HUDSON AREA LIBRARY

..

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

Date: 02/19/2026
Location: Library Community Room

Trustees Attending in person:
Gary Sheffer (President), Dani French (Vice President), Jim Kelly (Secretary), Patty Brennan (Treasurer), Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Miranda Barry, Wesley Brown, Kellen Henry, Ryan Kelly, Jared Muehlbauer, Carol Pledger, Kelley Robinson, and Heather Thiry

Excused: Aaron Able, Sherry Jo Williams, Sean Gilleran, Sharon Javna

Absent:

Staff Attending: Emily Chameides (Director)

Others Attending: Katie Konigsberg, Kylah Campeta

The meeting was called to order by Gary Sheffer at 06:05 pm. He welcomed trustees and guests. Guests introduced themselves and noted their presence observing the meeting due to their interest in joining the board.

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Kellen Henry and seconded by Jared Muehlbauer. The vote to approve minutes was unanimous.

Reports

President's Report: Gary Sheffer
Gary noted speaking with library supporters who were involved in the move from the previous building to the Armory. Members of the executive committee were on the call and the consensus amongst the group was that fundraising to attempt to purchase the Armory building would be a significant challenge. Gary noted that in meeting with Bard representatives, he was asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) so that they could provide us with proprietary information like the library's appraised value, lease terms for other building tenants, and building operational costs. Gary noted that he suggested amendments to Bard College representatives (including to allow Board members to have access to information shared) and that they noted they would respond soon. Gary requested board permission to sign the NDA on behalf of the library and the board.

A resolution to authorize Gary to sign a NDA with Bard College regarding information about the Amory was made by Miranda Barry and seconded by Patty Brennan. The vote to approve the resolution was unanimous.

Gary noted that Sean has been inquiring to determine which committees we all want to be on for this upcoming year and that we need committee chairs or co-chairs for the Ghostly Gallop, Board Development, and Gala committees. If you have interest in any of those chair positions please reach out to Sean. Gary noted potentially transitioning the 414 committee to be a more general external facing committee that develops our story and communications with local community members and representatives. The board decided that this year, the Fundraising Committee could make a recommendation regarding our decision whether we will have a 414 initiative this year. Gary noted that the long range planning committee will be co-chaired by Kellen and that Kelley will step in as chair of the Programming committee.

Treasurer's Report: Patty Brennan
Through January, we collected 2% of our tentative budgeted operating income and spent 8% of our tentative budgeted operating expenses. In income, total receipts were $17,381 for the month. Notable in income for the Month in donations and gifts was a contribution from Friends of Hudson Area Library of $3,660 from a Wish List from December. Total expenses were $78,888 with notable expenses for the month of January including fundraising expenses for the Annual Benefit to The Caboose Hudson LLC of $21,217.50 (deposit for the Gala).

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Kelley Robinson and seconded by Heather Thiry. The vote to approve the report was unanimous.

A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Detail for January 2026 by Jim Kelly and seconded by Carol Pledger. The vote to approve the report was unanimous.

Proposed 2026 Budget: The board discussed various aspects of the 2026 proposed budget including special legislative aid, unrestricted rollover funds, public funds, payroll, and utilities.

A motion to approve the proposed 2026 Hudson Area Library Budget was made by Jim Kelly and seconded by Dani French. The vote to approve the budget was unanimous.

Director's Report: Emily Chameides
Emily has completed the first round of interviews for the Assistant Library Director position. The next step will be to schedule a second interview (conducted in person) with a narrowed down pool of candidates. Emily will be diving into Annual Report preparation in March, as soon as the State portal opens; the report is due to the Library System by March 20, assuming there aren't further delays. Emily noted we have received the majority of our public funds to date from local towns, Hudson, a NYSCA grant, and special legislative aid and that remaining public funds anticipated in 2026 include County funding and 2026 Local Library Services Aid.

MHLS Advocacy Ambassador Update: Jared Muehlbauer
Jared noted that IMLS funding was passed and increased. Jared noted an advocacy opportunity to reach out to federal representatives regarding association libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System that have served as passport facilities and the current administration revoking that ability. Jared noted that the ALA has a website where you can sign up to be an advocate. Jared reported that Library Advocacy day went well: we met with Assemblymember Barrett and Senator Hinchey's staff. Both noted supporting budget increases for libraries and legislative topics including e-book licensing reform, the Open Shelves Act, and the Freedom to Read Act. There is a letter you can sign to support library budgetary acts to advocate for our representatives' support. Jared noted that the governor is setting up a plan to designate libraries as sensitive locations and MHLS is requesting advocacy support for this.

Programming Committee: Kellen Henry
Kellen noted that on March 5 at 6pm the Patriots of Hudson in the American Revolution opening reception will occur with registration required. Kellen noted that the Youth Services Manager has been setting up great teen engagement events like the monthly Teen Anime club, Queer youth meet ups, and Music Production workshops.

History Room Committee: Gary Sheffer

Gary noted that for the Patriots of Hudson in the American Revolution opening reception we are asking community members to introduce some of the patriots such as the Mayor and the Fire Chief introducing their relevant historical precedents from the Revolutionary War time period.

Fundraising Committee: Miranda Barry
Miranda informed the board of meeting with a local development and fundraising professional (Barbara Klassen) who could help with improving and implementing our fundraising strategy and offered to provide services for 20 hours a month for 3 months that we could renew after 3 months. Miranda noted that Barbara could assist us in a strategic fundraising and grant identification with the goal of generating a multi-year plan with actionable goals. The board requested that we set clear terms and expectations in the proposed contract of proposed services provided by Barbara Klassen including a Statement of Work for the 3 month period.

A motion to enter into discussions with and develop a potential statement of work for Barbara Klassen for 3 months with the Board having an option to renew their services for 3 additional months was made by Wesley Brown and seconded by Patty Brennan. The vote to approve the budget was unanimous.

Ghostly Gallop: Ryan Kelly
We have secured the date (10/25) with the venue. Anyone interested in being a co-chair should please reach out.

Gala Committee: Jessica Almeleh-Frazer
Jessica noted that we have paid the deposit to host the Gala at the Caboose. Jessica noted that we would like to send the Save the Date communications out soon. The board discussed the ticket price for the gala and possible Lion of the Library honorees.

Friends of the Library: Emily Chameides
The Friends Book and Bake Sale will be 3/13-3/15, feel free to donate books or baked goods. The Friends approved their slate of Executive Committee members, including two new members. The Friends are planning a spring cocktail and small bites type event and Emily noted we will coordinate with them so as not to overlap the dates of their and our planned spring events.

Motion to adjourn was made at 07:15 pm by Kelley Robinson and seconded by Wesley Brown. The vote to adjourn was passed unanimously.

Jim Kelly, 02/19/26	3/19/26
Recording Secretary	**Date of approval**