

Hillsdale Community Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Meeting for May 26th, 2022

- I. **Call to Order:** Scott Cress called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Scott Cress (President), Karen Hill (Vice President), Joshua Paladino (Secretary), Bryonna Barton (Library Director), George Allen, and Jim Bowen, and Tom Thompson (City attorney) in attendance.
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Hill moved to approve the agenda. Bowen seconded the motion. The board approved the agenda 4-1. Paladino voted no.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. None.
- V. **Communications**
 - a. Bryonna Barton addressed the board and the community.
- VI. **Public/Formal Apologies**
 - a. Hill asked that Paladino apologize to the board, the public, and the library staff.
- VII. **Recommendation to the Mayor to remove Josh Paladino from the board.**
 - a. Scott Cress motioned that we consider the proposal to remove Joshua Paladino from the board. Jim Bowen seconded the motion.
 - b. Hill and Bowen spoke in favor of Paladino's removal.
 - c. Paladino and Allen spoke opposition to Paladino's removal.
 - d. Allen said that the public confusion arose because Paladino's proposal was not posted on the city and library's website. Barton said that the city attorney advised her not to post the agenda to prevent an Open Meetings Act violation. Allen and Cress noted that the board did not receive further clarification from the board or the city. Cress voiced his opposition to Paladino's removal.
 - e. Hill and Bowen voted to recommend that Hillsdale's mayor and city council remove Paladino from the board. Allen, Cress, and Paladino opposed the motion. Motion failed 2-3.
- VIII. **Reception of resignation of Bryonna Barton**
 - a. Barton read her resignation letter to the board and the public. Hill motioned that the board accept Barton's resignation with regret citing Barton's many accomplishments. Bowen supported the motion. The board approved the motion 5-0.
- IX. **Employment status of Lauren Jones**
 - a. She expressed her regret at resigning from the library.
- X. **New director search process**
 - a. Scott asked the board to table the motion. Allen seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.
- XI. **Duties of the interim director**

- a. There was no discussion and no formal actions were taken.

XII. Visitor comments

- a. Joanne Miller, Linda, Tracy Fowler, Katherine Watkins, Dennis Wainscott, Les Smith, Dan LaRue, Renee, Ralph Riley, Matt Bell, Heather, Deborah Brown, Brianna Crowe, Penny Swan, Karla Adams, Paul Klewel, CJ Tonkray, Jessica, Miranda Brankey, Jerry VanHoughton, Bonnie Graham, Jaminda Springer, and Salina Asburg.
- b. The board read letters from Linda Monick, Jennifer Duff, Jonathan Sobiesky, Kim Sobiesky, Lauren Spencer, and Barry Hill.

XIII. Board comments

- a. Paladino spoke about the amendment and responded to allegations.
- b. Cress spoke about prior discussions of curation policy. He said that the LGBTQ protest was created 4 hours before Paladino shared the proposal, so it's unclear how it began. There was not clarity about the agenda from the meeting on May 20th. If it were on the agenda, it wouldn't have been voted on. He said that social media causes confusion. He encouraged community members to join boards if they want to get involved.
- c. Hill said that Paladino did not follow the guidelines in the trustee manual. She again encouraged Paladino to apologize.
- d. Barton thanked the community for welcoming her and for letting her lead the library.
- e. Paladino said that he shared his proposal in response to a protest that described it as an act of censorship. He wondered whether a board member had precipitated the protest by spreading false information.
- f. Bowen encouraged everyone to choose words carefully in the future. He replied to Josh's "near accusation" and stated that he did not know anything about the material Josh sent out until after the May 20th meeting. He further reported that Scott Cress did not know about the material when Bowen contacted Scott on Monday May 23rd. He talked about a Facebook post that called for the library's closure and revealed the director and children librarian's identity.
- g. Allen commended the library director and the children's librarian for their service. He said the community, in past years, has not paid enough attention to the library, and he included himself among them.

XIV. Adjournment: The board adjourned at 9:25 p.m.