HASTINGS ON HUDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Approved Minutes
September 15, 2026

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

Meeting Minutes
The minutes of the June 23, 2026 meeting were approved.

Day-to-Day Operations
The kick-off for the Summer Reading Program was great. It was on the first day of summer vacation so there was a lot of excitement in the air. Kids enjoyed an ice cream or fruit pop and there were several different lawn games and chalk available.

During the summer, the library was very well used. As usual, a lot of people worked in the back, little kids were often here in the mornings, and a lot of campers arrived around 3:30 p.m. Lots of kids came in to pick up their Summer Reading coupons which they still get really excited about. The insane heat attracted lots of people. Our AC worked well without any outages!

The Rivertowns' Chamber of Commerce Gala is happening on Thursday, September 24th at Hudco. Since Jacquie is not available to be the honoree that night, it was decided that Tim and Debbie would attend, with Tim saying a few words about our excellent library and our amazing volunteers.

We have signed a contract with a book vendor called McNaughton. Since Baker and Taylor folded, we have been unable to lease any books. This is McNaughton's main focus, and it will allow us to lease several copies of new, very popular books and then return a few copies when they are no longer "hot."

WLS has sent us the Service Level Agreement for 2027 which is for IT services. The 2027cost of our library is $53,480.24 which is approximately 4% more than last year. It needs to be approved and signed by Debbie by October 9th.

WLS also sent a document entitled, Free Direct Access Plan for 2027-2031 to Fulfill Commissioner's Regulation. Debbie will scan a copy for the board to review. The board needs to officially accept or reject the plan which we will do at our October meeting.

Adult Programs

The Keeping It Real book club made it through Robert Caro's first volume of the LBJ series, *The Path to Power,* during July and August. Everyone had lots to say about it. Mike left it up to individual members of the group to read the next volume on their own. Their next book is *Page Boy* by Elliot Page. They'll be meeting on October 16th.

We tried out having medici.tv matinees in August: Dizzy Gillespie Live in Paris in the 60's, Essential Royal Ballet from London, a quartet playing Beethoven and Mendelsohn in Italy, and a flute concert. The most attendees we had were five people and the others were one or two. Those who came really enjoyed themselves but maybe August was the wrong time to expect a larger crowd. There is so much wonderful programming to choose from and there is no cost to the library apart from light refreshments, so Debbie thinks she will try running the program again in the winter.

Mahjong and knitting continued throughout the summer. The Linus Project had their first monthly meeting on Sunday, September 13th after taking a summer break.

Julie Worden started up her dance program today and had a big crowd.

The Senior Movie, *Pressure,* will be shown on Thursday, September 17th at 1:00 p.m. Coffee and light snacks will be served.

The Medicare guru will return for the third time to explain the idiosyncrasies of our health care system. Demystifying Medicare and the Healthcare System for Seniors will be from 1:15 - 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 27th.

On Thursday, October 15th at 7:00 p.m., Nancy Felson, a Hastings resident and Classics Professor Emerita at the University of Georgia, will kick off the Local Luminaries series with a discussion about *The Odyssey* prompted by the release of Christopher Nolan's movie this summer. She will be joined in a panel discussion with Solly Granatstein, a 12-time Emmy-winning producer, director, and showrunner specializing in documentary programs, and Gregory Grene, a scholar of Foundational Texts who has taught *The Odyssey* to decades of high school and university students.

Emily Denise will run an Art Workshop on Friday, October 2nd at 9:30 p.m. A light breakfast will be served.

There will be a Ukelele Jam Session for intermediate players on Monday, October 5th.

Potential Program

Jennifer LaGrippo stopped by the library in the early summer with her proposal to officiate a Death Café at the library. The board was interested and asked Debbie to get more information. Jennifer's proposal is as follows:

> A Death Cafe is a free community conversation where people gather over tea and pastries to openly discuss death, dying, and how thinking about mortality can inspire us to live more intentionally. It is not a grief support group or educational seminar, but rather a welcoming, agenda-free discussion that encourages thoughtful conversation in a safe and respectful space.
>
> As a certified funeral celebrant and memorial planner, I have the privilege of helping individuals and families navigate some of life's most meaningful moments through personalized memorial ceremonies and conversations about legacy, remembrance, and end-of-life wishes.
>
> I'd like to emphasize that this event is entirely non-solicitous and is not intended to promote my business or any end-of-life services. In keeping with the Death Cafe model, there are no sales presentations, marketing materials, or attempts to generate clients. My hope is to help normalize conversations around death and provide a space where people can explore one of life's few universal experiences together.
>
> The program would run approximately 1.5–2 hours on any day that best fits your programming schedule, and I would be happy to provide the tea and light refreshments.
>
> If you'd like to learn more about the Death Cafe movement, I encourage you to visit DeathCafe.com. You can also learn a little more about me and my work as a funeral celebrant and memorial planner by visiting TheGypsySocial.com.
>
> I believe libraries are the perfect place for conversations like these, offering a trusted space for learning and dialogue. If you think this might be a good fit for the community, I'd love the opportunity to discuss it further and answer any questions you may have.
>
> Thank you again and I hope we have the opportunity to collaborate.

