



## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 18, 2020  
**Location:** Hudson Area Library

### Trustees Attending:

Mark Orton (President)  
DeWayne A. Powell (Vice President)  
Lisa Dolan (Recording Secretary)  
Anna Nilsson (Treasurer)  
AnnaMaria Assevero  
Miranda Barry  
Julia Black  
Michael Grisham

Kenneth Kraus  
Theresa Parsons  
Carol Pledger  
Dan Ronsani  
Gary Sheffer  
Bill Stenehjem  
Charlie Whittingham

**Excused:** Kimberly Erwin

**Staff Attending:** Emily Chameides (Director)

**Others Attending:** Janet Schnitzer (Friends of the HAL)

Meeting was called to order by Mark Orton at 10:17 A.M. He welcomed trustees and HAL Friends representative Janet Schnitzer.

Minutes from the March 28, 2020, meeting were reviewed and approved by a motion from Ken Kraus, seconded by Charlie Whittingham. Vote to approve minutes was unanimous.

### Reports:

#### **President's Report: Mark Orton**

There have been several fundraising meetings recently. Though Mark urged that we will be cautious in approaching our local businesses and think about engaging and supporting our community and strengthening our community connections.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Anna Nilsson (Report Attached)**

- Through March, 61% of our annual budgeted operating income has been collected and 23% of our budgeted operating expenses were spent. Our expenses are in line with our budget.
- Income for March was \$19,000.00. Expenses were \$48,959.
- The Treasurer and Library Director together applied for a SBA Payroll Protection Program Loan for \$58,500.00. This was approved and the monies have been received. Salary payments are continuing.

- A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report by Michael Grisham and seconded by Miranda Barry. A motion to approve the Profit and Loss Detail for March 2020 was made by Michael Grisham and seconded by Dan Ronsani. Both motions were approved unanimously.

**Director’s Report: Emily Chameides**

- Staff are working remotely and being paid. Emily has sent them projects and is checking in with them periodically.
- Emily is in contact with the Mid-Hudson Library System regarding a reopening plan when the time will be right.
- A Zoom business account is being set up with the Columbia County Library Association..
- The current focus has been figuring out how to continue library services. Several classes are working remotely such as Creative Writing and Spanish, Book Clubs. Dr. Paul Spector’s popular class continues every Saturday remotely. Bound by Books and tween programs and story hours are continuing remotely.
- Mahogany Browne’s “Woke Baby” program continues with packs of books as the prize.
- Emily shared the HAL website and online resources with the Trustees. As per Julia Black’s questions Emily will be checking on the library usage stats.
- DeWayne A. Powell complimented Emily and her library team on the Website and its usability.
- Ken Kraus questioned whether we should be using this time to engage our community further with our services. DeWayne suggested a paid Facebook/social media campaign. Miranda Barry suggested we do this as well, hoping that people will look to the library as part of the solution to the current problems.
- Emily is looking into offering Hoopla, a media streaming platform.
- The History Room is continuing projects under direction of Brenda Shufelt, Gary Sheffer and Paul Costa.
- Paul Costa is offering technical support via email.
- Job search help is being offered by appointment.
- Columbia County Photo Club and the New Parent Group have met virtually.
- Ken Kraus asked if basement construction has come to a halt. Emily is reaching out to Jason of the Galvan Foundation for additional information. Miranda suggested reaching out to NYS for an extension on the building grant project.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fundraising: Miranda Barry**

- Several meetings have occurred this month. Though it may not seem like a good time to request funding from local businesses, it is a good time to engage with our community on a broader basis.
- Bill Stenehjem spoke about the potential of a virtual art auction as a fundraiser, with artists receiving a 35% commission on works sold. This could include as many as 40-50 pieces of art. Mark Orton will be reaching out to Colin Stair for advice. DeWayne A. Powell suggested reaching out to other Hudson galleries and studios for potential help/artwork as well.
- Julia Black sent out a spreadsheet to track artist donations.
- Gary Sheffer spoke about the potential of an online concert in conjunction with Gwen Gould for Beethoven’s birthday. This would potentially be a fundraiser.
- DeWayne A. Powell suggested that all of our activities and fundraisers should be branded with our 60th Anniversary Celebration.

- Miranda suggested the HAL becoming involved in the Hudson City School District, “One School, One Book” project. She will meet with Lisa Dolan about this in the future.
- DeWayne A. Powell met yesterday with a company called MarketSmart (imarketsmart.com) to discuss tools for fundraising for major donors and planned giving strategies.
- AnnaMaria Assevero questioned our past intent to set up an advisory board for fundraising, as well as keeping in mind a clear delineation of programming vs. fundraising issues.

**Programs: Emily Chameides (For Kimberly Erwin)**

Continuing to think of virtual program offerings for the upcoming month. Michael Grisham complimented the social media posts advertising virtual programs.

**Ghostly Gallop: Gary Sheffer**

Decisions will be made about holding the race between June/July. Dan Ronsani added that the Rip Van Winkle Bridge “Run the Rip” should be considered for July. Julia Black mentioned that we should be cautiously optimistic with this project.

**History Room: Gary Sheffer**

Content is being added to the site. Gary has been conducting interviews about Hudson memories from residents. Additionally, this committee is considering adding a virtual speaker series.

**Friends of the Hudson Area Library Report: Janet Schnitzer:**

Friends group held both a monthly and annual meeting on Wed., April 15th, 2020. They elected the following officers:

- President, Toni Koweek (1-year term)
- Treasurer, Ed Gower
- Vice President, Janet Miller
- The Secretary position remains open

**New Business:**

As Vice President, DeWayne A. Powell will resurrect the Nominating Committee and report on its progress next month.

Motion to adjourn at 11:41 A.M. by Theresa Parsons and seconded by DeWayne A. Powell. Motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Dolan
<b>Recording Secretary</b>

<b>Date of approval</b>