



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVED MINUTES**

February 27, 2024

### **Present**

Lauren Casper (President), Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman (Secretary), Peter Swiderski (Treasurer) Tim Donahue, Lauren Links, Debbie Quinn (Director), Sharon DeLevie (Friends)

### **Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the January 25th meeting were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Peter reviewed the distribution of funds in the Memorial Fund and requested permission from the board to re-distribute them so that there is \$50,000 in Anderson (with the interest to be used annually for books and programs that promote literacy as per the original behest).

### **Day-to-Day Operations**

The kids area was very busy during winter break. Allee showed movies that are based on books from 1:00-3:00 each day. Turnout was low, but those who came enjoyed it.

Displays for Black History month were on a table by the window for adults and in three different spots in the children's area.

A concerning incident this past week with a senior patron reinforced the importance of applying for the Stephen T. Riedner Grant for Life Enhancing Library Programs for People Living with Dementia. Hastings resident Tarry Hum brought the grant to our attention. This \$2,500 would be used for staff training and creating a section devoted to books about dementia and how to be supportive so people with dementia can be made to feel safe, comfortable, and respected in their community. Tarry wrote three drafts of the application (which must be submitted by a library), with input from Patricia Bloom, Polly Bijur and Miriam Budin, who are all members of the

Village's Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, and Debbie. If we are not awarded this grant, Debbie would like to see if WLS's Outreach Department would be interested in hosting some trainings or programs so staff, both in the Library and in the Village, could be sensitive to members of our community living with dementia.

After trying again to reopen our old Facebook account, Metha, our new library clerk, has created a new library account. He has also made some very short videos to be used on Facebook and Instagram. In addition, he is going to meet with Joanna Riesman and go over the Friends' plan for new AV equipment for the Orr Room.

### **Programming**

Allee prepared a program, "Celebrate Black American STEAM Heroes!" and no one registered! It was geared toward K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She put all the materials in a box and will try it again next year.

The board discussed reviewing our outreach to the schools.

Mike's "Keeping It Real" book club met and read John Lewis' series *March*. He had nine people in attendance and they had a good discussion. The book they chose for the month of March is another graphic novel, *Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations* by Mira Jacobs, which will be on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Senior Art Workshop will be on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Emily Denise will be leading the group in portraits. A model will be coming for this session. A light breakfast will be served.

Dashiell Jordan from the Newington Cropsey is coming back for a third time on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. The topic will be, *Legacy and Reception: Painters of the Hudson River School Today*.

Allee's Lunar New Year celebration was a huge success. There were about 60 people throughout the afternoon. Unannounced politicians who came and spoke were Andrea Stewart-Cousins, George Latimer, David Imamura and Ellen Hendrickx. Juan took photos and Allee put them on Instagram. There was food, games, dancing, and decorations—it was very festive and much appreciated by those in attendance. Next year, we will try to have a Lion Dance or some other appropriate entertainment.

The bilingual singer, Flor, had her first session on February 16<sup>th</sup> and was terrific. There were about 30 adults and kids in attendance. She was very professional and spirited. She'll be coming once a month until June. Allee is going to try out other children's entertainers to change things up. She's considering a young woman who writes her own children's songs and plays guitar, as well as looking into someone who can do American Sign Language.

The Friends hosted the second of their three-part Gamut series on Sunday with Amy Barasch, the Executive Director of Her Justice, in conversation with Judge Audrey Stone. They presented an interesting discussion to about 40 people who clearly were interested in hearing about the good work they do in NYC with victims of domestic violence. The last talk in the series will be on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> by Don Chen, head of the Surdna Foundation.

Regina will be organizing the presentation of two films by local patrons. Linda Atkinson and her husband, Nick Doob, made a film called *Carmen and Geoffrey: the Extraordinary Lives of Dancers Carmen de Lavallade and Geoffrey Holder* on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Linda told Regina that Carmen de Lavallade, who is 91, will be at the screening and part of the Q & A. The other filmmaker, Vicky Bugbee, will let us know a date for the screening of *Out of State: A Gothic Romance*.

Regina is planning an "Open Reading" program for Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Anyone who registers can read an essay, short story, poem, portion of a novel or screenplay. She will be inviting high school students through the English Department of Hastings High School.

Allee is planning the following programming for kids:

- Crossword Competition - Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Competing age groups: ages 7 and 8, 9 and 10 and 11 and 12. Registration is required.
- Learn to Play Chess - March 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. for grades 1-4. Registration is required and spaces are limited.
- In anticipation of the release of her new album, *The Tortured Poets Department*, we will host a Taylor Swift Pre-Release Fan Celebration on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:45pm for ages 9 and up. There will be music, a Taylor Swift Emoji Songs Quiz, supplies for making friendship bracelets, a Polaroid photo booth, and a chance to make lots of predictions about the new album.
- The Ringston-Ward Duo will be back on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. for *"Dreams of Spring: A Musical Performance for All Ages"*. Jack and Jessica are graduating from Purchase in May, so this will most likely be their third and last program for us, depending on where they go to graduate school.

Jason Barr and Ari Wallach will be presenting as Local Luminaries. Dates still to be determined.

Read Me Another is being planned to celebrate Earth Day.

## **Budget**

Debbie has input the budget into Incode, and Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy is in the process of reviewing all departments' budgets. As of now, the date for presenting to the Village Board of Trustees is Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Facilities**

We need more bookshelves for the ever-growing Juvenile graphic novel collection. Jimmy Ndreu, the contractor who installed the water stations and the bathroom sinks, counters, etc. gave an estimate of \$1,650 for two wooden bookcases with three shelves each that will be secured to the wall and painted/stained to match the lower shelves.

### **Miscellaneous**

Debbie reminded the board that the HR trainings required by the Village for Library Board of Trustees need to be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Don McHugh from the Village Finance/HR department has asked that the Library write a "Standard Work Day" resolution to be adopted by the Library Board for the New York State and Local Retirement System. The Board approved a resolution stating that full time staff have a standard workday of seven hours, and the minimum for part-time staff is six hours.

The Board also approved the 2023 Annual Report for the New York State Association of Libraries, prepared by Sue Feir.

### **Friends**

Sharon DeLevie reported that the Friends will be transitioning from packing boxes of old and unwanted books for Better World Books, to using the Discover Bin.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, April 2nd at 7:30 pm.