



**Hudson Area Public Library
Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2024**

- 1. Call to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Paul Berning. 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: Paul Berning, Bill Fehrenbach, Barb Peterson, Gerry Klecker, Bryan Wells, Sammi Dittloff (zoom)

Board members absent: Kim Osterhues, Chad Wiertzema, Rich O'Connor,
Staff: Jamie Smith, Shelley Tougas

- 2. Citizen Comments**

None

- 3. ACTION ITEM: CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Wells 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: Peterson reported that the Friends are collecting Halloween candy to hand out at Trick or Treat Trail, and it can be dropped off anytime before the event at the library. The Friends also put out a funding request for the History Room in order to digitize all microfiche.

Foundation: Peterson reported that the Foundation's funding materials look good. Klecker reported that the planning committee met, and he recommends another joint meeting of the Foundation, Friends, Board, Planning Committee, and whoever else would like to join in to review the 50-page report from the architect.

5. Updates/Reports

President: Berning reported that the county had its meeting and St. Croix County approved funding the county libraries at 100 percent.

City of Hudson: none

School district: none

6. Committee Updates

Policy and Personnel: Peterson reported that some policies are conflicting and will be revised

Finance: Wells said with 75% of the year over, some budgets are at their max. They also reviewed the 2025 budget

Library Operations and Facility Structure: Fehrenbach said the committee had their library tour, and that will be covered in agenda item #8

AI Library Integration: Dittloff said the committee met and discussed what bogs the library operations down, day-to-day tasks that can possibly be replaced with AI, and what new services can be offered

7. Director's Report

The written report was presented by Tougas. This report can be found in the LBOT packet dated 10/15/2024.

8. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: Committee tour of libraries

Tougas presented a slide show with a summary of the tour taken by the Library Operations Committee. The tour consisted of Hennepin County Libraries in Maple Grove, Brooklyn Park, and Brookdale, as well as the R.H. Stafford Library in Woodbury. The overall consensus of the tour is that it is difficult to compare our services offered to those of a county system because of the differences in how they are operated and funded. Many of the buildings are bright and beautiful, but they lack energy. Teen spaces are underwhelming, and there are no Library of Things collections. Study rooms are in demand, and programming spaces are limited. Their respective AMH machines are insightful in their varying sizes, but there was no data offered on cost savings. They are utilized for ergonomic purposes.

9. DISCUSSION: 2025 budget

Tougas said the city will have its budget hearing and adoption on November 11. We will have an insurance increase of 3.9% and a 3% COLA increase, but a fee cut on our building lease.

Enrollment benefits are still coming so we are unsure yet what our benefits costs will entail.

10. DISCUSSION: Building Update

Kleckler reported that the architect gathered some great data that will be presented in the report. The architects want to take the activities we plan to have in the library, and design the building around those needs.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

12. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 8:22pm by Fehrenbach

Second by Klecker

Vote Taken: MOTION CARRIED – 6 Ayes/0 Nay

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Smith