

Hillsdale Community Library Board of Trustees

13 June 2024 at 5:00 pm | 11 E. Bacon St, Hillsdale, MI 49242

- I. Call to Order
 - A. George Allen called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
 - A. In attendance: George Allen (President), Joshua Paladino (Vice President), Karen Hill (Trustee), Stephanie Stockford (Trustee), and Rebekah Dobski (Director)
 - B. Absent with notice: Laura Negus (Secretary)
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Stockford moved to approve the agenda as amended. Paladino seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0.
- IV. [Approval of Minutes](#)
 - A. Paladino moved to approve the May 9th meeting minutes as presented. Hill seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0.
- V. Visitor Comments - Richard Smith.
- VI. Director's Report
 - A. Dobski made several comments:
 1. No one contacted the library about the "Save the Library" flyer a group mailed throughout the city. She did not agree to it, and she did not see it as necessary.
 2. Dobski submitted the Dollar General grant report for the literacy backpacks. The library met its goal of 100 backpack checkouts.
 3. Little Book Worms had the highest attendance of Dobski's tenure at 165.
 4. Dobski reached out to a new book club and asked its members to hold meetings at the library. They agreed, and the first meeting had 5 people.
 5. 250 children and adults attended the Summer Reading opening kickoff party. Heidi Pruitt, Liz Voorheis, Pam Comstock, Debbie Thompson, the Hillsdale Beauty College, Dr. Nussbaum, Jimmy the Magician, and board members participated and helped the event run smoothly.
 - B. [Balance Sheet, Library Fund](#)
 - C. [Revenue and Expenditure Report](#)
- VII. Communications
 - A. Communication from Friends of the Library

1. The friends didn't meet in May due to the group's teachers being busy with the end of the school year.
2. The raffle basket for the foodie walk raised more than \$110.

B. [Letter from Richard Smith](#)

1. Smith provided background on the Hillsdale Community Library's relationship with the Mitchell Research Center.

VIII. Old Business

A. Building Issues

1. Dobski hasn't received a quote for the door replacements, but she expects the quote to exceed the capital outlay budget of \$10,000.
2. She's waiting to look into carpet replacement until the board allocates more money for capital outlay in the next fiscal year.

B. New Hires

1. Chloe Stewart started as a library aide on Wednesday.
2. Dobski also hired a temporary employee, Ashley, who has been working at the library for a month.

C. Collections in Mitchell Building

1. The subcommittee on HCL's collections in the Mitchell building determined that the Hillsdale Community Library does not need any materials from the Mitchell Research Center, except perhaps the Pulver Collection. The director found a letter regarding the Pulver Collection that indicates the donor's intent to put it on display in the library, but it isn't a signed contract.
2. Allen said the library does not want these materials because the HCL doesn't have displays or archives. Dobski agreed. She said the Pulver Collection would be difficult to circulate, and it wouldn't make sense to keep them as a private collection because the library isn't a museum.
3. Stockford said the HCL could explore partnership options with the MRC, such as a joint history exhibition.
4. Seeing that the subcommittee's work had finished, Allen moved to dissolve it. Hill seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0.

D. Township Contracts

1. Dobski researched the HCL's contractual relationship with the townships. She said the HCL director has always invoiced the townships for library services. After research, she concluded that HCL's contracts with the townships have been in place for about 20 years, and the parties do not appear to have renegotiated the terms or resigned the contracts during that period. Since there is no paper trail for

the contracts, Allen said we need to recreate the paper trail by having all parties sign the contracts. The board agreed.

2. The board instructed the director to continue searching for more information on these contracts and to return next month with anything new that she finds.

IX. New Business

X. Board Comments

- A. Further discussion regarding the history the Mitchell building and relationship between the HCL and the MRC.

XI. Next Meeting Date - Thursday July 11th at 5pm

XII. Adjournment