

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Free Public Library of Hasbrouck Heights
Minutes
June 18, 2019**

Present:

John Baratta	Lizz Nuzzo
Lori Cintron	Michael Sickels
John DeLorenzo, Mayor	Marlene Verrastro, President
Rose Heck	Mimi Hui, Director
Pat Link, Secretary	Micky Maschio, Friends Rep
Linda Mansfield	Steven Reyngoudt, Council Liaison

The meeting having been advertised in compliance with the sunshine law was convened by President Marlene Verrastro at 7:34 pm.

Public Portion: Dave Hanson, Director of BCCLS, was in attendance at the invitation of the library board and will speak later.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read & approved with two abstentions.

Motion: Rose Heck & seconded by Linda Mansfield.

Director's Report: Report submitted to the board is attached to the minutes.

Highlights

- Reported the statistics from the past month.
- Library Happenings-Youth Government Takeover Day was on May 28. Two high schools seniors, Carmen Cheung and Hanna Jamaldeen, were liaisons and were given a tour of the library and learned the duties and responsibilities of how the library operates.
- The second grade classes from Euclid School came for a visit to the library to learn all about poetry. Youth Services Librarian Kate Senedzuk worked with Ms. Betty Chiu to introduce the students to Paint Chip Poetry.
- Sign up for Summer Reading programs is off to a good start with 126 children signing up on the 1st day.
- Our library was involved in recent community events including the Annual Street Fair, HH High School Awards Ceremony and the 33rd Annual Scholar Awards Dinner held at the Masonic Lodge.
- The library will also take part in the Active Shooter Awareness Training on June 20th in the Senior Center sponsored by the HH Police Department.
- A list of all meetings and events attended for the past month was provided.

Update from Friends of the Library

Friends President Micky Maschio reported the following:

- The Friends presented 3 High School Seniors with \$500 scholarships at the Hasbrouck Heights High School Awards Ceremony.
- Boiling Springs Bank's Community Alliance Program continues to be very beneficial to the Friends. We currently have 20 members which we must maintain in order to keep the benefits. Anyone interested in joining may go to the bank and see Diane Link who can assist you.
- The Friends of the Library also participates in the Amazon Smile program to get even more benefits.
- Our next event is the Summer Bash on August 2 in the library and volunteers are needed so please sign up with Mimi or Micky. Remember it takes a village to run a successful event. The Friends has set aside \$5,000 to cover the cost for entertainment and food.
- The Book Sale/Jewelry Event held in May was not as successful as in the past and it takes a lot of hard work and time to get ready for it. The Friends Executive Board will be looking at other ways to raise funds for the library.
- Our next event will be the Reasons for Seasons Wreath Event on September 13 in the library. More details later.

Committee Reports

Building – Pat Link, Committee Chair

Reported a small leak and mold issue was found in the Youth Services Office. DPW and Health Department were notified to come handle matter.

Finance – Michael Sickels, Committee Chair

Committee worked with Personnel Committee to discussed options and ideas on handling staff turnover and staffing concerns for the upcoming months - see Personnel Report for more details.

Personnel – Lizz Nuzzo, Committee Chair

Reported committee has met with Finance and after much discussion the following recommendations were made:

- It was discussed to eliminate the position of Library Page and incorporate duties of the position into the PT Library Assistant responsibilities. Following the new wage guidelines the current Page will become PT Library Assistant starting July 1. Chair Nuzzo made the motion and it was seconded by Mike Sickels. Voted on and approved unanimously.
- Hire Rose Ellen Lorber-Termaat as PT Seasonal Library Assistant working not more than 25 hours at the rate of \$11/hr. Motion was made by Lizz Nuzzo and seconded by Mike Sickels. Voted on and approved unanimously.

- Director Hui interviewed candidates for the position of PT Adult Services Librarian. Director was instructed to proceed ahead and hire the candidate over the summer. Candidate is to work not more than 25 hours a week at the rate of \$25/ hr. Motion was made by Lizz Nuzzo and seconded by Pat Link. Voted on and approved unanimously.
- Lizz Nuzzo made the motion to raise the salary of the Library Intern working in Reference Department from \$11/ hour to \$15 /hour. Seconded by Mike Sickels. Voted on and approved unanimously.
- President Marlene Verrastro read two letters of resignation from the following staff members --Juliam Vasquez and Luka Nilaj. Motion was made to accept with regrets from Pat Link and seconded by Lori Cintron. Voted on and approved.

Strategic Plan – Lori Cintron, Committee Chair

No report

Fundraising – Rose Heck, Committee Chair

Committee is working on fundraising ideas to raise money. More details will be available in September.

Old Business

NJLA Conference was recently held in Atlantic City. It was a big success. Director Hui attended and reported back what is happening around the state and shared ideas how the library can benefit.

Staff Development Day is scheduled to take place on June 21. Library will be closed all day to the public in order for staff enrichment.

New Business

2019 Summer Reading Programs - Director Hui introduced this year's summer reading themes for all ages. Flyers were included in board packet.

Summer Bash 2019 – This year's theme is called “An Interstellar Galactic Space Adventure” to take place on Friday, August 2 in the library. It's a sleepover this year. Many great activities are being planned with special guests and delicious food. Sign up ASAP. See flyer for details. Volunteers are needed to help make it another successful event. See Mimi or Micky.

Pay Bills during Summer Months (July & August) - Director Hui asked the Trustees for permission to have the board president pay bills over the summer since board does not meet in July/August. Motion to pay the bills made by Lori Cintron and seconded by Mike Sickels. Voted on and approved.

BCCLS Bergen County Grant – Director Hui introduced Dave Hanson, Executive Director of BCCLS, to come discuss with the library board about the Bergen County Grant Program and all the upcoming changes. The vote will be taken at the end of the month at a System Council Meeting.

Director Hanson talked about the changes that will be made to the BCCLS Bergen County Grant. Recommendation has been made to do away with net plus reimbursement. Trustees asked questions and expressed strongly of their displeasure of the loss of funding. Our library ranks in the top three or four position out of 77 libraries when it comes to sharing our materials with the entire cooperative. Hasbrouck Heights stands to lose close to \$9,000. Other libraries like Paramus will be losing close to \$60,000. If the membership votes to dissolve net plus reimbursement, our library will have to reconsider how materials will be lent out and what services to be made available. Our library has always pride itself that we are able to share not only our materials but offer meeting room space to host BCCLS events.

Library Council Liaison Steve Reyngoudt will reach out to our state representatives in order to share our concerns and see if anything can influence the funding decision of the Bergen County Board of Freeholders.

Mayor DeLorenzo stated he recognizes the hard work of this library. Mayor and Council make sure this library is well funded. In researching surrounding towns, funding levels are different and at a bare minimum. Mayor asked Executive Director Hanson what he would do in our position if he was to lose funding for all the hard work that has been done.

The trustees thanked Hansen for coming. Director Hui asked the trustees what course she should take when she will be attending the next System Council meeting at the end of the month. All the trustees unanimously agreed that she should vote no and to tell them that Hasbrouck Heights would be considering other options.

No further business. Motion to adjourn at 9:12 pm by Lori Cintron and seconded by Lizz Nuzzo. Voted on and approved. Next meeting is September 17 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Link, Secretary