

Government & Community Relations Working Group

Friday, March 3, 2023

1. Roll Call

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Swierat, Chair (D) | ✓ Barry Ramage (D) (ex officio) |
| ✓ Mark Wilson (C) | ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison) |
| ✓ Jill Leinung (C) | |

2. The group **welcomed Jill** to her first meeting and provided background on the working group's efforts.
3. A **draft purpose statement** was introduced. Working group members will fine tune the draft at their next meeting taking time to carefully identify who is being discussed when we use the word "stakeholders."
4. Executive Director Aldrich provided an update on the efforts to convene the board of the purposes of the dissolution of the **Foundation for Hudson Valley Libraries (FHVL)**. A meeting of this board is being scheduled. At this meeting two action items will be on the agenda: (1) disbursement of the remaining funds of the Foundation and (2) the dissolution of the Foundation. All board members have been briefed and are prepared for this meeting.
5. **Impact PR & Communications:** The kickoff meeting with the PR consultants was held on Thursday, February 2nd. The MHLS team included: Barry Ramage, Richard Swierat, Mark Wilson, Laura Crisci and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich. At this meeting detailed information about MHLS, its purpose, its opportunities and challenges were shared with the consultants. The consultants followed up with a revised biographical statement for the executive director and have asked to set an update meeting for mid-March. The working group directed Rebekkah to check in with the principal of the firm to ensure the project is on track.

6. Grant Updates:

- a. MHLS did not receive the Ecological Restoration grant for the pollinator garden. The working group agreed this was still an important project to pursue given the impact on the staff, our commitment to sustainability, and the importance of supporting pollinators in an urban setting without much green space. The group discussed our options to seek alternative funding for this project. Barry and Rebekkah will follow up with some of the ideas presented for alternative sources of funds including interviewing others who have recently completed pollinator garden projects as well as explore a second MHLS Board donation drive.
- b. The group authorized the staff to pursue the EBSCO Solar grant for the upcoming rooftop solar project for the MHLS office building.
- c. The Dyson Foundation grant report is due April 30th. At the mid-March meeting with Impact PR & Communications we will need to assess their ability to complete the work on the original timeline given our initial kickoff meeting was delayed due to weather issues.