

Hillsdale Free Public Library

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 13, 2006

In attendance were: James Borowski, Kim Kralik, Dr. Elliott Lichtstein, Karyl Lynn, Gary Weir,

Also present: David Franz, Director of the Library, Robert White, Executive Director of BCCLS, Donna Chapman, Council Liaison

Excused: Marie Hanlon, Paul Gross, Alan Saslowsky

Gary Weir, President, called to order a meeting of the Trustees of the Free Public Library of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey. Notice of this meeting was transmitted to the newspaper of record, filed with the Borough Clerk, and posted on the Library's website and bulletin board, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting's Law.

The meeting was called to order at 7:39PM. Mr. Lynn made a motion to approve the February minutes, Mr. Borowski seconded. Unanimous vote of approval.

The public was invited to speak. Mr. Robert Hewitt was present.

Mr. Robert White from BCCLS spoke to the Board members. He congratulated the Board on the fabulous renovation. A plus for everything, especially the parking lot with many additional parking spaces and lighting. 12,000 additional books are being borrowed, it's all about service. Congratulations to all the Board members! Mr. Lynn said that we also have a great director and Ms. Chapman agreed and added that we have a great board. There will be an article in the Bergen Record tomorrow about the Library, Mr. Franz was interviewed. Mr. White spoke about downloadable books and is estimating eventually 100,000 downloads a year. It costs each Library about \$1,000. BCCLS will be adding 600 additional titles by June. There will be an on-line book club listening to the same book simultaneously. It could be tied into schools. Commuters and seniors are the ones using the downloadables right now. For 2007, they will calculate 75% of the cost for each town's usage. They are never overdue, there is never a fine. We have other audiobooks available. Language Learning is taking care of our ESL needs for 16 different foreign languages to learn English and we have 34 foreign languages. Dr. Lichtstein asked about shared libraries re: Woodcliff Lake. 1/3 of a mill. is the norm. Ms. Chapman asked about downloading audio books. You need the Windows version of Media Player and files automatically disappear after the 21 days. You can download to your computer, your MP3 player, Samsung and Creative Zen Micro are the two brands that seem to work the best right now. He is estimating that there will be 10,000 downloads by the end of 2007. You can also play it with a wireless card through your stereo. The MP 3 player is about \$130. Hillsdale Library is certainly keeping up with the latest technological advances. He discussed the phase out of the cassette in favor of the CD and downloads. There is a tremendous commitment for purchasing four foreign languages now, and that number will be growing for next year. Mr. Weir asked if there are county wide publicity services that we could dovetail on. Arlene puts out press releases that can be customized for each Library. He spoke about training on data bases for middle schoolers and also historic data bases on the NY Times going back to the 1800's. Dr. Lichtstein suggested that we offer some training to teachers and students about data bases and accessing on-line information. School media centers run about 10 years behind a public library. Libraries purchase yearly, schools don't have that capacity. He thanked everyone for their dedicated efforts. The Board thanked Mr. White for his presentation.

Mr. Weir thanked Mr. Hewitt and his wife for being generous benefactors to the Library. Mr. Hewitt is overwhelmed by our Library and hopes our community will enjoy it for years to come. He thanked the Board in return.

Treasurers' Report: We still have not received our check from the Borough, but Colleen is working on it. Mr. Franz wrote to NJ State for the remainder of the State building grant money and we are awaiting a response in a couple of weeks. \$54,000 construction money.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz: Washington Township, also a recently renovated Library, counts for 10% of our overall circulation from their residents. 66% of our overall circulation comes from our Children's Room. Our Adult circulation is growing at a slightly higher rate than the children's rate at present. The renovation is nearly done; painters will be in later this week. We will have the temporary certificate of occupancy shortly. Even with all of the construction, we have had phenomenal circulation statistics!

The meeting last week was about the re-dedication ceremony slated for May 7th. Ms. Chapman has arranged for a jazz band and we will also have a couple of costumed characters for the children. We will have bookmarks and pens as give-a-ways. Mr. Franz will be running in the borough's 5K run this month. Mr. Franz has received donations for his ultra-marathon run with 50% of all donations received going to the Library.

A brochure about Hillsdale Sports and Recreation/Library with our magnet will be given out at this weekend's 5K run. We will have the Rutgers's Coaching books here at the Library that are used by all coaches in our town. 36 people have signed up for the downloadable books.

Construction Bill List: \$20,052.25 invoices #120 and #121. Mr. Borowski made a motion to approve payment of these two bills, Mr. Lynn seconded. Unanimous vote of approval.

Mr. Hilu donated an oil painting to the Library and Mr. Franz will do a formal presentation with a press release shortly. Mr. Hilu had taken ESL classes here sometime ago. There are other oil paintings that will be hung by local artists and of local scenes. A 'Celtic Tales' presentation is taking place this Sunday, March 19th.

Mr. Franz suggested that we need a Patron Privacy sub-committee to develop a policy for filtering.

Re-dedication Planning: The re-dedication of the Library will take place on May 7th at 2:00 PM. Formal invitations will be sent out. Ms. McKarahan will be handling the refreshments. Ms. Chapman has invited an 18 piece big band, swing band to play. There needs to be a plan in case of rain. Dr. Lichtstein asked about having convocation from one of the local town clergyman. Mr. Weir will be working on press releases for the re-dedication ceremony.

Mr. Franz will be meeting with the building and grounds committee next Monday to discuss landscaping. All work is done except for the final painting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lynn, seconded by Mr. Borowski. The meeting officially adjourned at 8:31 PM. Our next board meeting will be April 10th.

Respectfully submitted by:
Deirdre M. Danaher
Recording Secretary

