

**Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Agenda
April 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Hudson Area Public Library
700 1st Street, Hudson WI 54016**

FC and LBOT Meeting
Time: Apr 16, 2024 06:00 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83518057067?pwd=eXVGaUdjNTZQbThUcVZzN1pYROZkQT09>

Meeting ID: 835 1805 7067
Passcode: 936447

Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdaafHgaav>

1. Call to order, roll call, certification of quorum, certification of compliance with WI open meeting laws and public records laws, introduction of visitors and guests.
2. Citizen Comments
3. **ACTION ITEM: Approval of Consent Agenda Items**
 - a. *Approve meeting Agenda*
 - b. *Disposition of minutes from the prior board meeting(s) and of any intervening special meetings*
 - c. *Acceptance of expenditure report*
 - d. *Approve Finance Committee's recommendation to pay bills*
4. **Presentations:**
 - a. *Friends of the Library*
 - b. *Library Foundation*
5. **Updates and reports**
 - a. *President's updates*
 - b. *City of Hudson updates*
 - c. *Hudson School District updates*
6. **Committee updates**
 - a. *Policy and Personnel*
 - b. *Finance*
7. **Director's Report**
 - a. *Presentation of monthly report and statistics*
 - b. *Director's report & updates*
8. **PRESENTATION/BOARD DEVELOPMENT: Funding calculations**
9. **PRESENTATION/BOARD DEVELOPMENT: Collection development and phonics**
10. **DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION: Teen Space Policy**
11. **DISCUSSION: Library Strategies Needs Assessment Update**
12. **DISCUSSION: Facility**

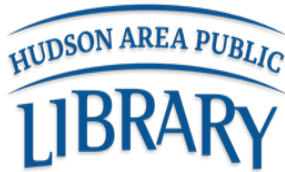
13. Future agenda items

14. Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 21, 2024

Board of Trustees Members: Paul Berning, Kimberly Osterhues, Rich O'Connor, Barbara Peterson, Bryan Wells, Bill Fehrenbach, Gerry Klecker, Chad Wiertzema, Sammi Dittloff. Emailed to City of Hudson, board members and media the week of April 8, 2024

NOTE: Some Agenda items may be taken up earlier in the meeting, or in a different order than listed. Upon reasonable notice, an interpreter or other auxiliary aids will be provided at the meeting to accommodate the needs of the public. Please contact the Library Director at 715-386-3101 ext. 305.



**Hudson Area Public Library
Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2024**

- 1. Call to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice President Wells. Roll call, certification of quorum, certification of compliance with WI open meeting laws and public records laws, introduction of visitors and guests.**

Board members present: Bryan Wells, Barb Peterson, Bill Fehrenbach, Gerry Klecker, Chad Wiertzema, Sammi Dittloff

Board members absent: Rich O'Connor, Kim Osterhues, Paul Berning

Staff: Jamie Smith, Michelle Saifullah, Shelley Tougas (arrived at 8:10pm)

- 2. Citizen Comments**

None

- 3. ACTION ITEM: CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Peterson to approve consent agenda items a-d

Second by Klecker

Discussion: None

Vote Taken: MOTION CARRIED - 6 Ayes/0 Nays

- 4. Presentations**

Friends of the Library: representative was not present but Peterson mentioned that the Friends book sale is coming soon

Foundation: Klecker reported on the Foundation's discussion of the "what if" scenarios as the situation with the building develops, as well as the expected costs that go along with remodeling and expanding. Peterson suggested the library building's financial situation needs to be on the library board agenda very soon so the library board members can catch up to the Foundation.

- 5. Updates/Reports**

President: none

City of Hudson: none

School district: none

6. Committee Updates

Policy and Personnel: Peterson discussed the need to update the gift receipt policy. The Library Director's job description also needs to be reviewed and approved.

Finance: Wells reported that the finance committee agenda was approved.

7. Director's Report

The written report was presented by Saifullah along with a slideshow.

8. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM: Finance Committee Charter

Motion by Klecker to accept

Second by Fehrenbach

Discussion: none

Vote Taken: MOTION CARRIED - 6 Ayes/0 Nays

9. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: Library STEM / Space, Christopher Mick

Christopher Mick gave an overview of the traveling space exhibit that was at the Library December 1st, 2023 – March 8th, 2024.

10. DISCUSSION: Collection Development Policy and Recent Workshop

Peterson and Klecker discussed the workshop they attended and the reasons it's good to be in front of any book-related complaints. Tougas updated the board on the importance of a formal book challenge review process.

