

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HICKSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK 11801

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Hicksville Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order by President Joanne Curran Perrucci at 7:29 pm. Those present were: Mrs. D'Antonio, Mrs. Guida, Mrs. Blitz, Ms. Acosta, Mr. Tenenbaum (counsel), Ms. Pichardo-Lloyd (treasurer), and Mrs. Strazzeria (recording secretary). Also present were Mr. Joe Gangemella, Ms. Susan Sarandis, Mr. Alex Mariana, Ms. Margaret Breiman, and Ms. Wendi Slavsky. Joining via zoom were James Facer, George Stuzen, and Nicole. Mr. Munozospina was absent with prior notice.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Acosta mentioned that the annual report was included in this month's board packet. She has been collaborating with staff to go over everything, and Ms. Pichardo-Lloyd completed the financial section. Most of the report has already been accepted by NLS, with only a few remaining financial questions. Overall, the report shows positive results, with increases in circulation, library visits, website hits, engagement and programs, which is all very exciting.

Ms. Acosta shared that the new website should be launching this week, although there are still some changes to be made. She mentioned that it's a lengthy process to update the entire site, as they are going page by page. Ms. Acosta also reminded the board if they wanted to send in their bios and a photo for the website. She has already received one from Mrs. Curran Perrucci.

Ms. Acosta mentioned that the Harbes Pass is one the library's most popular passes, but this year, in addition to the regular fee charged to the library, Harbes will also charge the patrons a fee to visit the park. On weekdays, the fee for patrons will be \$5 (compared to the regular \$17.95), and on weekends, it will be \$10 (usually \$28.95). Despite this, it still offers a significant discount. Some libraries are opting not to renew the pass due to the added fee, but since it's one of the most used passed, Ms. Acosta suggested the library try it for a year and reassess next year.

Ms. Acosta announced that the seed library recently opened and has received amazing feedback. Mrs. Guida stated she saw so many people sharing it on social media. Ms. Acosta

agreed that both the social media response and in-person interest have been great. Ms. Amanda D., Outreach Librarian, led the initiative, with support from the reference and circulation staff. In the first two days, over one thousand seed packages were distributed, and some people even signed up for library cards. The program has been a great service to the community, and the seeds were all donated by various organizations, so no money has been spent on it yet.

Ms. Acosta mentioned that she is working on scheduling a meeting with Assemblyman Blumencranz, similar to last year, and is waiting for a response from his office. She will inform the board once she hears back. Additionally, Ms. Acosta announced that there is a meeting this Friday, March 14, 2025, at 5 o'clock at Senator Rhodes' office in Levittown, in case anyone is interested in attending.

The meeting was interrupted by zoom bombers at this point in the meeting.

Mrs. Curran Perrucci raised concerns about security guards using their phones while on duty. Ms. Acosta explained that the security company use phones to communicate with the guard from time to time but they shouldn't be on them constantly. Mrs. Curran Perrucci shared a recent experience when she visited a local library on two different days, back to back, and noticed the guard had set up a space to watch a show on his phone.

Mrs. Curran Perrucci asked for clarification regarding the substantial completion of the restroom project. Ms. Acosta confirmed that if a bid were awarded tonight, the goal would be completion by May.

Mrs. Curran Perrucci also inquired about the social worker intern, asking whether an undergrad (first or second year) would be capable of helping with benefit applications, de-escalating situations, and conducting community assessments. Ms. Acosta acknowledged that it would depend on the individual and mentioned they have to meet and interview the candidate, noting past experiences where they decided not to proceed with an intern. Mrs. Curran Perrucci emphasized the need to carefully select someone with the necessary skills.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Guida made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2025. Mrs. Blitz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

LEGAL

Item to be discussed in executive session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. D'Antonio made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the minutes of the February 13, 2025 regular board meeting as presented. Mrs. Guida seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