Youth Programs

The Summer Reading Program kept Allee busy, as well as prep for the fall's Battle of the Books—reading five books and making sample questions for the kids to practice.

Adam Hart continued his music program throughout the summer and had a big crowd each week. Toddler Time took place during part of the summer as well as Fingerplay Fun.

Fiber: A Textile Modification Skill-Building Workshop for Teens and Adults was a big hit during the month of August. The instructor, Niki, came with all the supplies for each week's project. Everyone who attended loved it. Since it turned out to be more of an adult program, Allee has suggested having one of the adult librarians consider offering it during the fall/winter. Jacquie and Joanna showed interest in helping.

There were two successful knitting and crocheting programs for kids with Jeanne's knitting group. They were both well attended and the knitters enjoyed teaching the kids.

New Parents and Caregivers started up again last Friday, September 11th. About twelve families participated. Debbie went down to meet them, and they were all thrilled with the possibility of making new friends with children similar in age to their own. It was a lovely group. They will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month from 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., although last Friday several of them stayed until around 2:00 p.m.

Friends

Kudos to Jacquie, Joanna, Lynn, and Sharon for the fabulous renovation of the Orr Room. Jacquie and Lynn were the "forewomen" for the project. They were here every morning when the workers arrived, stayed for many hours each day and answered questions that the contractor and painters had about everything. The scope of the project expanded out into the hallway where stained and broken tiles were replaced by still-good tiles removed from the Orr Room. Soiled tiles in the bathrooms were also replaced, and the hallways and bathrooms, along with the Orr Room, were painted our new favorite paint color: Benjamin Moore Cotton Balls.

As part of the plan for improvements, a hardy group of Friends arrived for the dismantling of the storage room – emptying it completely - and went through every item, determining if it should be saved or tossed. DPW took away what we didn't want, a few items were put on the Buy Nothing site, and Joanna intrepidly took things to TILI and many other places for re-use and recycling. Then, the storage room was refilled, reorganized and looks amazing and continues to stay useable and organized. It is still to be determined if a few more planned items are to be added, i.e. two locked cabinets for cleaning supplies. The closet in the Orr Room was also reorganized. Lynn assembled three metal shelving carts that move easily on wheels for knitting supplies, kids' programming items and a Giftique/Friends cart. It has been working out wonderfully and makes set-up and clean-up much easier. In addition, the pile of folding tables near the elevator is finally gone! They are now on industrial carts in the Orr Room closet, also assembled by Lynn. There is talk of putting a bench in the vestibule where the coat rack had been with some artwork above, and the existing coat rack will be re-installed on the wall across from the elevator, as the space was originally designed. It was a major project that turned out great! The Friends are truly remarkable.

Judy incorrectly paid $5,000 for the painting of the Orr Room from the Friends' account. This was never supposed to be paid for by the Friends. The painting of the hallways, the bathrooms, and the replacement tile work in the hallways was also approved by the Library Board via email vote as Library expenditures. The Friends asked that the Library reimburse

the Friends for that expense which we are in the process of doing. For our information, Sharon explained that an expense of $200 or less doesn't require Board approval; an expense of $1,000 needs the approval of the Executive Board and anything above $1,000 needs full Board approval.

Carol and Spike set up the "3 Books for $1" sale in the lobby. It was a lot of work! Debbie has seen people perusing the boxes, so it seems to have garnered a bit of interest.

The Friends' Library Giving Day will be on Tuesday, September 29th from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friends will help patrons sign up for E-scrip and offer some refreshments and baked goods as well as a free book from the Barkin Bookshop.

Debbie received notification from Museum Key that they are ready to start our subscription. The initial application was submitted on August 11th and there is still a packet that must be completed that may "take her a month to fill out." This is turning into a bit of a process, but she's on it.

Next Meeting
Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman, Secretary
Hastings-on-Hudson Library Board of Trustees