

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Saturday, March 16, 2024

President Ramage called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM MHLS Auditorium

1. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present: Stuart Auchincloss, Heather Blakely, Kenneth Goldberg, Rajene Hardeman, Jill Leinung, Barry Ramage, Thomas Silvius, Carla Taylor, Mary Linda Todd, Mark Wilson

Trustees Excused: Peter Carey, Janet Schnitzer, Richard Swierat

Directors Association Liaison: Thea Schoep, Director, Claverack Free Library

Staff Present: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, James Coyle, Laura Crisci, Laurie Sheldrick, Ashley Teal

Visitor(s): Susanna Hill, Trustee, Union Vale Library

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Ramage made a motion, seconded by Thomas Silvius, to appoint Barbara Swanson to represent Greene County on the MHLS Board. Barbara would serve through the end of the calendar year. If elected at the annual membership meeting then she would serve out the remainder of Debra Klein's term through December 31, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.
- President Ramage urged all MHLS Trustees to continue to advocate for additional funding for the library system in the state budget.

President's Report

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Stuart Auchincloss moved, and Rajene Hardeman seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Stuart Auchincloss, reported that he reviewed the Treasurer's Report for January 2024 (Doc.4.A) and found it acceptable. Auchincloss moved, and Kenneth Goldberg seconded, that the financial report for January be received as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report received

5. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

Heather Blakely reported that she reviewed the warrants for January and found them acceptable (Doc.5.A) Peter Carey reported via email to Treasurer Auchincloss that he reviewed the warrants for February and found them acceptable (Doc.5.B) Heather Blakely moved, and Auchincloss seconded, a motion to receive the warrants for January and February 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Warrants received

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to her written report (Doc.6) Executive Director Aldrich:

- Provided the details of the one-house budget bills as they apply to library aid.
- Shared that Assistant Director & Technology Operations Manager Laurie Shedrick was awarded a scholarship to attend the 2024 Innovative Users Group conference in Detroit.
- Noted that the annual orientation for new MHLS trustees will be held online this year.

Executive Director's Report

- Facilities Committee Chair Carla Taylor moved, and Jill Leinung seconded, a motion to authorize up to \$13,019 to be transferred from the MHLS Capital Fund to cover the cost of a change order related to a snow mitigation system for the Solar Project. The motion passed unanimously.

7. DIRECTOR’S ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

Thea Schoep, Director, Claverack Free Library, reported on the February Directors Association Meeting particularly highlighting the Memo of Understanding Action Memo; that the overwhelming majority of member libraries are now fine free; appreciation for the new Dewey Decimal System training produced by MHLS Staff; and that more than 30 member libraries have increased their spending to be in line with recommendations from the OverDrive Ad Hoc Committee.

DA Liaison Report

8. INCENTIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

- Chair Rajene Hardeman moved, and Carla Taylor, seconded a motion to approve both the proposed amendments to the State Aid for Library Construction Funding Priorities (Doc.8.B.a) and the MHLS definition of an “economically disadvantaged community” found in Doc.9.A). The motion passed unanimously.
- Carla Taylor moved, and Stuart Auchincloss seconded, a motion to approve the MHLS NYLA Conference Grant Program pending the state budget outcome. The motion passed unanimously.

2024 Funding Priorities for the State Aid for Library Construction Program Approved.

NYLA Conference Scholarship Program Approved.

9. BYLAWS, POLICY, AND PROCEDURES

- Committee Member Jill Leinung moved, and Heather Blakely seconded, a motion to approve the recommended amendments to the MHLS Bylaws (Doc.9.C). The motion passed unanimously. The amendments will be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting as per the amendment clause of the existing bylaws.
- Leinung moved, and Thomas Silvius seconded, a motion to adopt the recommended 2024 Rules and Procedures for the MHLS Board (Doc.9.B). The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws Amendments Approved

2024 Rules and Procedures Approved

10. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group
 - Co-Chair Rajene Hardeman provided a report on the progress to reimagine the working group as a “Core Values Advisory Group.”
 - Co-Chair Mark Wilson moved, and Hardeman seconded, a motion to name the fund to support the Book Haven Collection in honor of Debra Klein. The motion passed unanimously.

Debra Klein Book Haven Collection Fund Approved

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Executive Director Aldrich confirmed that the May MHLS Board meeting will be held at the Putnam Valley Library and the September MHLS Board meeting will be held at the Stanford Free Library.

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12. NEW BUSINESS

President Barry Ramage moved, and Vice President Rajene Hardeman seconded, the approval of the System's Annual Report to the State. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Report to the State Approved

13. ORIENTATION

Executive Director Aldrich provided the background of the MHLS Members Assessment and explained how the formula (Doc.13.A.a) was created by the Directors Association.

Members Assessment Explained

12. COMMUNICATION

A. Stuart Auchincloss noted he observed the MHLS Plan of Service Focus Group facilitated by Executive Director Aldrich at the Ulster County Library Association's meeting and found it to be a useful activity. Mark Wilson and Jill Leinung reported a similar experience at the most recent Columbia County Library Association meeting.

Plan of Service Focus Groups

B. Staff Reports

- a. Laurie Shedrick, Assistant Director and Technology Operations Manager, reported on the status of negotiations for a new ILS Contract and the assistance provided to the Town of Esopus Library to help them apply for E-Rate funding.
- b. James Coyle, Finance Manager & Personnel Officer, reported on the upcoming audit and confirmed he has conveyed the board's timeline and communication expectations to the auditor.
- c. Laura Crisci, Library Sustainability Coordinator, noted the start of the State Aid for Library Construction Program season is kicking off with the member construction needs assessment next month.
- d. Executive Director Aldrich noted that \$1 million in funding for "digital justice assessments" has been earmarked for libraries this year through the ConnectALL Broadband Office. MHLS plans to apply for these funds.

Staff Reports

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42am.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024 at the Putnam Valley Library

Respectfully submitted by:



Jill Leinung, Secretary

Approved on May 15, 2024 by the MHLS Board of Trustees