



HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2022

Present

Lauren Casper (President), Joanna Riesman (Treasurer), Jacqueline Weitzman (Secretary), Tim Donahue, Peter Swiderski, Debbie Quinn (Director)

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 8 meeting were approved.

Day-to-Day Operations

The library continues to be busy. Most patrons are wearing masks, as are staff. The back of library and study rooms are very much in use.

Sundays continue to be quieter than before the pandemic, though spring Sundays are typically quieter than those during the fall and winter.

April is National Poetry month; there are displays in the adults' and children's sections.

The shift in shelving J YR is almost complete. When it is done, it will be much easier to locate the many series that are housed on those shelves. Teen volunteers have been helping Allee with this. At the request of young patrons, some new series are being added.

Personnel

A patron recently questioned the content of a graphic novel her son borrowed, Marika Tamaki's *This One Summer*. She sent screen shots of the pages that upset her son. While admitting she has always had a good relationship with the library, she was surprised this book was included in the juvenile graphic novel section. Prior to this, Debbie and Allee had discussed creating a "YA GN" label rather than just the existing "Older Teens" label on the spine. This process has now been initiated. Allee wrote a very nice response to this patron, which Debbie edited. No reply as yet.

In response to the above, the Board cited the American Library Association's expansive resources on advocacy, legislation, and procedures surrounding banned books.

Allee and Debbie went to Hillside Elementary School to meet with Jamie Nedwick, Library Media Specialist. They will collaborate on upcoming programs.

Peter selected 23 science fiction books to help memorialize a patron whose family gave a donation to the Friends. These selected books will each feature a book plate, the design of which comes from the patron's family.

Programming

Allee is planning the summer reading program, whose theme will be "Oceans of Possibilities." In lieu of pre-made folders for all – incurring reams time and paper – participants will sign up as they come to the library. To promote sign-ups, Allee will set up a table at the Pride event in early June. Prizes will still include coupons from local merchants.

Battle of the Books will happen virtually. Allee will be running a 4th-7th grade group.

Helen and Seva will run a Greek Art Workshop on Monday, April 11th at 1:00-1:45 (K-2nd) and 2:00-2:45 (grades 3 and up).

For Earth Day, Friday, April 22, at 3:30, Allee is joining forces with the Vine Squad, for a program called "Love the Earth a Lottie." Children 7-10 will learn about invasive plants and get their hands dirty while removing them from "Lottie," the Vine Squad's adopted space in the NE corner of the Zinsser commuter lot.

Mike and Regina ran the "Keeping It Real" non-fiction book group last week. There was a lively discussion about *Just Kids*. Mike has chosen Susan Orlean's *The Library Book* for the next meeting on Friday, April 29th. The group is gaining momentum.

Both of the Gamut/Changemaker programs were terrific. The Hudson River Museum talk was well attended—about 25 to 30 people. The Rehabilitation Through the Arts on April 3 was fabulous, but there were only about 8 to 10 attendees outside of the many Friends who were there. Some of this owes to the complications and uncertainties surrounding Covid, as people budget their in-person activities.

The last of Read, Watch, Discuss will occur on Thursday, April 6 and will feature Alice Munro's story "The Bear Came over the Mountain" and its film adaptation, *Away From Her*.

Are You Happy Now? will be screened in the Orr Room on Thursday, April 28th at 7:00 pm. It was shot in Hastings and Yonkers and directed by our neighbor David Beinstein, who will be on hand for Q and A afterwards.

Jack Houghteling, Regina's son, will present his first novel, *Goodman*, on Saturday, April 23rd at 2:30 p.m. in the Orr Room.

Gil Reavill will be presenting "Nordic Noir" on Sunday, May 15th at 2:00 p.m.

We'll be starting afternoon matinees for adults in June. First up is *A League of One's Own*. Some future movie choices will come from a list of "25 box office flops," featured in "Variety." Jeanne will be on hand to facilitate.

Regina will be joining Mercy College English professor and Dobbs Ferry resident Sara Bramble for a Zoom open mic poetry program on May 7th from 2:30 to 4:30. This event will feature three published poets and anyone else who would like to participate.

The Friends Gala is set for Sunday, June 5th. It will be Cabaret-style, featuring three Broadway singers and a surprise fourth guest! It will be an inside/outside event. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

To promote this robust programming, the Board suggested that one or two staff members' details could include more communications and promotion – through flyers, Instagram, and Facebook posts. The newly-renovated website includes further avenues of communication – newsletters, the blog, and the "Spotlight On" feature.

If Zoom continues to be a medium for programs, it was suggested that patrons be able to receive the link directly from the website program page, rather than having to write an email to request this link. This ease in logistics may help attendance.

Facilities

The roofers working on the Village Hall probed our roof to see what is underneath the gravel. Donald MacDonald and Russ spoke with them. They are putting together their plan that will then go out for bids.

Debbie picked out new carpet tiles for the Barnes Room. The cost was an additional \$2,500 that Neal Stanger, with Carpet Gallery, is not going to charge us. The new tiles should be in the warehouse by April 20th and Neal said he would get it installed immediately.

Michele is having the memorial for her husband on Saturday, April 9, and will be using both rooms. Before then, the DPW will move the Better World Books boxes.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting has been scheduled to be in-person on Tuesday, May 16, at 4:30 p.m.