location that hosts the summer meals program is required by the NYS Department of Health to have two employees attend a 4-hour training to become certified as food handlers. She also reported that, with the exception of five library locations, from July 5 - September 1, Monday - Friday (1pm - 2pm), all Library branches will be serving lunch to their local communities.

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Mr. Buron also reported that the Library is the largest library system in New York State to provide summer meals to its communities.

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| RESULT: PRESENTED |
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2. Re-Imagining Ravenswood (ID # 2885)

Mr. Buron reported that the Reimagining Ravenswood presentation is a summary of initial plans. He gave the Board the history of the Ravenswood location. Since 2020, the location has been closed to the public and under major renovations, with an anticipated reopening this summer.

Jeffrey Lambert, Director of Strategic Planning and Operations, gave the Board a brief presentation on plans for Ravenswood. He reported that the proposed plan is to revamp the programs offered to the community and the space into a lending library/community learning center. Thanks to the partnership of the community learning and outreach divisions, the proposed service model will include programs and services that focus on workforce development, older adult and life skills, technology trainings, digital literacy, and reentry services, in addition to basic library services. He also reported that the Library will also collaborate with local community-based organization to offer programs and services based upon the proposed service model.

Dennis M. Walcott, President and CEO, asked Mr. Lambert to elaborate on the correctional services and reentry programs that the Library will provide to the Ravenswood community. Mr. Lambert reported that the Library currently has a partnership with the NYS Department of Corrections to provide former inmates with job training and referrals, social services and case management, as well as access to smart phones.

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| RESULT: PRESENTED |
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III. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to Adjourn (ID # 2881)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the meeting be adjourned.

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| RESULT: | RECOMMENDED [Unanimous] |
| MOVER: | Cloyette Harris-Stoute |
| SECONDER: | Andrew P. Jackson |
| AYES: | Andrew P. Jackson, Cloyette Harris-Stoute, Peter Kauffmann |
| EXCUSED: | Julissa Gutierrez, Eli Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW |

The meeting was closed at 8:02 PM.

Committee Chair