11. PRESENTATION / BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Tabled for the next meeting

12. DISCUSSION: Library Strategies Needs Assessment Update

Tougas updated the board on the assessment status

13. PRESENTATION / BOARD DEVELOPMENT: Wisconsin Library Standards

Tougas presented on what library standards are and where HAPL falls within those standards

14. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION: Facility

Tougas updated the board about the building and its requirements

15. Future agenda items: Gift Receipt Policy, 2025 Budget, Director's Job Description

16. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 9:13pm by Fehrenbach

Second by Wiertzema

Vote Taken: MOTION CARRIED – 6 Ayes/0 Nay

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Smith

Monthly Expenditure Statement
March 31, 2024
Hudson Area Public Library

Acct Code	Object Description	Budget w/ grants	MTD	YTD	Balance	%YTD
240-55111	Library					
Personnel						
121	Full-Time	\$ 340,080	\$ 45,642	\$ 101,961	\$ 238,119	30%
125	Part-Time	\$ 448,760	\$ 40,513	\$ 93,947	\$ 354,813	21%
151	FICA	\$ 60,346	\$ 6,526	\$ 14,802	\$ 45,544	25%
152	WRS	\$ 40,649	\$ 4,998	\$ 11,224	\$ 29,425	28%
154	Health Insurance	\$ 78,500	\$ 4,683	\$ 20,146	\$ 58,354	26%
Personnel Total:		\$ 968,335	\$ 102,362	\$ 242,079	\$ 726,256	25%
Contractual Services						
212	Legal Services	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	0%
213	Professional Services	\$ 15,500	\$ 1,250	\$ 3,750	\$ 11,750	24%
216	IFLS Ops	\$ 48,500	\$ 50,056	\$ 50,056	\$ (1,556)	103%
217	IFLS Courier	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 300	90%
225	Telephone	\$ 4,950	\$ 493	\$ 1,302	\$ 3,648	26%
249	Contract Maint.	\$ 700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700	0%
294	Programming: Adults	\$ 5,000	\$ 672	\$ 1,821	\$ 3,179	36%
295	Programming: Children	\$ 25,500	\$ 1,863	\$ 5,520	\$ 19,980	22%
298	Maint. Agmts / Leases	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,064	\$ 1,625	\$ 8,375	16%
299	Other Contract Services	\$ 6,000	\$ 99	\$ 1,490	\$ 4,510	25%
Contractual Services Total:		\$ 121,050	\$ 58,098	\$ 68,164	\$ 52,886	56%
Supplies & Expenses						
311	Postage	\$ 1,000	\$ 7.07	\$ 15.42	\$ 985	2%
312	Office Supplies	\$ 10,955	\$ -	\$ 1,825.65	\$ 9,129	17%
324	Memberships	\$ 1,750	\$ 240.00	\$ 339.00	\$ 1,411	19%
326	Advertising	\$ 500	\$ 55.58	\$ 93.89	\$ 406	19%
338	Staff Development	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ 231.55	\$ 3,268	7%
	Furnishing	\$ 1,000	\$ 57.47			
339	Travel / Conferences	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,686.63	\$ 108.68	\$ 1,641	6%
396	Technology	\$ 11,000	\$ 763.74	\$ 2,632.71	\$ 8,367	24%
399	Activity Supplies	\$ 21,000	\$ 2,810.49	\$ 1,278.92	\$ 19,721	6%
Supplies & Expenses Total:		\$ 52,455	\$ 5,621	\$ 6,526	\$ 45,929	12%
Collection						
395	Books	\$ 70,300	\$ 2,989	\$ 13,521	\$ 56,779	19%
397	Periodicals	\$ 5,100	\$ 316	\$ 1,680	\$ 3,420	33%
398	Audio-Visual	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,680	\$ 2,340	\$ 7,660	23%
	Digital Resources	\$ 2,000				
Collection Total:		\$ 87,400	\$ 4,985	\$ 17,541	\$ 69,859	20%
Fixed Charges						
510	Workers Comp	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	0%
511	Public Liability	\$ 1,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,300	0%
513	Public Officials	\$ 1,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700	0%
517	Property Insurance	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	\$ (800)	140%
519	Unemployment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
532	Occupancy Agreement	\$ 114,943	\$ 9,579	\$ 28,736	\$ 86,207	25%
Fixed Charges Total:		\$ 120,943	\$ 12,379	\$ 31,536	\$ 89,407	26%
812	Furniture and Furnishings	\$ -				
829	Other Repair and Improvements	\$ -	\$ -			
Capital Expenses Total:				\$ -		Remaining
Total Expenditures		\$ 1,350,183	\$ 183,444	\$ 365,845	\$ 984,338	73%
						%of Year Completed
						25%

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2024

Library Board of Trustees

Needs Assessment – Library Strategies

The community survey for the needs assessment had a deadline of April 12. A few days prior, the survey totals were about 900. Library Strategies wanted a minimum response rate of 1 percent of the service population, which is 350. The “stretch” goal was 700 responses, so we’ve solidly cleared that goal. There will be an update prepared for the April meeting.

