

Hillsdale Free Public Library

Board of Trustees

April 10, 2023

In attendance were: Judy Atchison, William Berde, Mary DeChiara, Elizabeth DiLorenzo, Warren Harris, Al Metz, Carol Schepker, Barbara Wertheim

Also present: David Franz, Director of the Library

Excused: Amanda Miller, Janetta Trochimiuk

Ms. Schepker called to order an in-person 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 and as appended below.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM. A motion to approve the March 13, 2023 minutes was made by Ms. DiLorenzo, seconded by Ms. Wertheim. Unanimous vote of approval.

Public invited to speak: 30 Library patrons were present as part of this evening's awards' ceremony for the 2023 NJ Makers Day.

- Ms. Schroeder thanked Mr. Franz for how much he has done to involve the community, engaging a broad spectrum of age groups.
- Ms. Locke, from Woodcliff Lake, asked about her town's lack of participation in BCCLS, a 40 year history with this issue. Mr. Franz briefly explained the reasons why.
- Ms. Shynn stated that the Make and Share activities on Wednesdays are very popular with children.
- Ms. Geraghty thanked Mr. Franz for showing her child how to use the 3-D printer.

President's Report: Ms. Schepker: We had a wonderful March. Creativity abounded at the Hillsdale Library's Makers Day, and it was enjoyed by many in the community. There have been a number of recent donations which are a testament to the leadership of Mr. Franz and his dedicated staff. The poster printer is paying for itself. Mr. Berde asked if we still have the Teen Advisory Board, and we don't primarily due to the elimination of the full-time reference/teen librarian position.

Mr. Steven McKenna was introduced as the new President of *The Friends*.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Wertheim: The Library is fiscally sound. Book sales, fines and donations have increased as well as other revenue generating areas such as the printers and copier.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the operating bill list, seconded by Mr. Berde. Unanimous vote of approval.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz: The NJ Makers Day at Hillsdale Library took place on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Approximately 400 visitors came to see exhibits and engaged with the exhibitors. The event was covered by Pascack Press.

Mr. Franz explained that the Friends funded the prizes and introduced Mr. McKenna and Ms. Schepker. Winners were presented with a lovely certificate and a \$50 gift card. The Overall Best in Show received a \$250 gift card.

The winners of the Maker's Fair were:

- ❖ Best Reuse of Materials - Sadie Y. Shynn
 - ❖ Best Thing That Could Be Worn - Alejandra Locke
 - ❖ Best Thing That Makes Sound - John Korchok
 - ❖ Best Thing Made with Library Tools - Aedan Geraghty
 - ❖ Surprise Us! - Alessandra Barboni
 - ❖ Best in Show - Corinne Schroeder
- Mr. Franz shared circulation rates among all BCCLS Libraries for the first quarter of 2023. Hillsdale remains among the top third.
 - Mr. David Young is the interim Chief Municipal Finance Officer for the Borough of Hillsdale. \$12,092. is due to the Library from the 2022 1/3 mil allowance. Mr. Franz is requesting use of this money to purchase 8 portable tilt-top tables and 12 task chairs for the main floor.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Metz to approve the expenditure, upon receipt of the funding, for the tables and chairs, seconded by Ms. Atchison. Unanimous vote of approval.
 - Mr. Franz did miscellaneous repairs in the Library.
 - He made a request to NJ State to dispose of old administrative files. When approved, this will clear up space in the 3rd floor storage room.
 - The study rooms have been heavily utilized. Mr. Metz asked if college interviews have occurred there and yes, occasionally.

Mini-Grant: Mr. Franz applied for a mini grant from LibraryLink NJ, the regional library cooperative for NJ. The grant is for libraries seeking to “Level Up” an existing library program. Our focus would be to *level up* our makerspace to support a pilot program for teen entrepreneurship. Notification will be the end of April if awarded. Ms. Schepker suggested that we offer a workshop on marketing for teens.

Exhibits Policy: Mr. Harris has been researching this. Discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

The Friends/The Foundation: There will be a *Friends* meeting in May.

New business: Mr. Metz asked about a new Foundation fundraiser for the early Fall. Mr. Franz would like to have it in warm weather to take advantage of the patio.

Ms. Danaher suggested that a presentation be offered on the burgeoning growth of Artificial Intelligence, particularly on Chat GPT, and other developing iterations. Mr. Franz will pursue this.

The next regularly scheduled Library Board meeting will be on May 1, 2023. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. DiLorenzo. Unanimous vote of approval. The meeting officially adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Danaher
Recording Secretary