PETTY CASH

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Blitz made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board authorizes the payment of Warrant #775 ending February 28, 2025 in the amount of \$141,666.44 including checks numbered 6027 through 6099, Utilities in the amount of \$10,198.05, Petty Cash in the amount of \$24.68 with a total amount of \$151,889.17 from the TD Bank demand account. Mrs. Guida seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Blitz made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board authorizes the Payroll Warrant from the TD Bank of New York, Trust and Agency account with a monthly gross payroll of \$152,378.05, FICA and Medicare \$11,656.92, for a total of \$164,034.97 for the month ending February 28, 2025. Mrs. Guida seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Pillar Booths Proposal

The board discussed the two pillar booth proposals and decided to go with the Two ADA Pillar Two-Person booths. Ms. Acosta mentioned that the wiring would need to be moved, along with some of the booths that are on the lower level. She received an estimate of approximately \$4000 to rearrange the wiring and install new plugs for the booths.

Mrs. D'Antonio made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the pillar booth proposal for Two ADA Pillar Two-Person Booths with assembly in the amount of \$34,990.01. Mrs. Guida seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

FYI

NEW BUSINESS

New York State Annual Report

Mrs. Guida made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the New York State 2024 Annual Report as written. Mrs. Curran Perrucci seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Landscaping Services

Tabled to discuss references in executive session.

Toilet Renovation Project

Tabled to be discussed in executive session.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mr. Alex Mariana shared that he took over a 40-year-old company last year and is focused on growing the business, with most of his clients being local. His proposal for landscaping services was lower than others, which he felt made sense, as higher proposals included additional chemicals that weren't necessary. He also confirmed that his proposal covers both buildings and can be completed before the library opens. Ms. Wendi Slavsky suggested using fewer or no chemicals, as she prefers a chemical-free garden, and also raised concerns about blowing debris into the street, which is against town policy. Mr. Mariana agreed with her suggestions and emphasized he leaves the choice of using chemicals up to the customer.

Ms. Margaret Breiman raised concerns about the timing of the newsletter, which often arrives on the 1st day of the month, making it difficult for people to plan ahead. She suggested sending it out a week earlier. Ms. Acosta explained that the newsletter timing aligns with the opening of program registrations, and they are now sending mailers at least four times a year, with the next one coming in April. Ms. Breiman also suggested more evening and weekend programs to accommodate working people, and emphasized the need for more night or Saturday events.

PERSONNEL

1. Retirements: None

2. Resignations:

Mrs. D'Antonio made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board accepts the resignation of Yuk Lam from the position of full-time Typist-Clerk effective February 28, 2025. Mrs. Guida seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

3. Appointments: None

4. Terminations: None

PROGRAM AND STAFF REPORTS

The board appreciated all the staff reports that were received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Pichardo-Lloyd, Mr. Gangemella, Ms. Sarandis, Mr. Mariana, Ms. Breiman, Ms. Slavsky, and Mrs. Strazzera exited as the board entered executive session.

Mrs. D'Antonio made the following motion at 7:58 pm:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Board of Trustees move into executive session for the purpose of discussing a legal issue related to the toilet renovation project, landscaping services and personnel issue. Mrs. Guida seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Curran Perrucci made the following motion at 9:02 pm:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Board of Trustees move out of executive session. Mrs. Guida seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Landscaping Services

Mrs. Guida made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves McCutchan Landscaping & Irrigation Inc.'s proposal in the amount of \$16,500.00. Mrs. Blitz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Toilet Renovation Project

Mrs. D'Antonio made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board rejects all bids and reserves the right to rebid the project. Mrs. Blitz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, trustee Mr. Carlos Munozospina has been absent for a number of board meetings during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, including the previously scheduled meetings of February and March 2025; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Munozospina had notice of the dates and times of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Munozospina has provided explanations for his absences in February and March 2025; which were both based on travel, and

WHEREAS, the board has considered the explanations provided by Mr. Munozospina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby determines that the explanations provided are not satisfactory or sufficient; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mr. Munozospina be notified of such determination and informed that missing a third successive meeting could result in a declaration that he has vacated his seat on the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Guida made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board accepts the resolution as dictated. Mrs. Blitz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

FUTURE BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Guida made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Board of Trustees be adjourned at 9:10 pm. Mrs. D'Antonio seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Carmela Strazzera