Library anniversary

Hudson’s first official public library (the Carnegie) opened its doors May 27, 1904. We’re turning 120 years old! Beginning May 27, we’ll have a series of celebrations throughout the year. May 27 is birthday cake and library-memory sharing. June 22 we have a magician, craft and self-directed activities. Stay tuned for other events.

May meeting

The May 21 meeting is the annual meeting per city ordinance. In addition to electing officers (again), we’ll set the calendar for board meetings and library closures, including regular library hours.

Friends of the Library book sale

The Friends are having a spring sale in Room 219 from April 22 to April 28. Come support the sale and buy some great used books! On April 27, they’re having the Bookmark Contest event in the library lobby.

Citizen Science Month

Librarian Christopher Mick secured another grant to hold a series of STEM programs in April called Citizen Science Month. He did programming around the eclipse and was also able to give away more than 200 solar eclipse glasses. In addition, we hosted a backyard biodiversity program.

January			
Overview			
Total Programs	43	Total Participants	1637
Kid Programs	26	Kid Participants	739
Teen Programs	6	Teen Participants	76
Adult Programs	6	Adult Participants	85
Open Programs	5	Open Participants	737

February			
Overview			
Total Programs	56	Total Participants	1089
Kid Programs	35	Kid Participants	871
Teen Programs	8	Teen Participants	70
Adult Programs	7	Adult Participants	33
All Ages Programs	6	All Ages Participants	115

March			
Overview			
Total Programs	54	Total Participants	1314
Kid Programs	28	Kid Participants	863
Teen Programs	5	Teen Participants	41
Adult Programs	8	Adult Participants	55
All Ages Programs	13	All Ages Participants	355

ASSIGNED BOARD TERMS

Library Board of Trustees

Trustee	Term	Representation
Paul Berning	2024-2028	City of Hudson Resident
Sammi Dittloff	2024-2026	City of Hudson Resident
Bill Fehrenbach	2024-2027	City of Hudson Resident
Gerry Klecker	2024-2028	City of Hudson Resident
Rich O'Connor	2024-2027	City of Hudson Council Representative
Kim Osterhues	2024-2026	Hudson School District Representative
Barb Peterson	2024-2026	Town of St. Joseph Resident
Bryan Wells	2024-2028	City of Hudson Resident
Chad Wiertzema	2024-2027	City of Hudson Resident

Hudson Area Public Library Statistics Summary

Mar-24

Circulation										
Comparisons YTD		2023		2024		Comparisons by Month		Library Visitors YTD		
Physical Materials:	26,396	46,703	Physical CKO	9,020	16,239	2023	2024	2023	2024	
Digital Materials:	10,223	19,128	Check-ins	8,532	11,570	12,400	24,193	Monthly Visitors		
Total All Circulation:	36,619	65,831	Renewals	3,760	3,791	2023	2024			
% Physical Materials	72.08%	70.9%	Total Physical Circ	12,780	20,030	7,445	7,898			
% Digital Materials	27.9%	29.1%	Digital Circulation	5,000	6,620					
			Total Circulation	17,780	26,650					
New Patrons YTD		New Patrons by Month		Proctoring YTD		Cardholders				
2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Jan. 1 2024	9,237			
244	419	119	125	1	0	Current	9,584			
Technology Use YTD		Meeting Room Use		Volunteer Hours						
2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Monthly	152.5			
Pharos	575	594	Monthly	189	212	Year to Date	474			
Wi-Fi	3,878	7,255	YTD	535	689					
Year-to Date	4,453	7,849								
Programming										
YTD Programs		Monthly Comparisons								
2023	2024	Programs Held	2023	2024						
98	133	Children	20	28						
		T[w]eens	4	5						
YTD Program Attendance		Adult								
2023	2024	Drop-in	7	13						
3,156	4,040	Totals:	34	54						
		Attendance								
Self Directed Activities 2024		Children		2023		2024				
MTD	YTD	Children	552	863						
13	44	T[w]eens	20	41						
		Adult								
		Drop-in								
		Totals:								
		785		1314						

