

Hillsdale Free Public Library

Board of Trustees

March 12, 2012

In attendance were: Barbara Braun, Warren Harris, Joanne Miano, Guy Mulé, Allen Saslowsky, Kathleen Scordato, Gary Weir, Barbara Wertheim

Also present: David Franz, Director of the Library

Excused: Marie Hanlon

Mr. Harris, President, called to order a meeting of the Trustees of the Free Public Library of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey. Notice of this meeting was transmitted to the newspaper of record, filed with the Borough Clerk, and posted on the Library's website and bulletin board, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting's Law.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM. The Board reviewed the February minutes. Ms. Braun made a motion to accept the February minutes, Ms. Wertheim seconded. Unanimous vote of approval.

Public invited to speak: No one was present.

President's Report: Mr. Harris:

- Mr. Harris met with Harry Carson, NFL star and Hall of Famer, and he would be amenable to a book signing at the Library. We would have to order the books in advance and he would donate any overage. He is presenting in Oradell in May. Mr. Harris will contact him for more details. We did a similar pre-buy from Baker and Taylor for the Harry Potter series.
- Mr. Harris referred to the 5 Year Strategic Plan and he thanked Mr. Weir, Mr. Mulé and Mr. Franz for the excellent plan.
- The Open House on April 9th falls within National Library Week and Mr. Franz suggested shortening the Board meeting and then being available to meet and greet Woodcliff Lake patrons and other guests. Ms. Braun offered to ask the owner of one of our local bagel eateries if he would donate some refreshments. Publicity is needed immediately.
- There was a discussion about the brick fundraiser and it would have to be defined as to what the proceeds would be dedicated to. Mr. Franz asked Board members to walk the property with him to look at possible sites for the bricks. Board members discussed the brook flooding and how improving the current wall structures could create a space for a brick display as well as minimizing water entry into the patio. The new FEMA agent visiting Hillsdale recommended a "door dam" which is a door that fits into a channel and keeps the water from entering the building. There would be up to 75% grant money for this. Ridgewood has this product in place. Mr. Franz will send the link to the Board members. The 36" door, with additional panels, goes outside the regular door, fits into a channel and the gasket responds to water pressure. Ms. Miano asked if this door would lower our liability insurance.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Mulé: The Library is fiscally sound. The Operating account has approximately \$33,000; the Reserve account has approximately \$ 30,000. Mr. Mulé asked a question about the insurance and this was the remainder from 2011's settlement. Under

Miscellaneous was the repair bill to Kastle Builders. At the end of each year, Mr. Franz delineates miscellaneous expenses.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz:

- We received our first check from WL for \$6,325. We received another 25-30 vouchers which brings us now to approximately 130 families. The library previously served a maximum of 181 families several years ago. Mr. Franz pointed out the increase in our circulation due to WCL patrons.
- Cindy is reaching out to the Woodcliff Lake schools for their reading lists. 'Story Time' demand will be analyzed.
- Repairs: The carpet tiles are slightly delayed and will be installed shortly. The walls and office have been repainted.
- Mr. Franz will be at the Public Library Association Conference.
- Kids for Earth and Community Garden will be hosting a plant swap on May 6th. Elizabeth Scholl offered to put plantings along the driveway. Mr. Franz is suggested some type of ground border around each of the new sculptures.
- *Imagipalooza* will be on April 22nd. Laura and Mr. Franz are brainstorming ideas for this day. Board members are asked to help promote this event. It is also Earth Day and on a Sunday so as not to conflict with the town fishing contest. The Maker Space Fridays have been well received by children and parents.
- Laura led a Teen Advisory summit at the Paramus Library. She remains actively involved with the Young Adult section of the NJ Library Association.
- Ms. Braun asked about "worldbooknight.org". Our Library will serve as a distribution point, the books are being donated and we have volunteers who will be distributing these books that evening.
- The used book sale will be on June 9th and 10th.
- Jon DeJoseph said that there is a Bergen Co. contract for utilities. Mr. Franz will send him several of our PSE&G bills to see if there is a less expensive alternative. Mr. Franz explained services with public and private entities.
- The NJ Library Association Conference will be in June.

5 Year Strategic Plan:

All trustees had reviewed the plan and were in agreement that these are plans that we want to work on for the next five years. Ms. Scordato asked for clarification about an item on page 6. The Board would be open to any strategic partnerships. Mr. Franz made a minor wording change to that section:

"The Library Board will monitor and investigate potential joint activities and/or shared services with surrounding communities that would be of benefit to the Hillsdale Free Public Library".

Mr. Harris asked for approval of this strategic plan. There was a unanimous vote of approval. Mr. Weir asked about donations. Mr. Harris suggested excerpting certain portions of this plan and developing a donations brochure.

The Friends: Mr. Weir said that \$4,000 has been deposited from donations. *The Friends* plaques will be moved next to the capital campaign board. Mr. Hewitt was most generous with his donation to *The Friends*.

The next Library Board meeting will be on April 9, 2012. Mr. Mulé moved to adjourn the

meeting, Mr. Harris seconded. The meeting officially adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Danaher
Recording Secretary