

# Hillsdale Free Public Library

**Board of Trustees**

**July 8, 2019**

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*In attendance were: Liz DiLorenzo, Warren Harris, Al Metz, Joanne Miano, John Ruocco, Mayor, Allen Saslowsky, Barbara Wertheim*

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

*Excused: Marie Hanlon, Carol Schepker, Kathleen Scordato*

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Mr. Harris 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 7:33 PM. A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Ms. Wertheim, seconded by Ms. Miano. Unanimous vote of approval.

Public invited to speak: No one was present.

President's Report: Mr. Harris:

- He thanked all Board members for their work on the Foundation by-laws and Foundation interviews. The Foundation met on June 27, 2019. A resolution was made and passed to approve the nominees as Trustees for the Foundation. The slate of officers are: President: Mr. Guy Mulé, VP: Ms. Melanie Harada, Treasurer: Mr. Jeffrey Steinfeld, Secretary: Ms. Barbara Abolafia. Mr. Harris participated as the incorporator only. The by-laws were unanimously approved. There was a lengthy and enthusiastic discussion about the objectives of the Foundation. The application for filing the 501c3 is still in process. Sub-committees will be convened to discuss programming, changing the configuration of the Library and other considerations.
- The Strategic Planning Committee (Mr. Metz, Ms. Scordato and Ms. DiLorenzo as alternate) needs to convene before the September 9<sup>th</sup> Library meeting to help develop the Strategic Plan. There is also a Commemoration Committee. The Mayor and Ms. Lundy prepared a Proclamation, Mr. Franz had it framed and it is ready for presentation to donors Paul and Gayle Gross.
- Mr. Harris spoke effusively about Mr. Saslowsky's dedication to the Hillsdale Schools and to the Hillsdale Library and all board members heartily concurred. On behalf of the Board, he presented a framed certificate. He will be greatly missed.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Metz: The Library is fiscally sound. There was a donation noted of \$5,000. Total income is about 8% higher than initially projected amounting to approximately \$10,000. One utility bill has finally caught up. Expenses reflected the musical programming. Ms. Miano had a question about specific donations and where they should be noted within the line items in the budget.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz:

- He will distribute the minutes from the first Foundation meeting.

- The new BCCLS delivery service is effectively functioning with the new system, new and substitute drivers for the 77 libraries. The warehouse is smaller, but it is manageable. 800 backlogged bins are down to 120 bins.
- A BCCLS committee is investigating and recommending unified policies that will ultimately benefit all patrons. BCCLS is working on unifying loan periods and are considering unified fines. Another consideration are automatic renewals which would take effect on 2-14-20. Mr. Franz is looking at reducing fines on DVDs. Mr. Harris asked about the impact of fine reductions (we annually net \$14,000 on fines). Mr. Metz asked about the impact of fines on borrowing habits and it doesn't have a major impact. Some libraries are going fine-free.
- Library County Grant – At the last BCCLS System Council meeting it was decided to suspend the use of the County Grant to support the net-lending reimbursement program. Hillsdale traditionally has been a net-lender for which we have received reimbursement yearly.
- Programming for the Fall is being developed.
- The Library and the Foundation will have a presence at Hillsdale Day, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>.
- There were three proposals for power washing the Library; DT Associates came in with the lowest bid. Estimates for cleaning the interior/exterior of the windows were also submitted earlier, but were much more expensive.
- Pascack Press ran a small photo of the summer Space Explorers Reading program. Flyers were made available to every school child in June. The Read to Me program has not had too much response. Mr. Franz did take out a small ad on Facebook. However, the response overall has been lower than in the past; there has been more response to the creative projects.

The 5 Year Strategic Plan: Mr. Metz asked how the strategic plan will be coordinated with the *Foundation* and *The Friends*. Mr. Franz spoke about previous surveys. Mr. Harris wants our Library to serve more people in town, not just with books, but offer broader community meeting places and programming. Mr. Franz suggested funding wider activities that wouldn't necessarily be held in the Library, use other town facilities. Mr. Metz asked about the NJ State Library Construction grant. The application will be made available in 2020.

Library Foundation: There will be a musical event at the Library on Sunday, October 20th to introduce the new Foundation members.

New Business: No new business.

The Friends: No one was present.

The next Library Board meeting will be on September 9, 2019. Mr. Saslowsky moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. DiLorenzo. The meeting officially adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Deirdre Danaher*  
 Recording Secretary