Hudson Area Public Library

Circulation Statistics		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
Check-outs														
2018		13,266	12,994	16,153	14,102	15,400	19,450	18,509	17,830	13,527	13,869	13,289	11,439	179,828
2019		14,754	13,485	15,567	13,828	12,865	16,711	18,359	16,262	12,420	13,610	12,570	10,826	171,257
2020		13,321	12,959	7,285	990	3,005	3,496	8,169	9,461	8,752	8,613	8,736	8,225	93,012
2021		8,636	9,333	11,147	9,429	7,955	13,175	12,805	11,320	6,425	3,423	3,548	3,374	100,570
2022		6,666	6,908	9,020	8,699	8,052	13,128	13,582	14,057	9,615	10,421	9,660	8,741	118,549
2023		11,473	10,028	12,934	10,398	9,524	13,887	14,631	13,859	10,567	10,667	10,271	8,117	136,356
2024		11,986	11,592	12,448										36,026
Check-ins														
2018		12,303	12,771	15,258	14,669	14,220	17,791	18,773	18,539	14,420	14,490	13,087	11,980	178,301
2019		13,108	13,381	15,053	14,514	13,619	13,745	18,230	17,816	13,092	13,836	12,354	12,308	171,056
2020		12,297	12,798	6,163	232	3,567	5,104	7,995	6,777	7,931	7,422	6,380	5,812	82,478
2021		6,064	6,930	8,246	9,436	8,539	10,618	11,893	12,201	7,124	5,405	5,279	4,864	96,599
2022		4,913	6,637	8,532	8,441	8,527	10,608	13,493	13,034	10,594	9,873	10,430	9,382	114,464
2023		9,634	10,019	12,031	11,008	10,680	11,037	13,948	14,976	11,538	10,824	10,841	9,403	135,939
2024		10,293	10,814	11,570										32,677
Renewals														
2018		5,371	5,333	8,729	6,698	6,807	7,936	6,803	5,884	5,275	5,090	4,693	4,589	73,208
2019		4,850	4,521	5,202	5,155	4,378	4,506	6,292	5,414	4,557	4,896	4,637	4,666	59,074
2020		4,192	4,058	2,404	92	84	805	3,344	3,071	3,319	3,219	3,324	3,876	31,788
2021		4,113	4,156	4,676	4,262	3,952	4,160	4,758	4,937	1,290	535	1,229	2,023	40,091
2022		2,405	2,658	3,760	3,475	3,558	3,571	4,362	4,184	3,466	3,758	3,575	3,326	42,098
2023		3,504	3,331	3,944	3,725	3,458	3,532	4,422	4,377	3,697	3,791	3,826	2,954	44,561
2024		3,509	3,377	3,791										10,677
Total Physical Circulation														
2018		18,637	18,327	24,882	20,800	22,207	27,386	25,312	23,714	18,802	18,959	17,982	16,028	253,036
2019		19,604	18,006	20,769	18,983	17,243	21,217	24,651	21,676	16,977	18,506	17,207	15,492	230,331
2020		17,513	17,017	9,689	1,082	3,089	4,301	11,513	12,532	12,071	11,832	12,060	12,101	124,800
2021		12,749	13,489	15,823	13,691	11,907	17,335	17,563	16,257	7,715	3,958	4,777	5,397	140,661
2022		9,071	9,566	12,780	12,174	11,610	16,699	17,944	18,241	13,081	14,179	13,235	12,067	160,647
2023		11,473	14,923	16,392	3,725	3,458	3,532	4,422	4,377	3,697	3,791	3,826	2,954	76,570
2024		15,495	14,969	16,239										46,703
2022-2023 increase / decrease		2,402	5,357	3,612	(8,449)	(8,152)	(13,167)	(13,522)	(13,864)	(9,384)	(10,388)	(9,409)	(9,113)	(84,077)
Digital Circulation														
2018		3,625	3,424	3,781	3,455	3,531	3,589	3,890	3,737	3,591	3,539	3,433	3,536	43,131
2019		4,021	3,631	3,956	3,729	3,943	3,983	4,318	4,251	3,927	4,089	3,958	3,978	47,784
2020		4,213	3,911	4,316	4,914	5,044	5,034	5,041	4,704	4,471	4,359	4,150	4,273	54,430
2021		4,800	4,773	5,246	4,558	4,611	4,696	4,922	5,061	4,655	4,575	4,488	4,581	56,966
2022		5,245	4,172	5,000	4,742	4,811	4,971	5,104	4,998	4,673	4,723	4,641	4,482	57,562
2023		5,387	4,836	5,346	5,184	5,366	5,376	5,869	5,685	5,542	6,152	6,118	6,107	66,968
2024		6,455	6,053	6,620										19,128
2022-2023 increase / decrease		142	664	346	442	555	405	765	687	869	1,429	1,477	1,625	9,406
Total Digital & Physical Circulation														
2018		16,860	19,759	21,738	8,909	8,824	8,908	10,291	10,062	9,239	9,943	9,944	9,061	143,538

