

**Barberton Public Library**  
**Regular Board of Trustees Meeting, April 28, 2022**

Page 2494

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Caroline Brindo  
Kenneth Cheatham  
Jennifer Doll  
C. Racyne Leskanic  
Terri Masich  
Heather McMullen  
Holly Miller

**ALSO PRESENT**

Ann Hutchison, Director  
Michael DeSan, Fiscal Officer  
Melissa Futrell, Deputy Fiscal Officer

President Brindo called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Hutchison reported that the Friends of the Library are planning for their spring book sale, to be held Saturday, May 14 in the lower level of the Library from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Raffle baskets will be available, and Sarah Vargo will be selling tickets in the Library's lobby next week to promote the book sale. The City of Barberton will hold a Change for Change event benefiting the FOL on Friday, May 27 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at The Pregame Tavern. Hutchison has been approached by several local authors who would like to hold book signings at BPL and has spoken with the Friends regarding the possibility of collaborating to host a book signing event featuring a variety of local authors.

**Moved** by Doll, seconded by Masich, **to move to executive session** to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of an employee or official at 6:37 p.m. Roll call: Brindo, aye; Cheatham, aye; Doll, aye; Leskanic, aye; Masich, aye; McMullen, aye; Miller, aye. Motion carried. Hutchison, DeSan, and Futrell remained in the meeting.

**Moved** by Masich, seconded by McMullen, **to end executive session** and return to regular meeting at 6:53 p.m. Roll call: Brindo, aye; Cheatham, aye; Doll, aye; Leskanic, aye; Masich, aye; McMullen, aye; Miller, aye.

**Moved** by Doll, seconded by Masich, **to accept the minutes** of the March 2022 Board meeting. Ayes: Cheatham, Doll, Leskanic, Masich, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Circulation:** March 2022 circulation was 22,491, down 16.9% from March 2021, and up just slightly from February 2022. Year to date, circulation is 62,926, down 6.2% from 2021. eMedia circulation through Overdrive was 5,410 in March 2022, up 3.4% from March 2021. An additional 304 eMedia titles were borrowed through Hoopla in March 2022, up 26.7% from last March. Circulation of audiovisual materials was 5,430, down 35.9% from March 2021, and accounted for 24.1% of the month's total circulation.

In March 2022, 7,138 people visited the Library, up 69.4% from March of 2021. Of those visitors, 41 received curbside service and 129 visited the Community Health Library. Staff issued 121 new patron cards, up 28.7% from March 2021, answered 1,986 reference questions, and made 45 homebound deliveries. The Library's website was visited 3,217 times, there were 2,870 wireless sessions, and 983 computer-use sessions. In March, 740 items were added to the collection and 435 items were withdrawn.

**Programs & Publicity:** Hutchison distributed the March 2022 publicity packet. In March 2022, 1,238 people attended 59 live programs and outreach events, either in person or via Zoom or Facebook Live, showing an increase of 96.7% in the number of programs and 304.6% in attendance as compared to March 2021. An additional 590 people participated in or viewed 21 passive and recorded programs and outreach events in March, for a total of 1,828 participants at 80 events. Additionally, 322 people attended 82 non-Library programs in March 2022.

Upcoming programs of note include Chair Yoga, generally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, In Search of Bigfoot presented by Ohio Night Stalkers on June 4, and Summer Reading Club for all ages beginning on June 6.

**Barberton Public Library**  
**Regular Board of Trustees Meeting, April 28, 2022**

Page 2495

**Donations:**

Misty Fly - Screen magnifier  
Michele Hughes - 50 CDs & 125 DVDs  
Chris Klingelsmith - 60 DVDs  
NAACP - \$10.00

Carl Sauers - 150 books  
Anonymous - \$35.00, 1,289 books, 57 CDs, 892  
DVDs, 1 game, & 132 slides

**Moved** by Masich, seconded by Leskanic, **to accept the donations.** Ayes: Doll, Cheatham, Leskanic, Masich, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Other:** Hutchison presented the Board with several hiring recommendations.

