



UPPER HUDSON
LIBRARY SYSTEM
Together. For Better Libraries.

OFFICERS:

President: Susan Keitel
Vice-President: Jackie Marino
Treasurer: Fred Wobrock, Jr.
Secretary: Yvette Terplak

**Board of Trustees
May 8, 2024**

PRESENT: Susan Keitel; Evelyn Greenstein; Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Corie Dugas; Lisa Scoons; Jackie Marino; Scott Wyner; Joe Burke; Camille Engel; Yvette Terplak; Debbie Carr; Marcy Savage

Excused: Tara Ricard

Absent: Arlene Way

UHLS Staff: T. Burke; J. Favreau

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Keitel called the meeting to order at 4:34PM.

II. MINUTES

We hadn't attached the document read by Sara Dallas at the previous meeting, so that document will be added as presented to us.

MOTION: Y. Terplak moved to approve the April 10, 2024 Minutes.
E. Greenstein seconded. Unanimous.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

T. Burke summarized his distributed report, specifically highlighting the good news surrounding the NYS approved budget. E. Greenstein asked what our new cut would be of construction aid for distribution - \$1.45m (about \$350k more than last year).

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

C. Engel reported that there will be a full slate of candidates presented to the board for vote at the Annual Celebration, as both Y. Terplak and S. Wyner agreed to serve a second term.

Finance Committee

F. Wobrock noted a number of transactions on the Purchase Journal: \$1,500 payment was made to LCR Consulting, over \$17k was sent to our member libraries in LLSA payments – the remaining 10% from 2023, \$41,831 to Midwest Tape which is 100% reimbursable and \$9,600 payment to APL for eContent being the Central Library. Treasurer's Report is stable and is more than enough to carry us through the year until we receive funding from the state.

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to adopt the April 2024 Treasurer's Reports and Purchase Journals. M. Savage seconded.

Unanimous.

Service Committee

Y. Terplak shared that they had the pleasure of reading through and reviewing the applications and chose the following winners:

Adult Program of the Year – “Practice Conversational English” from COLN

Youth and Family Program of the Year – “Period Party!” from APL

Administration Committee

M. Savage shared that they had the pleasure of reading and reviewing the applications submitted and chose the following winners:

Volunteer of the Year – TWO! Tom Madison from HOOF and Julie Ann Price from EGRN

Trustee of the Year – the entire BETH board

V. OLD BUSINESS

The topic of Schenectady County Public Library was put back on the table and whether or not UHLS should explore the idea of SCPL sharing the UHLS ILS.

A lengthy discussion occurred and the following questions and comments were made:

- D. Carr asked how this decision is going to affect our working relationships with these two systems. Is this solution mutually beneficial?
- C. Engel would need to hear the SCPL pitch – she thinks it should be either full integration as members or nothing.
- F. Wobrok agreed, he’s open to exploring this idea but would like to know what they are bringing to UHLS. He noted that with mergers throughout his professional career, sometimes 90% of the organizations effort is expensed toward 10% of the business – so this may just be one additional library, but he’s still acknowledging the strain on our current staff to integrate them for a period of time.
- J. Marino asked the group what the downside would be to exploring. It seems more efficient for the board to explore everything prior to making a decision.
- Playing devil’s advocate, C. Dugas stated that the benefit of us not exploring this is us not harming the relationship between both MVLS and SALS, and potential media coverage.
- J. Burke asked what time frame does T. Burke have for this exploration. He reiterated that they as a group need to take our time and consult our lawyers – T. Burke doesn’t think lawyers would need to be involved during this process. He said the timeline is dictated by the conversations. Hopefully a decision can be reached over the next two months. The two organizations deciding they want to make this happen can make the resource sharing agreement happen very quickly but the rechartering is not going to be done quickly.

MOTION:

J. Marino moves UHLS to explore possibilities for a relationship with SCPL including ILS resource sharing, full membership and other options. D. Carr seconded. Yes: E. Greenstein, F. Wobrock, C. Dugas, J. Marino, J. Burke, C. Engel, Y. Terplak, D. Carr, M.

Savage. Abstention as chair: S. Keitel. Passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

T. Burke presented the proposed amended 2024 UHLS budget, reflecting the 4+% increase in funding from New York State. In addition to the changes that are outlined on the pages, we are not proposing to change the work week back to 37.5 hours (keep at 35 hours).

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to adopt the amended 2024 UHLS budget as proposed, including a 4.5% salary increase to the staff retroactive to January 1, 2024 and hold the weekly hours at 35 hours/week. Y. Terplak seconded. Unanimously passed.

J. Burke noted that previous years' COLA increases have been less than inflation costs and this helps them catch up. C. Dugas expressed that UHLS has exceptional staff and if the finance committee recommends this increase, she's in support. J. Marino echoed C. Dugas' thoughts and added that we'd like to retain our staff.

T. Burke shared that last year NYLAF was put on J. Favreau's radar following the NYLA conference and she and Alexandra began looking into them this fiscal year after annual report season. NYLAF is a team of advisors through PMA, which is a financial network of financial services companies that provides services to local governments, that was created specifically to assist local governments in the State of NY to help manage their investment needs. It's similar to a cooperative purchasing program which is how they get very competitive daily interest rates. NYLAF is approved by the Comptroller's Office, and another perk is that the funds are accessible at any time – not locked in for weeks at a time like we've been with the CDARS.

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to utilize NYLAF as UHLS's primary investment resource. M. Savage seconded. Unanimous.

VII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C. Dugas (GUIL): Guilderland's new director starts on May 22.

Y. Terplak (ALTM): The ALTM annual gala is coming up – Taylor Swift themed! They're all looking forward to this event, it's always a wonderful time.

A. Way (APL): APL has 12 people running for 3 available seats on their board!

MOTION: C. Dugas moved to adjourn. J. Marino seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

06/25/2024 JF