	53.8%	48.4%	58.8%	136.6%	131.6%	187.5%	174.4%	181.3%	141.6%	142.6%	133.1%	133.2%	111.9%
% of Circulation Physical	31.1%	21.1%	23.0%	53.2%	54.5%	55.8%	49.6%	49.7%	50.6%	47.5%	46.7%	49.5%	40.1%
% of Circulation Digital	31.1%	21.1%	23.0%	53.2%	54.5%	55.8%	49.6%	49.7%	50.6%	47.5%	46.7%	49.5%	40.1%
Materials Statistics													
Items Borrowed	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
2024	3,498	3,096	3,165										9,759
2024	3,621	3,700	3,622										10,943
Items Added													
2024	491	640	491										1,622
Technology Use													
Pharos													
2018	696	765	872	826	807	838	837	882	745	850	690	560	9,368
2019	659	581	754	775	740	701	710	807	615	728	605	561	8,236
2020	654	609	287	-	-	-	109	115	111	109	98	99	2,191
2021	108	97	130	106	114	217	215	249	126	-	-	-	1,362
2022	186	227	249	252	246	221	226	295	265	256	272	225	2,920
2023	283	292	421	290	200	211	219	208	223	170	182	179	2,878
2024	200	190	204										594
Wireless													
2018	4,877	5,100	5,553	5,508	5,687	6,475	6,347	5,992	4,807	5,860	5,627	4,724	66,557
2019	5,799	1,012	4,690	5,378	6,005	5,977	4,410	4,529	3,927	4,247	3,750	3,333	53,057
2020	4,127	3,969	2,804	1,286	2,060	5,250	7,607	7,017	5,939	5,767	5,793	5,866	57,485
2021	4,898	4,514	5,220	5,184	5,964	6,764	7,377	7,867	5,796	4,375	3,577	3,539	65,072
2022	2,504	2,309	2,475	2,556	1,777	2,693	3,414	3,003	3,039	2,698	2,386	1,885	30,739
2023	1,992	1,886	2,169	2,331	2,828	3,296	3,177	2,787	2,679	2,485	2,808	2,608	31,046
2024	2,527	2,405	2,323										7,255
Proctoring Services													
2018	3	3	0	2	1	7	6	1	0	4	4	4	33
2019	-	4	4	-	3	8	7	6	2	6	4	4	48
2020	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1	1	13
2021	1	2	-	2	1	2	3	1	2	-	-	-	14
2022	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	11
2023	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	7
2024	0	-	-										-
Patron Statistics													
Visitors													
2018	8,678	9,559	10,858	9,757	9,958	13,025	13,214	12,023	10,750	10,525	8,843	9,765	126,955
2019	13,007	9,265	11,314	10,123	10,576	14,388	13,254	11,994	10,765	11,757	9,241	9,016	134,700
2020	11,254	9,832	5,983	-	-	-	2,346	2,825	2,362	2,146	2,268	2,299	41,315
2021	2,184	2,398	2,990	2,686	3,192	5,752	5,784	5,908	2,441	-	-	-	33,335
2022	2,949	3,661	4,549	4,639	4,761	5,677	6,264	6,551	4,983	5,299	5,393	4,716	59,442
2023	6,169	6,231	7,445	6,690	6,756	9,108	9,123	7,944	6,880	6,855	6,754	6,103	86,058

	2024	8,364	7,931	7,898	24,193								
Monthly Average 2023	6,169	6,200	6,615	6,634	6,658	7,067	7,360	7,433	7,372	7,320	7,269	7,172	86,058
Days Open 2023	24	22	27	24	26	26	25	27	25	25	23	21	25
Daily Average 2023	257	283	276	279	260	350	365	294	275	274	294	291	291
New Patrons	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
2018	83	74	73	103	141	174	127	134	92	87	82	78	1,248
2019	126	87	130	126	90	217	147	99	85	91	73	75	1,346
2020	104	106	56	19	26	29	50	47	52	38	62	44	633
2021	44	57	46	34	52	156	141	99	74	25	27	22	777
2022	88	98	94	107	124	222	144	114	96	73	96	50	1,306
2023	145	99	119	123	119	250	179	195	125	111	98	77	1,640
2024	163	131	125										419
Curbside Services	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
Patron Pick-ups 2020	0	0	0	92	962	1197	501	357	376	347	311	344	4487
Patron Pick-ups 2021	351	310	329	249	105	65	65	32	372	1071	988	991	4928
Patron Pick-ups 2022	86	49	45	55	34	28	32	22	36	29	19	17	452
Patron Pick-ups 2023	26	29	27	17	25	24	24	18	17	20	11	13	251

https://www.hudsonstarobserver.com/news/open-book-meet-toothless-the-library-s-pet-bearded-dragon/article_4e172156-e6c4-11ee-bb1a-1be0bcf2ba1e.html

LOCAL NEWS

Open Book: Meet Toothless, the library's pet bearded dragon

Shelley Tougas | Hudson Library Director

Published on Mar 20, 2024



Toothless, the new bearded dragon at the Hudson Area Public Library. Photo: Jack White/Star-Observer.