**RESOLUTION 12-2022** – **Moved** by Masich, seconded by Doll, **to hire Lori Cochran** as a full-time Librarian in the Children’s Services Department, regularly scheduled 35 hours per week at \$18.11 per hour, effective April 18, 2022. Ayes: Cheatham, Doll, Leskanic, Masich, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-2022** – **Moved** by Doll, seconded by Leskanic, **to hire Gretchen Quinn** as full-time Manager in the Reference Services Department, regularly scheduled 35 hours per week at \$26.00 per hour, effective May 9, 2022. Ayes: Cheatham, Doll, Leskanic, Masich, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Resolution adopted.

Hutchison informed the Board that staff in the Customer Service Department have completed Passport Acceptance Agent training, and that passport services will become available for customers starting June 1, 2022. For each passport application, BPL will receive \$35.00 and will also generate revenue from passport photos, the cost of which has yet to be determined.

Hutchison reminded the Board that the Library has not been charging fees for overdue materials since March 2020 as a courtesy to customers during the pandemic. Once the Library begins generating revenue from passport services, she hopes to eliminate overdue fees permanently. Customers would still be responsible for replacement costs for lost or damaged materials.

Hutchison informed the Board that she is a member of the stakeholder’s group for Heritage Ohio’s Downtown Assessment Resource Team (DART), which is working to develop a downtown revitalization program. A community focus group was held on Tuesday, April 26, and the stakeholders met the following morning at BPL to review the feedback from the session. Next steps will include forming a board and committees to create work plans and assign tasks to community volunteers.

The City of Barberton, in conjunction with Summit Count Public Health, is creating an Active Transportation Plan for the community. Hutchison has been invited to serve on the Steering Committee for the plan. Responsibilities will include attending at least three meetings in 2022, reviewing draft content and proposals for the plan, and helping inform the community of the Active Transportation Plan.

Brindo thanked Hutchison for her involvement in community projects and dedication to ensuring that the Library has a presence throughout the community whenever possible.

**Mission Moment:** Hutchison shared that last month while Public Relations Associate Maggie Rose was helping cover the Reference Desk, she took a phone call from a patron who needed help finding somewhere to buy a dictionary. The customer wanted one of her own, rather than to borrow one from the Library, so that she could look up words as she reads to help her better understand the meaning of the text. Rose was asked to check to see if anything was available at local dollar stores, but was unable to find anything online, so she gave the customer phone numbers for several stores. The patron called back after a short time, as the stores she contacted did not sell dictionaries. Rose checked the Friends’ Room for a dictionary to give to the customer but couldn’t find one and decided that she would purchase one herself to give to the patron. Technical Services Assistant Carie Stansky-Hunter overheard her talking about her plans and offered a large-print dictionary that she had been planning to donate to the FOL, which Rose mailed to the patron. The following week, the Library received a call from the grateful customer, who had just received the dictionary and

**Barberton Public Library**  
**Regular Board of Trustees Meeting, April 28, 2022**

Page 2496

was delighted that it was large print, saying “this is exactly what I needed! Thank you so much. Now I can read my books.”

**FISCAL OFFICER’S REPORT**

The Public Library Fund tax distribution for the month of April 2022 for the Barberton Public Library was \$79,260.01.

DeSan reviewed the financial reports, bank reconciliations, reappropriations, and bills paid for the month of March 2022.

**Moved** by Masich, seconded by Leskanic, **to accept the financial report, bank reconciliations, reappropriations, and bills** paid for the month of March 2022. Ayes: Cheatham, Doll, Leskanic, Masich, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance and Audit Committee:** No meeting held.

**Personnel Committee:** **Moved** by Doll, seconded by Masich, **to move to executive session** to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of an employee or official at 7:20 p.m. Roll call: Brindo, aye; Cheatham, aye; Doll, aye; Leskanic, aye; Masich, aye; McMullen, aye; Miller, aye. Motion carried. Hutchison remained in the meeting.

