

Hillsdale Free Public Library

Board of Trustees

December 11, 2023

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

Also present: David Franz, Director of the Library, Janetta Trochimiuk, Liaison to the Borough Council.

Excused: William Berde

Ms. Schepker 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 PM. A motion to approve the November 13, 2023 minutes was made by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Wertheim. Unanimous vote of approval.

Public invited to speak: No one was present.

President's Report: Ms. Schepker: She thanked Judy Atchison for her two years of dedicated service to the Board of Trustees as the mayor's alternate. Ms. Schepker was pleased with all of the Library activities this year. She deferred the rest of her comments to the general meeting.

A Nominating Committee was created to nominate a slate of officers for 2024. Mr. Harris, Ms. Wertheim, and Ms. DiLorenzo graciously volunteered. The slate of officers will be presented at the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Wertheim: The library is fiscally sound. She delineated several line items. Book sales, donations, WL memberships, among other items, all generated revenues greater than what was expected.

A motion was made by Ms. Schepker to accept the operating bill list, seconded by Mr. Harris. Unanimous vote of approval.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz:

- Considering upgrading the printer to a more efficient model due to increased usage by the public.
- Summarized all of the programs offered this year. Results show that more than twice as many people attended one or more programs this year, as compared to 2022, and for less than half the cost.
- Ms. Schepker said that Lori is doing a great job with social media; 50% increase in social media posts.
- Museum Pass program: The American Museum of Natural History voucher request has had consistent usage; the other museum passes are not as popular. The Foundation pays yearly for these vouchers/passes. They are listed on the library's website.
- Woodcliff Lake memberships vs. renewals: 89 cards were renewed or newly registered. 31% were new this year, 26% are long-term users from 2014 or prior.

- Postal addresses for Hillsdale are 3,679. A library card was utilized by 1,487 (40%) of these addresses in 2022. This is per address, not disaggregated for person(s) within said household.
- Ms. Trochimiuk said that there is a newly formed Hillsdale Chamber of Commerce. She suggested some type of outreach to new residents to promote the Library within a possible Welcome Basket. She suggested that someone from the Library should join this new organization. Mr. Franz and Ms. Schepker volunteered.
- Mr. Franz met with the Borough Administrator and CFO to discuss the 2024 budget. Any funding above the 1/3 mil rate would count against the state's 2% CAP law.
- Carpet update: The Borough is joining the Hunterdon cooperative. The Middlesex cooperative contract for carpet had expired. Commercial Interiors Direct submitted a favorable quote within the allowance so the carpet replacement is expected next year.
- Whalen and Ives provided excellent service to us, and we will sign a service contract with them for 2024.

Ms. Schepker said that Hillsdale came out #53 in a town survey as the best NJ suburb to live in.

<https://www.niche.com/places-to-live/search/best-suburbs/s/new-jersey/?page=3>

The Friends/The Foundation: The Foundation will be meeting this Wednesday.

New business: A motion was made by Ms. Schepker, seconded by Ms. Atchison, to approve the meeting dates for 2024. Unanimous vote of approval.

Meeting dates are the second Monday of the month: 1/8, 2/12, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8 & 8/12 (optional), 9/9, 10/21, 11/11, 12/9.

The next regularly scheduled Library Board meeting will be on January 8, 2024. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Wertheim, seconded by Mr. Harris. Unanimous vote of approval. The meeting officially adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Danaher
 Recording Secretary