Staff at the Hudson Area Public Library campaigned for a library pet, a mascot of sorts. Something that would excite patrons and motivate reluctant readers to visit.

Librarian and animal whisperer Joan Bushman pitched a hog-nosed snake because they're cute (allegedly) and don't require daily feeding. Just the word "snake," however, provoked a gag reflex from several staff. When the snake pitch failed, she doubled down on a bearded dragon.

Suddenly, in a stroke of fate that was not at all strategized or planned, Joan learned that a local bearded dragon needed a new home.

Among the perks of bearded dragons: When they shed their skin, they eat it. No messy clean up.

I pointed¹⁵ out the realities of keeping this dragon, though: the hassle of managing a diet of crickets and mealworms, a lack of space for the enclosure and rotating care when the library is closed for holidays. Not an ideal situation. Definitely unrealistic. Maybe even impossible.

But now, we have a bearded dragon.

His name is Toothless. He has three eyes, gaping holes that serve as ears, spiky skin and an undeniably large fan base. Toothless is quite famous. Not international, Taylor Swift-level famous. More like downtown Hudson famous.

His photogenic face and quirky personality have made him a social media star. Not the Kardashian-level of online stardom. He's more like a hotshot in the Facebook reptile community.

And I crunched the numbers: the followers of the Toothless Facebook page exceed the pages of fellow beardies Percy, Sillie and Muncher.

(Please follow the Toothless Facebook page by searching for “Toothless Library Lizard.”)

We're not breaking new ground here. According to *School Library Journal*, “beardies” are popular ambassadors in school media centers because they're calm — some would even say sweet — and they interact well with people. These characteristics make them ideal educational animals, particularly for reluctant readers.

Some young library visitors grab piles of books without any adult prompting; others wish they'd been left at home. We've converted the book-adverse to library lovers with educational toys, crafts, games and other fun activities, all of which serve as entrance ramps to books and reading.

Toothless is a magnet for those kids. They visit him and pepper Miss Joan with questions. What is he eating? Does he like crickets more than raspberries? Did he get a bath? Where's that third eye? Am I old enough to work at the library and be in charge of Toothless? Miss Joan has answers and book suggestions. Reptile books are circulating at unusually high levels.

Community¹⁶ members are invited to meet Toothless, our skin-shedding, raspberry-loving, popularity-seeking library recruiter. We expect him to become the Internet's next mega-influencer. The Kardashians need to up their game.

https://www.hudsonstarobserver.com/news/the-hudson-public-library-wants-residents-to-take-its-community-and-facility-needs-survey/article_d722d706-e70a-11ee-b402-932014646f4f.html

LOCAL NEWS

The Hudson Public Library wants residents to take its Community and Facility Needs Survey

written by Jack White

Published on Mar 20, 2024



Author Hailie Johnson reads her book to a crowd at Hudson Area Public Library.

The Hudson Area Public Library could add the space in its building left by the police department's potential departure, but before it does, its staff would like to hear from its patrons.

That's why the library tabbed Library Strategies Consulting Group to conduct a Community and Facility Needs Survey, a quiz with a deadline of April 12, that can be taken online [here](#).

Library Director Shelley Tougas said the sweet spot for a sample size of its community would be around 1-2% of the population, so the library has a goal of getting 350 people to fill out the survey.

“It’s analyzing how people think we're doing now,” Tougas said. “And then, if we get more space, what should we do with it? What do you want this library to look like in the future?”

As of Monday, 240 people filled out the survey online, while 30 turned in hard copies, the library reported in Tuesday night’s board meeting.

In addition to the survey, the consulting firm also conducted focus groups and one-on-one interviews to gain insight into what residents want from the library. Tougas said the consulting firm has shared two small insights from its assessment so far: parking is a complaint, while the library’s programs are a highlight.

“They still have a lot of stuff to sift through and [to] put together a report, but they did give us those two little tidbits,” Tougas said.

The Hudson Police Department could move in December of 2024, after sharing the building with the library since 2010. The city bought the building for the library and police, and the initial plan was for the police department to move out within five years, but that did not happen due to budget constraints.

In a special meeting in January, the Hudson City Council approved the constructing and remodeling of a building at 1201 Hanley Road for police facilities. The city will be borrowing an amount not to exceed \$5,115,000 for the property, per the resolution.

