

Hillsdale Free Public Library

Board of Trustees

September 9, 2024

In attendance were: William Berde, Elizabeth DiLorenzo, Warren Harris, Amanda Miller, Carol Schepker, Michael Sheinfeld, Mayor, Barbara Wertheim

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

Excused: Elizabeth Leonard

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 7:36 PM. A motion to approve the June 10, 2024 minutes was made by Mr. Berde, seconded by Ms. Wertheim. Unanimous vote of approval.

Public invited to speak: No one was present.

President's Report: Ms. Schepker: Thank you to Mr. Franz and the Library staff for their excellent programming that was provided throughout the summer and enjoyed by many patrons. In particular, the children's programming, which was organized by Cindy, was well attended.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Wertheim: All checks are to the usual vendors. Used book sales have generated strong revenues. Donations, fines and Woodcliff Lake memberships have all increased. The library will be over in supplies vs. budgeted. \$18,450 was given in donations; Ms. Schepker said that attests to the public's positive support of the library. Mr. Berde said that the use of the small meeting rooms has been very beneficial for tutoring.

Mr. Harris made a motion to accept the operating bill list as presented, seconded by Ms. Miller. Unanimous vote of approval.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz:

- New carpet tiles were installed in July. A number of maintenance items were taken care of: new light switches were installed in some parts of the library, several lawn sprinkler heads were replaced, and trees were trimmed.
- Circulation is up slightly this year; digital circulation continues to increase month to month.
- Ms. Eve Foote was hired to work PT in the Children's room.
- The new sound system, purchased with donations from *The Friends of the Library*, is working out well and was used for Open Mic Night, and the outdoor Car Fair.
- Mr. Franz shared a mug that was printed with the new sublimation printer. The heat press turns the ink into a gas which embeds in the polyester, so that the image is deeply imprinted into the mug or any other item.
- Hillsdale Fall Fest will be on Sunday, Sept. 29th from 12 - 4 PM at Beechwood Park. The library will have a table with staff. Trustees' assistance would be welcomed.

- Of the 78 BCCLS libraries, 41 are fine-free, 37 have fines, including Hillsdale. Trustees discussed the ramifications of both. To be continued.
- “Losers Report” – Hillsdale is at 8% for books that were purchased, but not yet circulated after 8 months; last year it was 7%. The lowest rate is 4% for one library.

Roof Replacement Proposals Update: Ms. Trochimiuk asked about solar panels. Mr. Franz would explore this further with the town; however, the structural integrity (weight) of the panels on the roof factors in. Additionally, there are numerous angles on the roof, with minimal exposure facing South. Several roofing bids were presented. Mayor Sheinfield said there is a list of approved NJ State vendors to further solicit bids from. The draft of the 2025 Library budget will be drawn up in October. Next year, Hillsdale will be reassessed.

Community Survey: This is part of the strategic plan. The last survey generated 600 responses. It will be available at Hillsdale Day. It is a two-sided, one page survey, and also can be completed online with a QR code.
A motion was made to approve this survey by Ms. Wertheim, Ms. DiLorenzo seconded. Unanimous vote of approval.

Suspended Sculpture: Continuing with the Library’s sculpture projects, patrons can pick up a laser cut jigsaw puzzle piece to draw/paint/sketch on or can also have a picture printed on a piece. Pieces will then be assembled for a sculptural display. Patrons have until March to submit.

Exhibits Policy: Mr. Franz has the authorization to approve exhibits for display. The Board concluded that there was no conflict of interest if a staff member, board member, or member of the Friends or Foundation wished to exhibit, so long as others were not denied exhibit time.

The Friends/The Foundation: No reports given. Meetings are scheduled within the next two weeks.

New Business: Mr. Franz asked Trustees to consider changing the meeting dates from the second Monday of the month to the third Monday of the month for 2025.

The next regularly scheduled Library Board meeting will be on October 21, 2024. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Berde. Unanimous vote of approval. The meeting officially adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Danaher
Recording Secretary