



Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

Date: March 21, 2024

Location: Library Community Room

Trustees Attending:

Caitie Hilverman (President), Julia Black (Vice President), Dani French (Secretary), Michael Grisham (Treasurer), Linda Friedner, Miranda Barry, Sherry Jo Williams, Elizabeth Dickey, Ryan Kelly, Maddie Meehan, Kimberly Erwin

Excused: Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Wesley Brown, Crystal Jeffs

Absent: N/A

Staff Attending: N/A

Others Attending: Jim Kelly, Lloyd, Carol Pledger, Janet Schnitzer, Joe Ferris, Kellen Henry, Gary Sheffer, Barbara Sheffer, Mark Orton

Caitie called the meeting to order at 6:46pm and reviewed the agenda.

Motion to approve 2023 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Kimberly and seconded by Miranda. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Ratification of the 2024 Operating Budget

- A reminder that we start working from the budget in January, but the full board doesn't vote on it till March.
 - Before full approval, the budget is reviewed by the Finance Committee (which is Michael, the President, and past board treasurers).
- Emily got approval for the shades budget from the Executive Committee since it was outside the initial budget.
- Maddie asked about how we're handling the surplus. The recommendation from the Finance Committee was to retain a surplus equivalent to our current government funding. Michael thinks it's a little conservative and encourages the board to consider potential expenses needed. Board discussed the difference between letting the balance gather interest versus investing in CDs.
- Miranda pointed out the increase in salaries. Michael clarified that Emily is looking to hire an additional senior staff member. There is also a 6% raise for all staff across the board to even out discrepancies.
- Maddie pointed out public programs and utilities as big increases. Michael said that utility costs are going up.
- Miranda pointed out the foundation grant number was less, Michael said that we were very lucky last year and might not have the same luck this year.

A motion to approve the 2024 budget was made by Linda Friedner and seconded by SJ Williams. The budget was approved with a unanimous vote.

Library Director's Annual Report: Emily Chameides

Due to illness, Emily was unable to attend the meeting. She sent her report in advance via email for the board to review.

A motion to approve the Annual Report was made by Michael Grisham and seconded by Miranda Barry. The annual report was approved unanimously.

President's Reports: Caitie Hilverman

- Caitie gave parting remarks since she is stepping down from the board. She talked about her love of libraries and growing up in Hudson with a deep connection to the State Street library.
- Libraries are a great way to get oriented in a community and feel at home in a new place.
- Libraries are a critical piece of local infrastructure that goes beyond books.
- Her advice to new members: find your niche on the board! If you have an idea, run with it. Don't be shy about bringing your fundraising ideas and program ideas.

Election of the Trustees & Officers

Dani introduced the new and returning members of the Executive Committee:

Officers:

- Dani French, President
- Elizabeth Dickey, Vice President
- Michael Grisham, Treasurer
- Jim Kelly, Secretary

Motion to approve slate of candidates was made by SJ Williams and seconded by Kimberly Erwin. Dani cast her slate vote as Secretary. The slate of candidates were elected by unanimous vote.

Dani introduced the new members of the Board of Trustees:

Trustees:

- Jim Kelly
- Kellen Henry
- Joseph Ferris
- Sean Gilleran
- Gary Sheffer
- Carol Pledger

Motion to approve slate of candidates was made by Linda Friedner and seconded by Ryan Kelly. Dani cast her slate vote as Secretary. The slate of candidates were elected by unanimous vote.

Public comment

Mark Orton thanked the board for its service and has remarked that he’s appreciated watching it grow.

Lloyd thanked Caitie for her service and brought up wanting the library to restore the way we used to operate and open at 9am instead of 10am. He also pointed out that temporary COVID precautions are still linked on the website and suggested we revisit it.

Motion to adjourn made by Linda Friedner at 7:17pm and seconded by Julia Black. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Dani French, March 21, 2024
Recording Secretary

March 27, 2025
Date of approval