During²⁰ that special meeting, Council Member Joy Knudson said that the police facility is not big enough for its staff currently. She said the department needs the extra room, because right now the police have to share cubicles.

“Because it’s such a stressful job, having a place where they feel supported and camaraderie with each other [is important],” Knudson said.

Written By

Jack White

jwhite@orourkemediagroup.com |

https://www.apg-wi.com/price_county_review/park-falls-administrator-michalek-leaving-for-hudson/article_6a6af83e-f077-11ee-84e5-17d4c3c6be54.html

FEATURED

Park Falls Administrator Michalek leaving for Hudson

TOM LAVENTURE tlaventure@pricecountyreview.com

Apr 4, 2024



Michalek

Submitted photo

PARK FALLS — After five years of service as the Park Falls City Administrator, Brentt Michalek has resigned to accept the administrative role for Hudson, in St. Croix County. He is due to start work in Hudson on June 3.



Michalek²², who resigned on March 27, said it was not his intention to announce it just yet but the Hudson and Twin Cities media had already picked up the story and it didn't take long for the news to travel to Price County. City officials were aware that he started a search the previous November and an announcement was expected as Michalek was a finalist for three different positions.



"There's a lot of great things that we've been doing here in the city," Michalek said.

"I'm extremely proud of it and it saddens me to be leaving because our house is right here on the Flambeau River. I wish I could have finished my career here, but I'm excited for Hudson as well."

Michalek said it is very important for people to understand that his leaving has nothing to do with the work he was doing in Park Falls. He said the city is on course with its goals and will continue to accomplish great things in the coming years.

It was a family decision to relocate to an area where the family needs to be at this time, he said. He and his wife have a 16 year old daughter and a 13 year old son.

"It wasn't a matter of me just looking and trying to get out. It was a matter of us looking for the right situation for our kids and for our family," Michalek said.

Park Falls Mayor Tara Tervort said the Common Council held a special meeting on March 26 to discuss the vacancy and unanimously approved a decision to hire a new administrator.

“With the complexity of the city's growth and economic progress and the numerous statutory requirements of the state, it is critical that the next city administrator has the same strong knowledge and background as our previous administrator,” Tervort said.

The city is hiring Public Administration Associates to conduct the administrator search, Michalek said. The firm handles most administrator searches in the state, including Hudson.

“They're really good at what they do,” he said. “I have no doubt that you'll get a really good administrator coming in in the next phase.”

×

The board can see that with an administrator under the past two mayors the city has been awarded \$35 million in state and federal grants for things like the new YMCA and to revitalize Marshfield Medical Center — Park Falls, he said. There were smaller grants that helped to make Old Abe Memorial Park possible and other projects behind the scenes like sewer, water and streets, securing the BART bus service, and lastly, organizing the city hall transition to the city library.

“They recognize the need and the strength of having an administrator,” Michalek said.

An effective administrator works well with the city council by providing information and recommendations and allowing the council to provide the direction, he said. The council determines the course of the city and together they have successfully



converted²⁴ downtown streets into a soon-to-be-constructed city center park, and making it possible for Forward Bank to build their flag branch facility on adjacent property.

Losing the mill was tragic but the city is now transitioning from a former mill town by creating new opportunities. The face of the city will change in the process and that is basically bridging nature with industry, he said.

"I'm not exactly sure how bridging nature with industry works, but we've converted ourselves into life on the Flambeau," he said.

By the time Michalek leaves at the end of April, he said work on a new subdivision will be starting with about 60 units. The 80-20 market rated units will be Tower Road and State Highway 13.

Helping existing businesses is as important as attracting new ones, he said. The city worked hard to retain St. Croix Rods and convert a former retail space into a second facility, along with A J's (Bar & Dining) and helped Patchouli Garden expand manufacturing. The city assisted the Park Theater and The Lanes by designating parcels for improvements using tax increment financing districts.

- **BOOK ONLINE APPOINTMENTS**
- **ONLINE STORE**

- **DENTAL • ULTRASOUND • LASER**
- **KNEE SURGERY • RESORT STAYS**
- **VACCINES • EMERGENCY**

[MORE INFO](#)

"We've done a lot of what I call economic gardening," Michalek said. "You don't let your current manufacturing disappear on you. You encourage them to stay and you figure out ways to help them stay."

Michalek also worked on city branding by placing the historic legacy of the Old Abe the eagle, a national treasure during the Civil War, is now again the center of civic identity.



"We brought that to the forefront because this is where Old Abe was found, right here, just a mile north or two miles north on the river here," he said.

The city administrator position is an employee manager, an engineer, a planner, a finance specialist and many other roles. Working with so many people in so many capacities requires strong ethics, he said. Decisions sometimes create a lot of waves and are not always clearly understood outside.

