



**HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 5, 2023**

Present

Lauren Casper (President), Joanna Riesman (Treasurer), Jacqueline Weitzman (Secretary), Tim Donahue, Peter Swiderski, Sharon DeLevie (Friends) on Zoom, Debbie Quinn (Director)

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 21, 2022 meeting were approved.

Day-to-Day Operations

We received the \$4,700 from the Board of Elections for early voting. \$4,500 was deposited into Memorial and the other \$200 was paid to librarians covering times when Library wasn't open.

Even with an uptick in Covid cases in Westchester, hardly any patrons wear masks, and the pace is steady.

Study rooms are used a lot.

The staff computers have been a constant source of issues for everyone, especially for the last two weeks. Weird pop-ups, being logged off several times a day, having to reboot more than once a day to get the receipt printers to work, etc. Generally, calling the WLS Help Desk resolves the problem temporarily. Debbie will contact the head of IT at WLS if this continues.

Scheduling issues with the Girl Scouts has been settled. Debbie reiterated our policy that Library and community events come first, and plenty of notice will be given when there are conflicts.

Debbie has been dealing with a disgruntled patron who refuses to abide by the Study Rooms policy, despite communicating the rules on numerous occasions. Our policy states that a patron may use the Study Rooms for two hours, once a day, three days a week, even when the rooms do not appear to be in use.

Policy

A revision of the rooms policy is in order. Joanna will re-send our current policy to members of the board for review before our next meeting.

Personnel

Lori is better and will be returning to work next week. Debbie will continue to schedule Greg and Donna to fill in when needed.

Allee proposed a topic for a *Prideworks* (non-profit that had been affiliated with Loft and Center Lane but broke out on their own) last year, but the event was cancelled. They have rescheduled it for this year at Pace University on March 15th and she will be leading a discussion about LGBTQ+ books and resources for teens.

Regina has a friend who is retired from a tech job that wants to volunteer once a week at the library. She will start the second Friday in January. Regina is putting together a plan for what she can work on and possibly teach the staff.

We will be having a staff meeting next week where Debbie will present a few possibilities for professional development workshops/webinars and ask if anyone has other suggestions for trainings that would be useful to outreach or enhancing our services at the library.

Programming

Mike's "Keeping It Real" book club is growing. He had a nice turnout and discussion for *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson on December 2nd. Next up is *Eleanor and Hick* by Susan Quinn on Friday, January 13th. He has about 8 people signed up. He doesn't want more than 10 participants. He'll either put a cap on it or see if a second session is warranted.

Jeanne and Mike showed "It's A Wonderful Life" in December and offered a light lunch. As predicted, food attracted more patrons. Next week, they will feature "Brooklyn" and offer pizza. The sandwiches (from Battaglia Brothers), though delicious, were too expensive to offer again.

The second part of Regina's program on Nora Ephron will be Thursday, January 12th. The first session concentrated on Ephron's writing and this one will be a discussion of her many films.

Peter Quinn and Thom Forbes had a great turnout (about 60) for a conversation about Peter's memoir *Cross Bronx: A Writing Life*. It attracted former Bronxites who seemed to enjoy making connections after the presentation. Galapagos brought books to sell.

Local Luminaries presented local author, Ari Wallach and his most recent book, *Longpath*. He had an interesting presentation and a good Q & A afterwards. Next Local Luminaries will feature Michael Levine who will present his film "The Automat" at 7:00 p.m. on 1/19 or 1/26 -- awaiting confirmation. Chess Club was very popular—may happen again in the spring.

LGBTQ+ Book Tasting in conjunction with Center Lane was well attended and very much appreciated by those who attended and fun. Sgt. Stephanie Minors came at 4pm and stayed until the library closed at 5pm. Thankfully, all went very smoothly.

Allee had a meeting of the New Parents and Primary Caregivers Club. She pretty much asked the group what they would like it to be. For now, it will happen bi-weekly on Fridays in the Barnes Room from 12:30pm -1:30pm. It will be a place to meet other people who are new to parenthood or caring for a young baby. They may also choose to have speakers, i.e., pediatricians, pre-school educators, nutritionists, etc.

This is National Braille Literacy Month and Allee had a program yesterday for K-1. A grandmother Debbie spoke to this morning raved about it and said her granddaughter had no idea there was such a thing. News to me is that our bathroom doors have braille signs on them.

Upcoming programs:

- Crafting Club drop-in club for middle grades Mondays 5:45pm - 6:45pm starting January 9th. Some supplies provided.
- Family Game Night with pizza was going on during our meeting.
- Winter Animal Art with Helen and Seva grades 2-4 on Wednesday January 25th
- Lunar New Year Celebration in conjunction with P-CoC will be on Sunday, January 22nd from 2:00pm - 4:00pm.
- Your Voice Heard: LGBTQ+ Podcasting and Radio with Marc Sophos from OutCasting will be on Thursday, January 12th from 6pm – 7pm. "Outcasting" is a series of public radio programs by LGBTQ+ youth and their allies with a national reach of 200 radio stations. This will be a virtual event on Zoom.

Ongoing kids programs:

- Book Club for grades 5 & 6 and 7 & 8.
- Toddler time with Allee on Mondays 11:30am - 12:00pm.
- Let's Pretend with Nora on Tuesdays 10:45am - 11:15am.
- Free play for toddlers and caregivers on Thursdays 11:30am - 12:30pm in the Orr Room.

Facilities

Debbie has had two contractors look at the bathroom job and the bottle refill stations and is awaiting their estimates. We received the initial 90% of the grant yesterday, \$7,650 (the remaining 10% is sent upon completion of the job). The plan is to deposit the grant money into Memorial. Once we get the total estimate, the remainder of the cost can be split between Building Maintenance and Memorial.

The re-bidding for the library roof will be done this month. Before that, we need to have a resolution to reject the previous bids as recommended by the architect, Donald MacDonald, and authorization to re-bid the project. The resolution to reject the previous bids was voted on unanimously by the members of the board. Debbie will bring the resolution to Anthony for the Village seal and sign it. During the course of our conversation, Anthony was surprised that we didn't have resolutions for all decisions made. He checked with Mary Beth Whitehead who said if they are in the minutes, no resolution is necessary.

Apparently, Congressman Bowman applied for a federal grant for Geothermal Energy on behalf of the Village and was granted \$750,000. It is unclear if this is a viable system for Hastings, but Anthony said that this is a pilot program, and that the Village will hire an engineer to assess the possibility.

The carpeting upstairs is getting shabbier and shabbier, and it is not only faded but also torn in spots. The board suggested Debbie pursues bids on recarpeting.

The board discussed a possible schedule for using the Barnes Room as a Quiet Room when it is not used for Library programs.

Friends

The Giftique was very successful. People kept on buying during the week following the sale, and the Friends took in more money than last year. A few changes were suggested for next year, such as extending the hours on Saturday to 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting has been scheduled for February 6th at 4:30pm.