HUDSON AREA LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Date: 07/16/2026
Location: HAL Community Room

Trustees Attending in person:
Gary Sheffer (President), Dani French (Vice President), Jim Kelly (Secretary), Michael Grisham (Treasurer), Aaron Able, Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Miranda Barry, Sean Gilleran, Sharon Javna, Katie Konigsberg, Jared Muehlbauer, Carol Pledger, Kelley Robinson, Jill Turner

Excused: Kellen Henry, Kylah Perez, Heather Thiry

Staff Attending: Emily Chameides (Director)

Others Attending: Jean Warshaw

The meeting was called to order by Gary Sheffer at 06:03 pm. He welcomed trustees and guest.

A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Michael Grisham and seconded by Jared Muehlbauer. The vote to approve minutes was unanimous.

A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Kelley Robinson and seconded by Aaron Able. The vote to approve minutes was unanimous.

Reports

President's Report: Gary Sheffer
Gary thanked everyone for their contributions to the 414 initiative, Gala, and Ghostly Gallop. Gary noted that Michael has agreed to be considered as Treasurer after Patricia Brennan stepped down from her role.

A motion to elect Michael Grisham as Board Treasurer through the March 2027 annual meeting was made by Miranda Barry and seconded by Dani French. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Michael noted the reasoning behind considering closing existing and opening new bank accounts to transfer and hold Hudson area library funds.

A motion to close the library's account with Community Bank was made by Sean Gilleran and seconded by Miranda Barry. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion to open a business money market account and any other required accounts at Pioneer Bank with Michael Grisham, Emily Chameides, and Gary Sheffer as approved signers was made by Aaron Able and seconded by Jill Turner. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion was made to update the signers for Library accounts at HVCU, Greylock, and the Bank of Greene County by removing Patricia Brennan and adding Michael Grisham and Gary Sheffer as signers was made by

Kelley Robinson and seconded by Sharon Javna. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Jean Warshaw stepped outside of the meeting as the board considered including adding board advisory language to our bylaws and adding new board advisors.

A motion to approve board advisory language additions to our bylaws was made by Sean Gilleran and seconded by Jill Turner. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion to appoint Jean Warshaw and Oliver Jones as board advisors was made by Michael Grisham and seconded by Aaron Able. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The board considered submitting 414 petitions in Hudson and Greenport, exceeding the tax levy limits for 2027, and approving the MHLS Free Direct Access Plan.

A motion was made by Dani French and seconded by Katie Konigsburg to adopt a resolution endorsing the 414 petitions and directing that the question noted in the petitions be voted on at the November 3, 2026 general election in the City of Hudson. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion was made by Kelley Robinson and seconded by Aaron Able to adopt a resolution endorsing the 414 petitions and directing that the question noted in the petitions be voted on at the November 3, 2026 general election in the Town of Greenport. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion was made by Jared Muelbauer and seconded by Sean Gilleran to adopt a resolution to exceed the tax levy limits for 2027 for the City of Hudson. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion was made by Michael Grisham and seconded by Kelley Robinson to adopt a resolution to exceed the tax levy limit limits for 2027 for the Town of Greenport. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion to approve the MHLS Free Direct Access Plan was made by Jim Kelly and seconded by Miranda Barry. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Gary reminded everyone to consider opportunities to fulfill their trustee education requirement and Emily noted that there are upcoming in-person, trustee education opportunities detailed via the library report which fulfill the two hour credit requirement. Gary and the Board discussed Bard's ownership of the Armory.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Grisham
Through May, we collected 72% of our budgeted operating income and spent 35% of our budgeted operating expenses. In income, total receipts were $47,509 for the month. Notable in income for the month: In unrestricted donations & Gifts: $30,000.00 donation through Fidelity Charitable Giving. In restricted donations: $3,750.00 Friends of the Hudson Area Library. In Foundation Aid: $11,000.00 HRBT Foundation. In expenses, total expenses were $57,538 for the month. Notable expenses for the month in professional fees: $1,875.00 JB &K Consultants in Fundraising consulting, in utilities: $1,343.65 National Grid (Electric), $484.77 National Grid (Gas), in Office & Library Supplies: $1,002.12 Amazon (printer cartridges).

A motion was made to approve the June Treasurer's Report by Jared Muelbauer and seconded by Carol Pledger. The vote to approve the report was unanimous.

A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Detail for May 2026 by Aaron Able and seconded by Michael Grisham. The vote to approve the Profit & Loss Detail was unanimous.

Director's Report: Emily Chameides
Emily noted Kate's positive contributions as a new staff member with valuable prior experience. Emily informed the board that HAL is now signed up for the Secure Choice Savings Program (library staff may opt out), which provides the opportunity for staff to save a portion of their earnings in a Roth IRA. Emily noted that the automatic doors have been fixed and discussed exciting upcoming programs and that the MHLS annual meeting will be 10/23 in the morning in Hyde Park (time not yet announced).

Gala Committee: Jessica Almeleh-Frazer
Jessica noted that we have raised money and would benefit from assistance in making calls to businesses to solicit sponsorships or journal ad purchases. Jessica noted a plan to include a journal for guests where a business could choose to be advertised as a supporter of the library and that they are working on setting up a video for the Gala. We discussed the order of events in this year's Gala. Jessica noted that we have hired an auctioneer, that paper invitations will go out in August, and that Jill and Gary have started to draft a press release.

Board Development Committee: Carol Pledger / Sean Gilleran
Carol noted that she will be chairing the committee and thanked Sean for his past and continued contributions. Sean noted that we have one open board seat. Carol noted board members whose first terms are coming to an end in March of 2027 and other upcoming term dates for board members.

History Room Committee: Gary Sheffer
Gary noted that building off of the Patriots of Hudson exhibit, the History Room is producing a film detailing historic graves in Columbia County. The committee is continuing to work on preparing the Dinoland exhibit for January and has been in communication with owners of the Jonas Studio regarding any items that could be included. An oral history, history of the Dinosaur parade, and artifacts will be included along with a planned event in January.

Long Range Plan Committee: Gary Sheffer
Gary noted that we have begun interviews with a goal to complete them this summer for the Turning Outward Initiative, that interviews have been ongoing, and that we have appreciated hearing community members perspectives.

Fundraising Committee: Miranda Barry
Miranda noted that the fundraising committee is currently focused on the Gala and setting up a CRM system and importing information into it. Miranda noted a plan to organize a Fundraising meeting in August to go through our Gala list.

Ghostly Gallop Committee: Gary Sheffer
Gary noted that registration is open and that we will be in the process of identifying potential sponsors.

Programming Committee: Kelley Robinson
Kelley noted that we had great attendance at the Bilingual Storytime and that there is an end of July Hey DJ final party event with volunteer opportunities that Kelley sent information about via email this week.

Advocacy: Jared Muehlbauer
Jared noted a plan to email the board with advocacy notifications to highlight.

Friends of the Hudson Area Library: Jessica Almehel
Jessica noted that there has not been a Friends meeting since our last meeting and thereby no news to report.

Emily noted that a Friends Book & Bake Sale will occur the same weekend of the Gala in September.

Public comment
N/A

Motion to adjourn was made at 07:11 pm by Dani French and seconded by Sean Gilleran. The vote to adjourn was passed unanimously.

Jim Kelly, 07/16/26	08/20/2026
Recording Secretary	**Date of approval**