



## Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

**Date:** 10/17/2024

**Location:** Library Community Room

### **Trustees Attending in person:**

Dani French (President), Jim Kelly (Secretary), Michael Grisham (Treasurer), Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Miranda Barry, Wesley Brown, Joseph Ferris, Linda Friedner, Sean Gilleran, Kellen Henry, Crystal Jeffs, Ryan Kelly, Maddie Meehan, Carol Pledger, Gary Sheffer, Sherry Jo Williams

**Excused:** Elizabeth Dickey (Vice President)

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

**Others Attending:** Janet Schnitzer, Jill Leinung, Mark Wilson, and Sharon Javna

Meeting was called to order by Dani French at 06:02 pm. She welcomed trustees and guests.

*A motion to approve the September 2024 minutes was made by Joseph Ferris and seconded by Wesley Brown. Vote to approve minutes was unanimous.*

## **Reports**

### **President's Report: Dani French**

We had a Gala committee retrospective recap meeting last week and it was helpful to review what worked well and tweaks we could make in future galas.

Thank you to 414 and Ghostly Gallop committees for their hard work.

Dani and Emily will be at the MHLS annual membership meeting next week and they will honor our library (amongst others) for the successful Greenport 414 initiative last year.

We would like to do the Blind Date with a Book fundraiser again this year - Valentine's day fundraiser with books placed in frequented areas around town - to provide fun surprise books for patrons posted and available throughout town.

### **Treasurer's Report: Michael Grisham**

Through September, we collected 87% of our annual budgeted operating income and spent 64% of our budgeted operating expenses.

Total Income Receipts were \$53,946 for the month. Total Expenses were \$75,809 for the month.

Notable in Income for the Month: In Unrestricted Grants, \$2,500 from the Arthur and Eileen Newman Family

Foundation. In Fundraising Events, we raised \$14,020 last month and \$38,044 this month in the Annual Benefit category, for a total of \$52,064. In Fundraising Expense, \$14,062 in July, \$971 last month, and \$16,957 this month (September) in the Annual Benefit, for a total of \$31,990.

The net Annual Gala profit will be roughly about \$30,000 with a few remaining incoming pledges not yet received.

*A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Sherry Jo Williams and seconded by Joseph Ferris. Vote to approve the report was unanimous.*

*A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Statement by Jim Kelly and seconded by Carol Pledger. Vote to approve the report was unanimous.*

### **Director's Report: Emily Chameides**

We will soon be putting out a job posting for a Youth Services and Programs Assistant position.

In grants and fundraising the GoFundMe campaign is underway in support of the Whaling exhibit and available to share publicly - the goal is to raise \$4,500 dollars and in the last push.

We received a grant from the Eutopia foundation in support of community care clinics and an Alexander and Marjorie Hover Foundation grant in support of tween and teen programs and activities. We also received a general operating grant from the Arthur and Eileen Newman Family.

This is the last week of the Hudson based photographer Dolwain Green's exhibit in the Community at the library. The artist plans to return in about 2 years.

We are expanding the Spanish and bilingual collection and sending out a survey through partner organizations to better understand what books would be appreciated by Spanish-language readers.

We are starting to do inventory and weeding of our collection this month.

The Great Giveback, a community service initiative where the libraries in NYS provide opportunities for patrons to participate in meaningful service experiences, is underway and is technically this Saturday, October 19th and we will spread the word on Saturday, but we are participating for the full month. One service experience is in partnership with Hatsgiving to provide hats for pediatric cancer patients around the country, another is collecting winter coats for the Hudson Lions Club Coats for Kids campaign, and another service experience is the Zonta Club of the Upper Hudson Valley's Pop-Up Period Pantry, which is housed onsite at the library throughout the year.

Trustee education has to be completed by all board members - at least two hours in a year required - there are many online trainings available! Mini webinars and the Niche Academy system are available for remote hour credits and in person events will continue to be posted as the schedule is announced.

### **Board Development: Sean Gilleran**

We are starting to think about recruitment for next year and to plan for a similar event as last year to recruit for the board, friends, and volunteers for the library. We also want to keep in touch with different folks who have expressed interest in potentially joining the board.

**History Room: Gary Sheffer (report from SJ Williams today)**

The GoFundMe campaign launched 9/26 and is just shy of its stated goal. This will support the whaling and maritime commerce in Hudson exhibit which is a huge undertaking for the History Room.

The Lafayette in Hudson local history talk will be here 11/7 at 6 pm.

