



BOARD OF TRUSTEES Approved Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2024

Present

In person: Lauren Casper (President), Peter Swiderski (Treasurer), Tim Donahue, Debbie Quinn (Director)

On Zoom: Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman (Secretary)

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 23rd meeting were approved.

Board Business

Tim Donahue was unanimously and enthusiastically voted in to serve as the next president of the board of the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library.

Day-to-Day Operations

Early Voting started on Saturday, October 26th, causing a flurry of activity at the library. Staff are fielding dozens of phone calls every day answering questions about voting hours, parking availability, etc. The voting itself seems to be going very well. Debbie requested a police presence—just a walk around. There were 2300 votes cast on Saturday and Sunday, and by 6pm today, the total number of votes cast here is 4,148. Some people have wandered upstairs to see the library after voting. One man remarked to his wife, “I can’t believe I have never been in here. Look at that view! It is magnificent!” They then went on the deck to enjoy this spectacular location. The Friends have set up a table with handouts outside the Orr Room.

Personnel

Allee returned to work today after an extended sick leave. She is easing her way back and worked a half day today and will do the same tomorrow. Debbie covered all her programs, so her return is most welcome. Allee is happy to be back as well.

The entire staff, except for Jeanne and Allee, attended a Village mandated three-hour training in Implicit Bias, held in person in Tarrytown. The presenter did a good job in presenting the material with a sense of humor.

Past Programs

The Senior Council had their first Senior Thursday program on September 26th. We showed *Casablanca* and served pizza to about 22 people. The Seniors were very appreciative. The goal was to get Seniors into the Village and go out for lunch or shop in the many places that were offering discounts, but that didn't really happen. The next Senior Thursday will be November 14th at 1pm, and we'll show *An Affair to Remember*. We won't serve pizza, with the hope that people will eat in the Village. We will offer tea and coffee, and the Senior Council will provide cookies.

The Ringston-Ward Duo performed on September 29th. About 30 people were in attendance. They were terrific and will be back in December.

Regina had her hawk watch program on Saturday, October 4th. It began in the morning at Lenoir, and then she showed *Flyways*, a movie about bird migration, at the library in the afternoon. About 20 people attended, some of whom had been at Lenoir in the morning. The Hudson Valley Audubon Society's Michael Bochnik was extremely knowledgeable and a great presenter.

The Keeping It Real book club met last week to discuss Jamie Raskin's book, *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy*. They had a very interesting discussion. They are going lighter next month with *M Train: A Memoir* by Patti Smith.

Ukelele lessons for adults was a great success and the Friends agree to pay for another round of lessons in December.

Emily Denise was sick, so her Senior Art Program will be rescheduled for some time in November.

The second Local Luminaries program featured Rick Dresser and Willie Reale's movie *Devout and Dangerous*. The movie was phenomenal, the Q & A was so rich. Willie's brother Jim, who was in the movie, was present and answered questions. He was an activist with the Berrigans, had been arrested with them many times and told some harrowing, interesting stories. About 50-60 people attended and we had the projector and the TV showing the film simultaneously, which worked really well.

One week later, Janine Annett gave a great presentation about local journalism and her founding of the Rivertowns Current. There was a small group in attendance, but those who were there really enjoyed it and had a nice conversation with Janine at the end.

The biggest event of Allee's that Debbie covered was the Battle of the Books held on Saturday, October 26th in Ossining. It was great! Our Hastings team didn't make it to the semi-finals, (they came in third out of seven,) but they had a very respectable score of 85 and the two teams that made it to the next round had 100 and 90 points. The kids were great, they had fun, and their parents were terrific as well. It is a very fun event, and it worked out well to have a team of eight. Even though only five compete in each match, the other three could be spectators and three parents could be spectators as well. Each team was allowed 13 tickets per match.

Debbie also covered Toddlers' Storytime, the Graphic Novel Book Club, and pumpkin painting.

Upcoming Programs

A Family Celebration of Diwali will be on Saturday, November 9th from 12 to 1:30 pm. There will be snacks, crafts, music, and henna.

On Sunday, November 10th at 3 pm, Nick Van Hoogstraten will present a talk about his just published book, *Broadway Poster Art, 1945-1969*.

On Sunday, November 17th at 2 pm the library will show a movie about dementia and Alzheimer's entitled *Keys, Bags, Names, Words* to be followed by a Q & A. The discussion will be facilitated by a social worker who works with families dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's. The library paid the \$50 fee to stream the movie, and the Senior Council will do advertising and possibly supply some snacks. Patron Tarry Hum initiated the request after seeing the movie at the 92nd Street Y.

Looking ahead, Dan Belasco, an art historian, a member of the Hastings Arts Commission, and author of *Women Artists in Midcentury America: A History in Ten Exhibitions*, will provide an overview of the history of all-women exhibitions on Sunday, January 12th at 3 pm. Barbara Morgan (1900-1992), a local photographer and longtime Hastings' resident played a vital role in several all-women shows in her lifetime.

Steven Siebert would like to see a program on restorative justice at the library. He said he could invite several experts/activists who can speak on the subject.

Facilities

PTG has almost completed the restoration work on the outside of the building. There is one remaining piece of stone that needs to be installed at a sill in the back. The company who made the slab made the wrong size, so they had to send it back and are waiting for a replacement. Lou Bratto, owner of PTG, must have gotten approval from Mary Beth to paint the pillars in front of the library as well as the ceiling, and it all looks great. They also replaced some cracked bricks on the library wall going toward the parking lot. The workers were fantastic—very careful about covering the windows with plywood, the ground with plastic, and they cleaned up completely

every day. We got lucky with the weather, making it possible for them to work five days a week.

Taking down the enormous holly bush covering the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library sign would allow the lettering to be seen. The other tree closer to the path would also need a severe pruning. Lou Bratto looked at it and said they could try to remove the lettering and put it on the other brick wall, but there would be many holes in the brick that would have to be plugged, and he also couldn't guarantee that the lettering wouldn't break upon removal. The board went to look at the foliage after the meeting ended.

DP Wolff gave Debbie an estimate to put a Mitsubishi unit in the Barnes Room - \$21,700 – and she sent the estimate to Pasquale in the office of MaryJane Shimsky, our district's representative in the State Assembly. She's awaiting an estimate from PTG for the downstairs path work.

Carpet tiles were installed behind the Circ Desk. They look great and it is much easier to move the chairs and carts around the space.

The chairs have been returned from the upholsterer and they look fantastic. She re-stained the arms and restuffed the cushions and these 20-year-old chairs look like new.

Friends

Antonia Young presented her designs for new decorative elements for the Children's Picture Book Room, including a new mural of Ed Young's work for the dome to be fabricated in vinyl, as well as an original piece of art in neon by Antonia to welcome visitors to the to-be-renamed Young Room. The unveiling of this work and the celebration of Ed Day will be scheduled when we have a better sense of when the work can be completed and installed. Antonia will be getting an estimate for the work to make sure it is within the Friends' proposed budget.

The Friends' Annual Giftique is scheduled for December 14th.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 21st at 7pm.