

Hillsdale Free Public Library

Board of Trustees

June 10, 2024

In attendance were: William Berde, Mary DeChiara, Jonna Davis, Elizabeth DiLorenzo, Warren Harris, Elizabeth Leonard, Carol Schepker, Barbara Wertheim

Also present: David Franz, Director of the Library, Janetta Trochimiuk (Liaison to the Council)

Excused: Amanda Miller

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 7:33 PM. A motion to approve the May 13, 2024 minutes was made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Wertheim. Unanimous vote of approval.

Public invited to speak: No one was present.

President's Report: Ms. Schepker: She shared some findings from the 2020 census. 21% of the town are ages 60 - 80+. 3% of the town population are below the poverty level, but 10% of those are over 65. Mostly older people come to the Coffee and Cookies gatherings. Our library is vital as a hub for communication, socializing, programs, and the use of computers, among other services. The trustees were commended for what they do to support the community.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Wertheim: The library is fiscally sound. Increases were noted in WL memberships, revenue generating areas such as fines, and gifts/donations. Mr. Franz explained the policy concerning fines among the 78 BCCLS libraries. Some are fine-free and the fine structure is specific to individual libraries. Hillsdale does have a fine policy.

Ms. DiLorenzo made a motion to accept the operating bill list, seconded by Ms. Leonard. Unanimous vote of approval.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz:

- A \$5,000 donation was given to the library. He would like to apply that donation to health and wellness programs.
A motion was made by Ms. DiLorenzo to apply the \$5,000 donation to the health and wellness programming, seconded by Mr. Berde. Unanimous vote of approval.
- \$10,000 was donated from former Library Trustee (Mayor's Alternate) Judy Atchison.
- Carpet installation will take place the week of July 15th in front of the circulation desk and in the main reading area. The Staff Appreciation Breakfast will be that week. Carpeting is from Commercial Interiors Direct, under the Hunterdon Cooperative. The broadloom carpet is being replaced, not the carpet tiles. The tiles were installed in 2018; that pattern has been discontinued.

- \$85,000 has been set aside in the Borough Capital Plan for a new roof. Current bids fall way beyond this appropriation. Mr. Franz will be seeking additional quotes from the NJ Bergen Bids Cooperative and the NJ Educational Services Coop. Mr. Franz requested the formation of a sub-committee to review future bids. Mr. Harris, Ms. Leonard, and Ms. Wertheim volunteered.
- There will again be a summer Photo Wall.
- Mr. Franz constructed a giant “book” that will display children’s drawings and writings about their favorite books/characters. It will be in the lobby by the Children’s Room. Additional signage is on the front lawn advertising the children’s Summer Reading Program.
- There will be a Makers Program; theme is *Means of Adventure*.
- Staffing considerations: He would like to allocate funding for a PT staffer to specifically organize crafts and story hours in the Children’s Room. Debbie is planning to retire in 2025.
- The 125th Hillsdale Anniversary Journal will be available later this year; the library is featured.
- The Seed Library has been well received. A plant clippings exchange will take place this Saturday.

New business: A motion was made by Ms. DiLorenzo, seconded by Mr. Harris to not hold meetings in July and August. Unanimous vote of approval.

All Trustees thanked Ms. DeChiara for her dedicated service as the School Superintendent’s designee. She is retiring at the end of the month from the Hillsdale school system.

The Friends/The Foundation: The Foundation will meet this Wednesday. *The Friends* are still in need of a Treasurer.

The next regularly scheduled Library Board meeting will be on September 9, 2024. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Schepker, seconded by Ms. DeChiara. Unanimous vote of approval. The meeting officially adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Danaher
 Recording Secretary