

Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: July 10, 2025

Present: Trustees Yosefa Karchmar, Charlotte Herscher, Paul Vanbenschoten, Timothy Scott, Julie Misiano, Ken Goldberg, Erin Poll, Teresa Giordano

Excused: Nina Schmidbaur,, Rebecca Lang, Teresa Giordana was excused at 6:47 PM

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

Public Attendees: N/A

Meeting called to order at 6:06 PM by Tim Scott

Public Comment: N/A

Friends of Library: N/A

Unfinished Business:

- N/A

New Business:

1. Prospective Trustees Meet and Greet held 7/7/2025: Three prospective board members came to find out more about becoming a trustee. There has been a recent change in the number of open positions, with the decision of our Vice President Nina Schmidbaur to resign. There are now 5 open positions. Two current members plan to run again, and another person called today to express interest. This means that there may be 6 people running for 5 open positions.
2. Library Advocacy Ambassadors: MHLS is offering online advocacy briefings so that people can be more aware of what is happening at the state level regarding the changes in funding and how to support the library on a more regional or statewide level. They are also seeking volunteers in each library to become advocates to facilitate the dissemination of information to the community as to how they can advocate for library funding.
3. Budget 2025-2026: board members had previously been emailed the proposed draft budget, and we opened the floor to discussion among the board members. We addressed the concern about using too much of the fund balance to offset the burden on the taxpayer. The plan is to increase the real property tax portion of our income by 9%. This will be 8 tenths of a penny increase per \$1,000 of each homeowner's assessed value. The change in cost for retirement and

the 33% increase in health insurance costs are significant, and necessitated this increase.

Motion to approve the budget as drafted/presented at tonight's meeting made by Charlotte Herscher seconded by Ken Goldberg. Passes unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Ken Goldberg and *Second* by Charlotte Herscher to approve the minutes as amended to clarify which trustee winners will gain which terms of service.

Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 25,131.82 made by Charlotte Herscher seconded by Tim Scott Passes unanimously

Director's Report: Please see the report included in the Meeting Packet.

- Sent out the Annual Report to the Community mailers. The Director and Board President received an email in response to the mailer regarding the omission of the Saugerties Historical Society's use of the Community Room. Their program is considered a library program which was where the confusion lay. The Director responded to explain the rationale.
- A part-time clerk, Anya Schmiedel, who has worked here since she was a teenager, has resigned. June Meade has been hired for those hours.
- Summer Reading Program's theme is "Color Our World" and includes art and coloring activities for all age groups.
- On July 1st, a patron fainted at the Information Desk and required medical intervention. He has fully recovered. In the same day, police were called to the library as a different patron's car was sideswiped and damaged in the parking lot. We were able to obtain clear security camera footage of the incident.
- Saugerties hosted the UCLA meeting this past month.

Committee Reports:

Finance: met on July 7, 2025

Finalized the draft budget to be presented tonight.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: July 21, 2025 at 6PM

Personnel/Policy: Did not meet

see minutes FMI Next meeting: July 16, 2025 at 6PM

Facilities: Did not meet

see minutes FMI Next meeting: July 15, 2025 at 6 PM

Outreach: met on June 23, 25

1. Worked on the plan for a "Check-Out and Expert" event on 10/16/25
2. Scheduled more tabling events and possible new locations
3. The read to residents at The Ivy has been well received

see minutes FMI Next meeting: July 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Friends Liaison: N/A

Motion to adjourn at 7:14 PM by Tim Scott ;
Seconded by Paul Vanbenschoten

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Julie Misiano

Next meeting: August 14, 2025 at 6PM