We are currently preparing to auction and sell duplicate items or items that don't fit the History Room mission. We raised money and made contact with a bookseller who will auction off books in the book sale.

The History room committee retreat had 11 attendees and focused on showing members how to access archival materials and the Whaling exhibit. There is an enormous amount of material being vetted to be located here, in the historical society, and in the DAR.

Brenda discussed potential merchandise related to the event, Verdigris Tea is planning to have a special tea blend, and we are developing press for the exhibit and events press release.

**Gala: Jessica Almeah**

The Gala committee discussed how it would be advantageous to host the gala on the same weekend and at the same place every year for attendance and general awareness. We are thinking of sticking to the same Friday in September each year.

We discussed sending out the save the date earlier (around memorial day) and the invite earlier (right after the 4th of July weekend).

We also discussed having the recognition award recipient identified earlier and potentially having a performer for live music.

We received feedback about communicating the call for the cause ahead of time from a former trustee.

We could benefit from having more than one head of the committee - it was a lot of work for one person to keep track of and do.

A call to action around banned books with testimonials about the impact of the library may be a big help.

It may make sense for the committee to start planning in a few months, to get a head start.

The silent auction proceeds were contributed to the friends.

**Ghostly Gallop: Crystal Jeffs, Ryan Kelly**

We have had a lot of sign ups in the last weeks - we had a lot of sign ups so far and \$11,000 raised from sponsors and participants with about \$3,000 more expected to come in. The forecast is looking good this year.

A local gym is doing a stretch warm up activity with kids before the run.

We are in good shape on the volunteer side - if you know anyone else who still wants to volunteer on Sunday do please send them Ryans way. We are in good shape on the logistics side. The banners are up! The Gallop will have a table at the Hudson farmers market this Saturday.

The kids' fun run goes first then the adults go. There will be free books for children, a food vendor, and race

snacks. Last year we reached close to \$20,000 and there is not a strict goal for the Ghostly Gallop this year.

In preparation for next year's Gallop we may do a collective outreach effort to Greenport organizations in the post (paper mail) and when the bridge repair is complete we could consider altering the race start/end point and race.

**Programming: Kellen Henry**

Great mix of upcoming programming events in the next few weeks - the Graveyard tour is coming up this Sunday and full with some waitlist spots coming up.

The committee is considering a survey or series of surveys for feedback on programming early next year (we are 4 years into a 5 year community outreach plan) to try to learn how we can better programming for patrons.

We are a quarter into the Board flyering initiative - feel free to note any suggestions in locations we post flyers and individual capacity to post flyers.

**414: Joseph Ferris**

Early voting starts next week for the election! The Friends will be sending out almost 4,000 postcards from voter roll lists - about 1,300 postcards to Greenport and 2,600 to Hudson residents. ProPrinters will be printing out the postcards and Cornerstone will be doing the postage and mailing. This has streamlined the process.

Information about the initiative is available on the library website and there is an informational brochure at the main desk.

Remind friends, family, and strangers to flip over their ballot where the 414 ballot proposal is. Top level messaging about the ballot initiative is the wide range of services and resources provided by the library and sustainable funding to the library.

**Friends of the Hudson Area Library Report: Ryan Kelly**

The most recent Friends meeting was postponed and Ryan will provide an update after their next meeting.

**New Business/Public Comments.**

Janet Schnitzer:

- The MHLS (Mid-Hudson Library System) represents libraries in 5 counties - Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Ulster, and Putnam
- The Hudson Library started in 1959.
- Next week is National Friends of Libraries week with halloween candy available from Friends for the kids at the main desk.
- There was a great Trustee training meeting about the board and its committees earlier this week about Trustees Basic's - Board Development .
- The Gala was terrific - entirely different from last year's. The facility at the Caboose was great and the library was the first to have an event of that sort there. The Albany Business Review mentioned that our Gala occurred there!

- MHLS is not a fundraising board - policy making and supporting the associations libraries is the focus.

Mark Wilson

- The MHLS is a great resource for us and we are an eminent leading system in the State. Resources regarding sustainability and Friends resources are available.

Jill Leinung

- The MHLS advocates for our Library and helps make our library a great resource.

Sharon Javna

- Reported enjoying attending the meeting and looking forward to becoming more involved

*Motion to adjourn was made at 7:20 pm by Wesley Brown and seconded by Sean Gilleran. Vote to adjourn was passed unanimously.*

Jim Kelly, 10 17 2024
<b>Recording Secretary</b>

11/21/24
<b>Date of approval</b>