

## Hillsdale Free Public Library

**Board of Trustees**

**April 9, 2018**

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*In attendance were: Barbara Braun, Robert Heyliger, Alfred Metz, Joanne Miano, Allen Saslowsky, Barbara Wertheim*

*Also present: David Franz, Director of the Library, Abby Lundy, Liaison to Council*

*Excused: Marie Hanlon, Warren Harris, Kathleen Scordato*

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Barbara Braun, 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 7:35 p.m. The Board reviewed the March minutes. Ms. Wertheim made a motion to accept the March minutes, Ms. Miano seconded. Unanimous vote of approval.

Public invited to speak: Mr. Devarakonda, of River Vale, spoke during the Makers Day presentations. He expressed gratitude for the maker programming and Makers Day event provided by the library. He commented that it was a wonder that turnout seemed low this year. He suggested perhaps more publicity is necessary to attract participants.

Gary Weir, President of the Friends of the Library, and David Franz presented certificates and gift cards to the winning entries of the NJ Makers Day event. Portable Weather Station – Dylan Minneker and Aaron Ng (voted best electric thing); Upcycled Playroom Storage – Lucy Smith (voted best use of recycled materials); Sun-Earth-Moon – Shuban & Udbhav Devarakonda (voted best moving thing); Magic of Slime – Sadie Huang (voted best thing to make sound); Infinity Dress – Kathryn Ng (voted best thing that could be worn); Exfoliant Soaps – Scozzafava Family (winner of the “surprise us” category); Straw Bridge Transporter – Ben Gulleyan (voted best in show)

*The Friends:* Mr. Weir discussed the agenda of the next Friends meeting to be held on April 16. The museum pass program will be reconfigured to include more local venues. The low use of the Guggenheim and Intrepid passes do not merit their expense. Grounds for Sculpture will be retained.

President's Report: Ms. Braun provided an update on her efforts to organize a series of fly-fishing classes. A local organization had successfully run a clinic at the Hawthorne Library. One of our issues is the necessity of ample open space to do the actual casting. She had been in discussion with Ms. Sheeran regarding a jewelry workshop. She suggested that target audiences should be defined for programs and that appropriate publicity be focused on attaining that audience. Programming could be conducted according to season or within specific subject categories. A discussion ensued regarding outreach and publicity in general.

Treasurer's Report: The list of checks was presented. The final transfer of funds from TD bank to Lakeland was acknowledged.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz took the Board on a brief tour to explain an idea to free up existing space to permit more people to enjoy programs, particularly music and lectures. Mr. Franz had been contacted by a prospective donor who is interested in funding programs of interest to lifelong learners, such as lectures and cultural programs.

One of the considerations in conducting higher quality programs is that they frequently cost more to deliver, particularly musicians, or popular topics attract a large crowd. If the library relocated some of the hard-wired computer workstations and shifted to a flexible Chromebook or laptop model, then the large computer island could be eliminated. An estimated 64 to 72 chairs could be set up with room for a presenter (10'x23') in front of the bow window. Additional chairs could be set up around the top floor balcony. The Board discussed the pros and cons of the idea. It would mean that the sound from the programs would spill-over into the rest of the library, but the meeting room could be used as a quiet space at that time. Patrons who insist on using the Windows based workstations may be relocated further from immediate staff assistance. However, use of the workstations has been declining. Mr. Franz explained that this is probably the only way to expand seating capacity for larger programs. Mr. Metz suggested that some events might be able to be shared via streaming service. Mr. Franz will develop the plan further.

- An invitation to Myron Theilmeier's Eagle Ceremony was received. Ms. Wertheim will be attending as her son is also receiving the honor. Ms. Braun will attend on behalf of the Board.
- Mr. Franz distributed a draft letter composed by Ms. Scordato to commend recipients of the Eagle Scout rank. The Board concurred that a letter should be issued to Hillsdale scouts that achieve this rank. Mr. Franz will print the letters on library stationery and Ms. Braun will sign and bring them to the ceremony. Future coordination with the local troops will be needed.
- A proposal to extend the guarantee on termite treatment conducted last year was discussed. The Board concurred that the extension should be granted.
- The status of the delivery service was discussed. BCCLS funded a short term supplemental delivery contract. The new statewide vendor will not start until May 29.

Strategic Plan: The sub-committee was unable to meet between meetings. Ms. Braun, Ms. Wertheim, and Mr. Metz will work on edits and changes. All members were encouraged to mark-up the draft plan. Mr. Metz volunteered to synthesize the comments. Mr. Franz will resend a Word and PDF version.

- Mr. Heyliger informed the Board that the All-Access committee did not meet this month. He is the representative from the Library.

The next Library Board meeting will be on May 14, 2018. Ms. Wertheim moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Scordato. The meeting officially adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David J. Franz*  
*Library Director*