HUDSON AREA LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Date: 05/21/2026
Location: HAL Community Room

Trustees Attending in person:
Gary Sheffer (President), Dani French (Vice President), Jim Kelly (Secretary), Patty Brennan (Treasurer), Aaron Able, Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Michael Grisham, Kellen Henry, Katie Konigsberg, Jared Muehlbauer, Kylah Perez, Carol Pledger, Kelley Robinson, Heather Thiry.

Excused: Miranda Barry, Sean Gilleran, Sharon Javna, Jill Turner

Staff Attending: Emily Chameides (Director)

Others Attending: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Gary Sheffer at 06:00 pm. He welcomed trustees.

A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Aaron Able and seconded by Carol Pledger. The vote to approve minutes was unanimous.

Reports

414 Committee: Dani French
Dani noted that the 414 task force met to discuss a potential 414 initiative this year due to reasons including inflation and increased demand for library services. Dani noted the 414 task force suggestion to ask Hudson for an increase of $50,000 (from $400,000 to $450,000 total) and Greenport for an increase of $30,000 (from $95,000 to $125,000).

A motion to pursue a 414 initiative this year to ask Hudson for an additional $50,000 in library funding and ask Greenport for an additional $30,000 in library funding was made by Kelley Robinson and seconded by Aaron Able. The vote to approve was unanimous.

President's Report: Gary Sheffer
Gary noted having emailed a drafted addition to our bylaws to allow for the selection of any advisory role to the Board. Gary noted that as drafted, advisory role members would serve one year terms and be able to participate as non-voting meeting members. Gary noted that the goal of the drafted bylaw improvements is to ensure that we include Board advisors in discussions and allow them to be able to participate in Board meetings and executive sessions. Gary noted the drafted bylaw was for the Board's consideration for a vote next month

Gary noted a scheduled upcoming meeting with Bard representatives and that new information learned from that meeting would be shared with the Board. Gary noted that Patty did great work on an RFP (request for proposal) for an appraisal of the Armory building and that we plan to send that out. If at a future date the Board wants to consider hiring an appraiser, Gary noted that we will put that in front of the Board for further consideration.

Treasurer's Report: Patty Brennan
Through the month of April, we collected 67% of our budgeted operating income and spent 29% of our budgeted operating expenses.

In income, total receipts were $25,746 for the month. Notable in Income for the Month: Foundation Grants, Unrestricted: $10,000 Berkshire Taconic and Restricted: $10,000 American Library Association (LTC Grant – Neurodiversity).

In expenses, total expenses were $87,598 for the month. Notable expenses for the month: Notable in Expenses for the Month: Professional Fees ($7,762.50 UHY LLP – preparation of reviewed financial statements), Collection Expenditures ($5,841.80 Holler and Hammer – items for the History Room).

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Michael Grisham and seconded by Kylah Perez. The vote to approve the report was unanimous.

A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Detail for April 2026 by Michael Grisham and seconded by Kellen Henry. The vote to approve the report was unanimous.

A motion to roll over our HCVU Certificate of Deposit (CD) account at time of renewal at a maximum of $250,000 was made by Michael Grisham and seconded by Dani French. The vote to approve the renewal was unanimous.

Director's Report: Emily Chameides
Emily noted that we filled the Assistant Library Director position with a great candidate, Kate Shannon, who has previous experience as an Assistant Library Director and who we are excited to have join the staff in June.

Emily noted that the library was awarded four grants since the last monthly board meeting as follows: Dyson Foundation - $12,000 to support our capacity-building work with Barbara Klassen, Children's Foundation - $8,500 to support children's programs, resources and services, Upstate Coalition for a Fairgame - $3,000 to support the Hey DJ program, and from Bank of Greene County - $1,000 to support our adult Spanish language classes.

Emily discussed facility updates and noted that we are working closely with a new property manager to progress towards resolving current issues.

Emily discussed closing the library fully on Saturday, June 20 (typically only open for partial hours on the Pride Parade Saturday in June) due to the Pride Parade and it also being the weekend of Juneteenth (6/19) and Father's Day (6/21). The Board agreed unanimously to close on Saturday, June 20.

Advocacy: Jared Muehlbauer
Jared noted library advocacy opportunities and that board members could sign up for ALA and NYLA email alerts and updates.

Programming Committee: Kelley Robinson
Kelley highlighted an upcoming programming event at the library for the Board's awareness.

Fundraising Committee: Kelley Robinson (Miranda Barry absent)
Miranda noted we have met with multiple CRM vendors and plan to prepare a recommendation to the board for a preferred CRM vendor in next month's meeting.

History Room Committee: Gary Sheffer
Gary noted that the History Room adopted a vision consistent with the library's vision and has planned to re-evaluate history room software and hardware resources to ensure we continue to protect the history room's data and resources and make them more accessible. Gary noted work has begun on the dinosaur exhibit from the work of Louis Paul Jonas Studio for the 1964 World's Fair for the Spring of 2027 and with plans to develop exhibit materials.

Gala Committee: Jessica Almeleh-Frazer
Jessica noted working on the save the date email and planning to send it out simultaneously with ticketing information. Jessica noted looking at applications for an auctioneer to potentially assist with the gala's call for the cause. She also noted that the sponsor letter is ready and that we will have a booklet at each seat with library and sponsor information. Jessica noted further event planning updates and opportunities for board assistance.

Long Range Plan Committee: Gary Sheffer
Gary noted that the LRP committee is meeting one week from Memorial Day and shared updates on plans to survey and engage with community members to continue to inform our long range plan. Gary noted that board members interested in the Turning Outward community survey process could reach out to the committee.

Ghostly Gallop Committee: Kylah Perez
Kylah noted that we are working on finalizing sponsor tiers and that registration is currently open for the race.

Public comment
N/A

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:05 pm by Dani French and seconded by Kelley Robinson. The vote to adjourn was passed unanimously.

Jim Kelly, 05/21/26	Jim Kelly, 7/16/26
Recording Secretary	**Date of approval**