Hutchison left the meeting at 7:32 p.m. and Futrell entered. Futrell left the meeting at 7:37 p.m. and DeSan entered. DeSan left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

**Moved** by Doll, seconded by Masich, **to end executive session** and return to regular meeting at 7:54 p.m. Roll call: Brindo, aye; Cheatham, aye; Doll, aye; Leskanic, aye; Masich, aye; McMullen, aye; Miller, aye. Motion carried. Hutchison, DeSan, and Futrell returned to the meeting.

**Building and Equipment Committee:** No meeting held.

**Summit County Library Trustees Council:** No meeting held.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**OLC Legislative Update:** Hutchison distributed OLC membership cards to the Board members.

Hutchison and Brindo attended OLC’s annual Legislative Day on Wednesday, April 6 in Columbus, Ohio. The day included a presentation by Ohio’s First Lady Fran DeWine on the Governor’s Imagination Library and meetings with Legislative Aides, and Hutchison was able to attend a House session.

Hutchison shared that OLC’s Northeast Ohio Trustee Dinner will be held on May 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Independence. The event will focus on future challenges and opportunities for Ohio’s public libraries and will feature guest speaker State Senator Matt Dolan. Board members who would like to attend should notify Hutchison before next Tuesday, May 3.

Hutchison informed the Board that House Bill 327, which would prohibit schools, universities, state agencies, and political subdivisions, including public libraries, from teaching, promoting, and offering instruction or training on certain divisive topics, has not yet received a hearing in the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee. Library directors and trustees are encouraged to contact their local representatives to inform them of the detrimental impact this proposed legislation would have on public libraries.

**Barberton Public Library**  
**Regular Board of Trustees Meeting, April 28, 2022**

Page 2497

Hutchison shared that the American Library Association has launched a campaign to fight censorship as attempts to ban books from libraries began rising at an unprecedented level in 2021. Unite Against Book Bans is a national initiative to empower readers everywhere to stand together against censorship.

Ohio's public libraries have seen an increase in cyber-attacks over the past several months. Hutchison will attend an OLC webinar featuring one of the affected libraries, representatives from cyber defense firm Tetra Defense, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation on Ohio's TechCred program.

The OLC has been meeting with the Ohio Department of Education regarding learning loss that has resulted from the pandemic. OLC is asking library directors to complete a survey regarding programs and services initiated by libraries to help close these achievement gaps, particularly in early childhood literacy, so that the information can be shared with ODE and other state agencies.

OLC is partnering with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) to distribute Learning Lunchboxes for free to Ohio public libraries this summer. The Learning Lunchboxes will feature dinosaur themed kits with five days' worth of learning content, and COSI will also put together a toolkit that corresponds with the Summer Reading Club theme.

McMullen left the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Hutchison informed the Board that President Biden released his proposed budget for federal fiscal year 2023 on March 28, which includes federal funding for libraries at a proposed \$8.8 million increase for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including \$3.6 million for the Library Services and Technology Act, over the FY 2022 budget. For FY 2023, the ALA is asking congressional appropriators to include funding of at least \$206 million for LSTA. Library staff and supporters are encouraged to contact their members of Congress to ask them to sign the Dear Appropriator letters for LSTA.

**Community Correspondence:** Hutchison shared that she has received many compliments from attendees of the Volunteer Appreciation Tea held on April 21 and shared thank you notes from former Director Barbara Kirbawy and FOL Secretary Patricia Warner.

Hutchison shared a thank you card from the Hilltoppers, a local senior's group, for a presentation by Reference Services Librarian Glennis Siegfried at their most recent meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**Moved** by Masich, seconded by Cheatham, **to adjourn** the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Ayes: Cheatham, Doll, Leskanic, Masich, and Miller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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Caroline Brindo, President

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Holly Miller, Secretary