

Hudson Public Library
Board of Library Trustees Minutes
December 21, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Present: Tom Desmond, Mary McCormack, Chris Capobianco, and Aileen Sanchez-Himes

Meeting called to order at 4:38 PM.

MINUTES: November 16, 2023 minutes reviewed and unanimously accepted.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Communications & Publicity - The Trustees received BookPage's December publication and a draft of One Book, One Hudson's 2024 event booklet.

Expenditures - Budget expenditures are on target with approximately 54% remaining in general expenses and 66% in personnel.

Statistics - November circulation and program statistics were reviewed. Database statistics are returning to average use compared to the previous surge noted. Usage of the physical audio collection is declining, however; usage of Freegal streaming is on the rise.

Friends of the Hudson Public Library - The Friends gathered for their annual holiday dinner. November's meeting included discussion on next year's YART Sale, an update on registered members, the fall book sale, publicity, signage, a new logo, fundraising, and book donations. An annual report highlighting accomplishments to generate interest in the Friends was suggested.

Director's Report - Budget: The Town reduced the FY25 budget by \$15,000. This reduction does not affect State certification. The overall budget is a 5.8% increase compared to FY24, and includes limited funds for summer help and newspaper digitization.

Personnel: A new Youth Services Librarian was hired. One of our Library Pages returned to work for the winter break. Part-time staff have worked additional shifts to finalize details for OBOH.

Library Services: Meeting room furniture, Children's Room iPads, a public color printer, and an outdoor book drop were purchased. Public printing fees will reflect photocopying fees. The Library now offers Little Pim. The interface for digitized newspapers is updated. New CD kits were added to the music CD collection, and Great Courses materials are shelved in the AV section.

Programs & Outreach: OBOH will run from 1/2/24 - 2/29/24, and includes Wonderland-themed activities and programs. Our annual Grinch Party, a Zentangle program, and a Gingerbread House program for adults were all well attended. Children's storytimes will resume in the new year

Library Operations: The OBOH committee met twice, and a press release was emailed to the Community Advocate. The installations for OBOH decorations are scheduled for the week of 12/25. Changes to the DVD and blu-ray cases are in progress. An account will be established to purchase books in Portuguese.

Building Maintenance: Facilities are aware of water entering the Library when it rains, and our request to clear weeds near the basement entrance. DPW was notified about the flashing beacon malfunctioning in front of the Library.

OLD BUSINESS

Communication touchpoints when answering telephone calls were discussed again.

Library Building Consultants - Tentative dates for community forums have been provided. Several architectural drawings have been delivered to the architect.

OBOH was discussed in the Director's report.

NEW BUSINESS

The Library will adopt the CSLP summer reading theme for 2024 and the iRead theme for 2025.

The Library received its initial State Aid Award.

MISCELLANEOUS

Staff have noticed an uptick in teens utilizing the teen space. TES will provide an update of the Library at the Select Board meeting on 1/22/24.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is on 1/18/24 at 4:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Aileen Sanchez-Himes