

SOUTHERN LEHIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday January 17, 2023
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: President, K. Kruse, at 6:43 PM

In attendance: C.Kruse, B.Eames, K. Parsons J. Schubert, K. Moyer. L. Saeger, Library director was present, as was Joe Leeson, BOD solicitor and Mark Sullivan, District Consultant Librarian. Thomas Beil, Upper Saucon Township manager. Twelve residents of Upper and Lower Saucon signed in. The following spoke: Anne Schubert, Cindy and Bob McKellin, Laura Ray, Eileen Courtney, Victoria Opthof-Cordaro, Meghan Lomangino, Andrea Wittchen, Priscilla Deleon (Lower Saucon Township Supervisor)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- Approval of minutes of general business meeting of December 2022
- Approval of Treasurer's report for December 2022
- Approval of Librarians report – none provided

Motion to approve the consent agenda by J.Schubert; seconded by K. Moyer, unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

Lower Saucon residents (LST) Cindy and Bob Mckellin spoke about how Hellertown Area Library (HAL) is convenient for the majority of Lower Saucon residents, and Southern Lehigh Public Library is inconvenient for LST residents.

LST resident, Laura Ray, thanked the board for its meetings so LST residents could find out what was going on with their township. She expressed her appreciation for HAL.

LST resident, Victoria Opthoff-Cordaro, mentioned that HAL now has library cards for sale for Lower Saucon Residents and that LST is reimbursing residents up to \$40 per family for them. She asked the SLPL board not to allow LST to permanently join SLPL service area.

LST resident, Meghan Lomangino said that she would prefer to keep HAL as her home library. She said that she was a former Upper Saucon Township resident until 2019. She does not think it would be a good idea to allow LST to join the SLPL service area and thanked the SLPL board for informing LST residents of the communications between LST and SLPL.

LST resident Andrea Wittchen thanked the SLPL board for allowing LST residents to speak at the meeting. She urged the SLPL board to not allow LST to join their service area and cautioned against any agreement with the LST board, citing recent incidents of LST's attorney suing HAL and the Office of

Commonwealth Libraries. She asked the board to think long and hard about who they want to partner with. She also submitted a copy of her comments to the Secretary.

LST Council person Priscilla DeLeon said she was in her 34th year as an elected member of the LST Council. She was surprised to hear of the council's solicitor proposal of \$10,000/month to SLPL for LST residents and said it had not been mentioned to the public or council members. She also suggested that SLPL not allow LST to join the SLPL service area on a permanent basis.

SLPL board president Candi Kruse read emails that came from twenty one LST residents and six Hellertown residents. All of the letters were opposed to allowing LST being added to SLPL's service area as a permanent measure. The following are the names of the people who sent emails to the board:

Margaret Tomic, Stacy Wittenberg, Ali Houpt, Katie Wechtler, Katelyn Pecuch, Katie Roberts, Stacy Cook, Debra Roderbach, Katherine Walsh, Ellen Thomson, Megan Peoro, Donna Boden, Vivian Demko, Christine Guro, Kim Humerd, Sue Lucrezi, Carol Herman, Amalia Dignetti, Robin Socha, Pamela Harnett, Toni Finan, Nicole Spirk, Lee Gilman, Susan Plessor, Kathy Fenstemache, Margaret Segaline, Briana Rich, Jessica King

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

Old Business

- Strategic Plan
- B. Eames reported that a meeting would be held on February 3 with the Strategic planning committee and consultants. Time TBD
- Update of By-Laws status with UST
Date has still not been set with UST board.
- Communication with LST solicitor status
- Board Solicitor Joe Leeson said he has not talked to anyone from the LST board since last year. Discussion about how much of a donation may trigger board representation. J. Schubert pointed that in any agreement we want to keep the amount under 15% of total budget. J. Leeson said that the OCL verbiage is not clear about that. M. Sullivan said that while we have a fiduciary responsibility to our funders, we don't really have to enter into any agreement to serve LST residents on a month-to-month basis. K. Moyer questioned if LST is still interested in an agreement in working with SLPL since HAL has offered to sell cards to residents and LST offered to reimburse them. She pointed out that if all 3,328 LST residents who had HAL library cards as of December chose to get reimbursed for them, they would be out approximately \$66,000. The last offer from LST to SLPL was \$10,000/month, which would add up to more than the current line item of \$160,000 that is on their budget for library services. Discussion about how trustworthy LST board is with knowledge that since December they have sued HAL and the OCL, who is the governing body for all libraries in PA. C. Kruse suggested that two board members and our solicitor have a meeting with their solicitor and board members to see where we stand. All agreed. C. Kruse and K. Moyer will be SLPL's representative. C. Kruse made a motion to continue serving LST with no agreement. K. Parsons seconded it. Passed unanimously. Solicitor Leeson said that currently Southern Lehigh is not named in any lawsuits by Lower Saucon Township.

- Funding Updates
- Upper Saucon, Lower Milford and Coopersburg passed their budgets with the level funding that had been requested by SLPL. L. Saeger had requested quarterly payment from SLSD. K. Parsons will attend next School Board meeting to be available to answer questions from that board, if needed.
- FUNDRAISER UPDATE – The Pierogie fundraiser update by K.Moyer is ready to start February 1 and will run through February 15. Pick up will be March 13. Cost will be \$10 or \$12 per dozen depending on the variety and the library will earn \$3 or \$4 respectively. Online order form is ready.
- Children’s Art Fundraiser- C. Kruse said that she and her committee is continuing to work on sponsors and will be contacting local banks.

NEW BUSINESS

- Representative appointments
Upper Saucon Township has not announced who they will appoint to fill be their representative on the SLPL board. Their second meeting in January was cancelled and their next meeting is scheduled for February 15. The representative from Lower Milford has also not been determined but the position has been posted by Lower Milford and at the library.
- Board Committee assignments for 2023 were made as follows – Human Relations – B. Eames, Facilities – vacant, Finance- J. Schubert and C. Kruse, Fund Development – K. Moyer and C. Kruse, Strategic Planning – K. Parsons and B. Eames. When new representatives are appointed, they will be assigned.
- Parking lot – Discussion about the possibility of the new YMCA renting some parking spaces for overflow or employees. L. Saeger said that Upper Saucon really owns the lot. It was pointed out that there are six dumpsters taking over several corners. L. Saeger also said that when we have popular programs or if there is a sports tournament in the park, the lot gets full. No action taken.
- Tax Referendum – B. Eames contacted Tim Benyo regarding the process but had not heard back. Mr. Benyo is the Chief Clerk for Lehigh County Board of Elections. He has not heard back from him.
- A Gift Acceptance Policy was reviewed. One edit was made to change a citation regarding an updated section of the library code. Motion to accept the new policy was made by B. Eames and seconded by K. Moyer. Unanimously accepted.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- J. Schubert suggested that the library create a post about the newly elected officers for the libraries FB page. Everyone agreed that was a good idea.

REMINDERS

- SLPL BOD Meeting- Tuesday, February 21; 6:30 PM in person at SLPL

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by B. Eames; seconded by J.Schubert unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

K. Parsons, Secretary