MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Saturday, March 11, 2023

President Barry Ramage called the meeting to order at 11:02am.

1. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present:	Stuart Auchincloss, Heather Blakely, Peter Carey, Kenneth Goldberg, Rajene Hardeman, George Joiner, Debra Klein, Barry Ramage, Janet Schnitzer, Richard Swierat, Carla Taylor, Mark Wilson
Trustees Absent (excused):	Jill Leinung, Mary Linda Todd
Trustees Absent (unexcused)	Alexandra Prince
Directors Association Liaison:	Thea Schoep, Director, Claverack Free Library
Staff Present:	Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Saran Camara, Laura Crisci, Laurie Shedrick

Richard Swierat moved, and George Joiner seconded a motion to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Barry Ramage thanked the board for their efforts related to state funding advocacy and asked them to stay tuned through the New York Library Association's Online Advocacy Center for calls to action in the coming week.

President's Report

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Debra Klein moved, and Rajene Hardeman seconded, the approval of the February 2023 minutes (Doc. 3.A). The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Treasurer Richard Swierat reported on the financial position of the organization as of January 2023, noting that two certificates of deposit have matured and that a new certificate of deposit was just started with an interest rate of 2.54%. The reserve funds are operating as designed to ensure cash flow for the early part of the fiscal year as we await the outcome of the state budget and the arrival of state aid later in the fiscal year. Swierat moved, and Kenneth Goldberg seconded, that the reports for December 2022 (Doc. 4.A) and January 2023 (Doc. 4.B) be received. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report Received

5. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

- Mark Wilson reported on the review of the February warrants (Doc. 5.B), noting their acceptability. Mary Linda Todd, sent a written approval of the January warrants (Doc. 5.A) Rajene Hardeman moved, and Debra Klein seconded that the warrant reports for January and February 2023 be received. The motion passed unanimously.

Warrants Received

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Prior to the Executive Director's report, Richard Swierat moved, and Janet Schnitzer seconded a motion to recognize the achievement of Executive Director Aldrich for being named the OCLC 2023 Distinguished Speaker. The motion passed unanimously.
- In addition to providing highlights from the written report (Doc. 6), Executive Director Aldrich reported that:
    - The Advocacy Day was disrupted due to a snow storm with all meetings moving to online meetings over the course of the past two weeks.
    - Assembly sponsors for the municipal ballot petition signature reduction bill have emerged, both are from the MHLS Region: Assemblymembers Dana Levenberg and Matt Slater, and both serving on the Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology.
    - Trustee attendance at the upcoming ConnectALL Regional Listening Session was encouraged as the input received in these sessions will help to shape a regional needs assessment that future funding will be based on. (Doc 6.B)

Executive Director's Report

7. DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

- Thea Schoep, Director, Claverack Free Library reported on the work of the System Services Advisory Committee as they seek input on a second draft of a new memo of understanding between the system and member libraries and the reauthorization of the Directors Association's Ad Hoc OverDrive Committee.
- Schoep answered questions from board members about the impact of the ebook market on member libraries and how member libraries are responding to budget constraints caused by patron demand for content in OverDrive.

Memo of Understanding under development

8. INCENTIVES COMMITTEE

State Aid for Library Construction Program definitions approved

- Chair Stuart Auchincloss moved, and Richard Swierat seconded, a motion to approve the Board Priorities for Funding projects through the State Aid for Public Library Construction Program as presented (Doc. 8.B.i). The motion passed unanimously.
- Auchincloss moved, and George Joiner seconded the reauthorization of the MHLS definition of an economically disadvantaged community for the purposes of the State Aid for Library Construction Program as presented (Doc. 8.A). The motion passed unanimously.

9. WORKING GROUPS REPORT

- Government & Community Relations Working Group
    - Board President Barry Ramage and Government & Community Relations Working Group Chair Richard Swierat, presented a financial plan to complete the pollinator garden project, noting grant funds and private donations as the current sources of revenue. The board was encouraged to donate, if they are able, to make this project a reality for 2023.
    - Swierat additionally reported on the progress to dissolve the Foundation for Hudson Valley Libraries and the upcoming check-in meeting with Impact PR & Communications.

Pollinator Garden Project Update

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

System Annual Report Authenticated

- There was no unfinished business.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- Richard Swierat moved, and Janet Schnitzer seconded, a motion to authenticate the MHLS Annual Report to the State. The motion passed unanimously.

Overview of the Members Assessment Provided

12. ORIENTATION

- Executive Director Rebekkah Smith Aldrich provided an overview of the history of the Members Assessment noting that it is member driven, with the formula and amount approved by the MHLS Directors Association.

Update on New Training on Demand Service

13. COMMUNICATION

- Mark Wilson reported on a visit to the Columbia County Library Association on March 10th which he, Jill Leinung, and Janet Schnitzer participated in.
- MHLS Assistant Director and Technology Operations Manager Laurie Shedrick reported that MHLS received an additional $1,800 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to install a Wi-Fi signal amplifier at the Valatie Public Library. This concludes the Beyond the Library Walls grant program. The final report will be filed this month.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:10pm, Rajene Hardeman moved, and Peter Carey seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stuart Auchincloss

Stuart Auchincloss, Secretary

Approved on May 17, 2023 by the MHLS Board of Trustees