



UPPER HUDSON
LIBRARY SYSTEM
Together. For Better Libraries.

OFFICERS:

President: Susan Keitel
Vice-President: Marcy Savage
Treasurer: Fred Wobrock, Jr.
Secretary: Scott Wyner

**Board of Trustees
October 9, 2024**

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

Absent: Jackie Marino

Excused: Tara Ricard

UHLS Staff: T. Burke; J. Favreau; Alexandra Ostwald

Guests: Mike Zovistoski - UHY

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Keitel called the meeting to order at 4:35PM.

II. MINUTES

MOTION: Y. Terplak moved to approve the September 11, 2024 Minutes. M. Savage seconded. Unanimous.

III. UHY REPORT ON 2023 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Mike Zovistoski from UHY gave the CPA's financial review report. The primary conclusion is the UHY is not aware of any material modifications that need to be made to the financial statements.

MOTION: C. Engel moved to accept the Financial Review Report as presented. J. Burke seconded. Unanimous.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

T. Burke wanted to note that next month there will be an Administration Committee meeting to review two new policies: public comment and social media policy. M. Savage shared that at their last board meeting, the COLN trustees has a similar conversation and questioned whether allowing the public to comment on all posts is even needed.

All of the current construction grant applications has been submitted to DLD. M. Savage asked if member libraries ever need to pay upfront and if any have run into trouble due to the state taking a long time to payout. T. Burke noted that everyone has the option to start construction earlier in the process, even before they received the official congratulations from the state. He isn't aware of the state taking away money after UHLS submits the applications, but he always says it's not official until it is.

S. Keitel followed up on the SCPL discussion and noted that it was a lesson for the board that we can't be blind to state policy. We had to learn through the questions we asked about other local libraries, systems, and state policies. There's a lot we don't know and a lot we have to keep learning. She is grateful for every trustee's thoughtful participation.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

F. Wobrock noted that we're still in the positive and we'll have enough in savings to last us until we receive state funding next year. He also pointed out that this month we had \$12k of income - \$9800 of that was interest income from NYLAF. On the Purchase Journal a staff training payment was made to Inclusive, who's mission is to create games, activities and support materials with and for individuals with special circumstances or special needs. A \$250 non-refundable deposit was made to Rev. Hall for our annual celebration next year. D. Carr asked if we are going to set it up the same way or have more tables. Differently – definitely more tables and more like the set-up we had at the Albany Country Club.

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to adopt the September 2024 Treasurer's Report and Purchase Journal. C. Dugas seconded. Unanimous.

Services Committee

T. Burke walked through the proposed Central Library budget for 2025. There are two new services: a NYT All Access Subscription for all member libraries and a Language Line Translation Service. This service doesn't cover phone calls made outside of the library, it is just for library services, not calling outside. Y. Terplak added that she's witnessed this service in a hospital setting and it was amazing.

MOTION: The Services Committee moved to accept the Central Library budget as proposed. S. Wyner seconded. Unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Last year the UHLS Board offered the staff a breakfast around the holidays – it was a wonderful morning for those of us who could stay. Maybe we could do it again, and maybe more of us could stay. Please think about it and bring ideas to the table in November.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

C. Dugas (GUIL): Earlier this year, the GUIL Board hired an outside company to conduct a full investigation following the allegations made by the previous café owner. They shared the findings with their board this week and they've issued a statement to the public. It's available on the website if you're interested in reading it. She was also elected Board President.

- J. Burke (ALTM): The library is planning on hosting a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Potluck the Sunday before Thanksgiving. They found a band that can play the theme music, the local boy scouts will do a couple of fire pits in the park and they'll host a food-raiser for the local food pantry. Should be a lovely event, drawing the community together in the cold weather.
- Y. Terplak (ALTM): She loves seeing all of the little ones showing up each week for Storytime at Altamont. J. Burke shared that there's about 35 people attending each week!
- D. Carr (RCSC): RCSC is hosting their 2nd annual "De-stash Your Stash of Craft Supplies" this coming Saturday. So many donations have been made from the community and the fiber arts group has been a wonderful help. Anything leftover from the sale will be donated to Upstitch in Albany.
- E. Greenstein (TROY): They are hosting their 2nd annual Fall Fest Saturday, October 19th from 12-4PM – everyone is invited!
- S. Keitel (WSTR): Margaret Sullivan has a wonderful blog with a weekly commentary following the election – she highly recommends we check it out. She also recommends a recent article published in the Washington Post "Who uses the public libraries the most? There's a divide by religion, and politics." T. Burke noted that he will email that out to the group.
- M. Savage (COLN): She wanted to circle back to some of the feedback that the board heard from the guests attending the meetings recently. They were complimentary and grateful for all that we're doing here. J. Burke shared that he has heard those comments of the UHLS board from all sides, wishing that their meetings were more like ours.
- J. Burke (ALTM): The ALTM board has two openings with partial terms. As an association library, they can choose their trustees and always have in the past by allowing current trustees to recommend a friend who's interested. For the first time ever, they made the decision to publicize these seats widely to the public and 13 applicants applied! They don't know how to make the decision now. They'll be meeting on the 21st to create this criterion. L. Scoons noted that when they did this, BETH had 25 applicants: they did interviews and the board ranked them to choose the trustee.
- C. Engel (EGRN): Their board just hosted an election as well – only one candidate ran for the one open seat.

MOTION: Y. Terplak moved to adjourn. C. Dugas seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

10/21/2024 JF