"My belief is you have to hold your ethics extremely high and you follow through with that," Michalek said.

The scale of the work in Hudson is much different but the managing role and the direction of the council is the same, he said. He will provide the information and recommendation to leadership on projects and goals.

"So I think we're all heading in the right direction," Michalek said.

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Examples: Cost-per-circ Formula & Impact

Total expenditures	\$	1,000,000	<i>Combination of city/county/grants</i>
Total physical circulation		200,000	
Cost per circulation	\$	5.00	
Local circulation (Hudson City)		150,000	
ACT 150 circulation (St. Croix County-rural)		50,000	
St. Croix County funding:	\$	250,000	

Total expenditures increase	\$	1,200,000	←	\$	1,000,000
Total physical circulation		200,000			
Cost per circulation	\$	6.00	←	\$	5.00
Local circulation (Hudson City)		150,000			
ACT 150 circulation (St. Croix County-rural)		50,000			
St. Croix County funding:	\$	300,000			
Increase from county	\$	50,000			

City/grants: spend \$200,000 to get \$250,000

Total expenditures	\$	1,000,000			
Total physical circulation		200,000			
Cost per circulation	\$	5.00			
Local circulation (Hudson City)		125,000	←		150,000
ACT 150 circulation (St. Croix County-rural)		75,000	←		50,000
St. Croix County funding:	\$	375,000			
Increase from county	\$	125,000			

Drop in local circ with increase in rural circ & no funding changes, creates county funding increase

Total expenditures decrease	\$	900,000	←	\$	1,000,000
Total physical circulation		200,000			
Cost per circulation	\$	4.50	←	\$	5.00
Local circulation (Hudson City)		150,000			
ACT 150 circulation (St. Croix County-rural)		50,000			
St. Croix County funding:	\$	225,000			
Decrease from county:	\$	25,000			

City/grant cut of \$100,000 also cuts \$25,000 from county. Total cut is \$125,000.

Total expenditures	\$	1,000,000	
Total physical circulation		140,000	← 200,000
Cost per circulation	\$	7.14	← \$ 5.00
Local circulation (Hudson City)		100,000	← 150,000
ACT 150 circulation (St. Croix County-rural)		40,000	← 50,000

St. Croix County funding: \$ 285,714
 Increase from county \$ 35,714

Total expenditures	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000
Total physical circulation		250,000	←	200,000
Cost per circulation	\$	4.00	←	\$ 5.00
Local circulation (Hudson City)		190,000	←	150,000
ACT 150 circulation (St. Croix County-rural)		60,000	←	50,000

St. Croix County funding: \$ 240,000
 Decrease from county \$ 10,000

To break even...

Total expenditures	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000
Total physical circulation		250,000	←	200,000
Cost per circulation	\$	4.00	←	\$ 5.00
Local circulation (Hudson City)		187,500	←	150,000
ACT 150 circulation (St. Croix County-rural)		62,500	←	50,000

St. Croix County funding: \$ 250,000
 No change

Total expenditures increase	\$	1,200,000	←	\$	1,000,000
Total physical circulation		250,000	←	200,000	
Cost per circulation	\$	4.80	←	\$	5.00
Local circulation (Hudson City)		150,000			
ACT 150 circulation (St. Croix County-rural)		100,000	←	50,000	

St. Croix County funding: \$ 480,000
 Increase from county \$ 230,000

TEEN SPACE POLICY

The Policy and Personnel Committee will have this policy review near the top of its agenda. Recommendation is to approve, with or without suggested changes, and revisit after the PPC meets.

The Hudson Area Public Library has two teen spaces:

1. The young adult collection is housed on the library's main floor and is open for browsing to patrons of any age at any time during library hours.
2. The teen social space is located on the second floor and is designed for youth from grades six through twelve.

This policy applies specifically to the teen social space.

USAGE

The teen social space is designated for teen use; however, the library may reserve times for families and younger children to use the space. Hours will be posted.

When hours are posted for teens only, adults and young children may be asked to vacate the area.

Adults are not allowed in the space, regardless of posted hours, unless they are accompanied by a teen or child using the space. Unauthorized adults will be asked to vacate the area and be given a warning. After two warnings, the individual may be barred temporarily or permanently from the library depending on the severity of the offense.

Tutors are encouraged to use other appropriate spaces in the building to meet with students to ensure that the Teen Space tables and computers are primarily available for teens to study and socialize.

EXPECTATIONS

The Patron Code of Conduct applies to the teen social space. Library staff reserve the right to ask patrons to stop any inappropriate behaviors or ask them to leave the library after being issued two warnings.

In addition to staff physically monitoring the space, the library reserves the right to place a camera in space for additional monitoring.