

**SOUTHERN LEHIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday April 18, 2023
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: President, C. Kruse, at 6:33 PM

In attendance: Board members C. Kruse, K. Parsons, J. Schubert, *K. Moyer, and V. Maund, B. Eames were in attendance. L. Saeger, Library Director, was present, as was Joe Leeson, BOD Solicitor and Mark Sullivan, Allentown District Consultant. Twenty six local residents were in the audience. Twenty one people signed in.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- Approval of minutes of general business meeting of March 2023 with correction of spelling for Attorney Leeson.
- Approval of Treasurer's report for March 2023
- Approval of Librarian's report. Additional comment by L. Saeger of the resignation of reference Librarian Allison Floray.
- Motion to approve the materials by *K. Moyer, seconded by K. Parsons; unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

Prior to visitors speaking, *K. Moyer announced that because there were so many people in attendance, that we would follow speech and debate rules with *K. Moyer giving hand signals to tell the speaker when there was 30 seconds left and when time was up.

Priscilla DeLeon, Lower Saucon Township Council member, spoke to say that she had voted no on the LST proposal to SLPL.

Lynn Hill said that the Hellertown Area Library was founded by both Lower Saucon and Hellertown residents working together. She said that she doesn't know anyone in favor of the LST proposal and worried that it would defund HAL. She was also concerned about the township's COVID money being spent out of the township and the county.

Cindy McKellin said that we should not accept the proposal.

Bob McKellin said that he supports HAL.

Andrea Wittchen, said she had sent an email but had three more points: 1) There is no reason to make any decision right now and that our board was being bullied. 2) The proposal would have a ten-year impact on all of us. 3) She has been to all LST meetings since 2020 and one person has spoken in favor of LST residents joining SLPL.

Laura Ray said that a Right to Know request revealed that LST supervisors had talked about an interest in members of the SLPL board, when their terms were up and what group each member was representing.

Victoria Ophhof-Cordaro, thanked the board for allowing them to talk. She said that there is a large desire for Hellertown and LST to reunite and work together again so that Saucon Valley can prosper. She said that the exit clause in the proposal was onerous.

Meghan Lomangino thanked the board and said that the bullying will continue and this is not about the money. She thinks LST should fully fund HAL.

Diane Hallowell, lives close to HAL and is a former HS librarian. She said that the membership at HAL was made up equally of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township residents.

Kathy Pitchel McGovern worries about losing HAL (due to lack of funding).

David Willard Woodward doesn't understand why the offer wasn't given to HAL instead of SLPL.

Sixty eight emails were received by the SLPL board. One was from an Upper Saucon Township resident and the rest were from Lower Saucon and Hellertown residents. All were opposed to SLPL accepting the proposal from LST.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

Old Business

- Strategic Plan
 - B. Eames reported that he and K. Parsons had met and shared their finding with L. Saeger afterwards. The committee suggested that a Fund Development Manager should be hired as a first step. They also discussed the overall strategic plan which included the possibility of a tax referendum, additional volunteers and staff, maintenance, and succession planning. They will meet again.

- LST status
 - Board Solicitor Joe Leeson went over the proposal from LST and suggested that the board discuss the proposal keeping in mind financial stability for the library, quality of services and what is an ideal community library. He read the full proposal. C. Kruse reviewed the potential budget that the finance committee had put together to show what the finances might look like if SLPL and LST became partners. The bottom line showed a loss of approximately \$61,515 per year.
 - C. Kruse made a motion, K. Parsons seconds that we set up an ad hoc committee to explore a cooperative opportunity with HAL and LST and includes representatives from the SLPL board, L. Saeger and M. Sullivan. Seconded by K. Parsons. A discussion followed including a comment from K. Parsons that the cooperative that SLPL is part of with eleven other libraries took two years. Questions were asked to M. Sullivan about the feasibility, to which he replied that if all parties want to make it happen, it can. Voting in favor – C. Kruse, K. Parsons, *K. Moyer. Opposed – J. Schubert, B. Eames, V. Maund. Motion failed.
 - *K. Moyer made a motion to reject the proposal from LST. Voting in favor of rejection: B. Eames, J. Schubert, K. Parsons, *K. Moyer. Voting against rejection: C. Kruse and V. Maund. Motion fails.
 - C. Kruse makes a motion that we set up a cooperative meeting with LST and SLPL representatives. Voting in favor: C. Kruse and K. Parsons. Opposed: J. Schubert, B. Eames, *K. Moyer and V. Maund
 - V. Maund makes a motion that we accept the proposal but ask for the same \$250,000 mentioned in their proposal, upon signing but have them pay a per capita of \$11.96 and an increase per year mirroring what UST does. C. Kruse seconds. Discussion about how trustworthy LST BOD is and the effect of raising the budget means to all the funding partners. V. Maund also said that she wants her proposal to just address point three and she would like to address the other points after this. Voting in favor of this motion: V. Maund, Opposed: B. Eames, J. Schubert, C. Kruse, K. Parsons, *K. Moyer.

(Board decides to take a ten minute break.)

 - C. Kruse makes a motion that we have a special meeting to discuss the LST partnership with our funding partners to come up with a proposal that would make financial sense for all. Prior to the meeting we would send them information regarding the library rules by which we are bound. It would also be requested that they give us feedback in advance. B. Eames seconds. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.
- Fundraiser Update
 - Children’s Art/Craft Show - C. Kruse said that the event was a success with fourteen families and nine children participating. She suggested that we make it an annual event and expand it.
 - Read Between the Wines – The planning committee had its first meeting of the year on April 3. The committee would like another food demo person. Ticket prices will be \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. Instead of a tally room for the silent auction, *K. Moyer is going to have two laptops and will use google docs. There will be less baskets overall but the alcohol themed baskets seemed to go over very well. More of them are encouraged. Every board member will be expected to solicit sponsors for the event. A September event is proposed where a wine expert would give a talk about wines as kind of a preview of the RBTW event in October. B. Eames suggested it be tied into the 60th anniversary celebration.
- Representative appointments
 - Upper Saucon Township has not renewed C. Kruse’s appointment or told the board that they would be appointing anyone in her place.
 - Lower Milford Township had interviews but has not appointed anyone.
- Friends Group
 - L. Saeger said that the Friends group was having a 3B’s Sale: Books, Bedding Plants, & Baked Goods fundraiser on May 6. Donations of items and baked goods could be dropped off on May 5.
- Facilities Committee
 - Capital Plan – no update
 - Lighting Project – The last quote was in 2019. L. Saeger suggested that V. Maund ask lightning companies to come to the library to look over what’s needed. V. Maund said she would do that. Albarell Electric did

the original work.

- HVAC Maintenance –Discussion of new contract for HVAC maintenance and there’s a problem with the HVAC in the staff area. Three contracts were discussed. C. Kruse made a motion, seconded by *K. Moyer, that we accept the contract by Deiter Brothers for one year. Unanimously accepted.
- 60th Anniversary Celebration
 - B. Eames will reach out to the Friends group and *K. Moyer will help with marketing.

New Business

- Requests by community organizations to solicit donations on library property
 - Discussion was about creating a policy to discourage non-profits who use the meeting room from soliciting on the property. K. Parsons suggested a non-solicitation policy. C. Kruse and L. Saeger will look into that.

OPEN DISCUSSION

None

REMINDERS

SLPL BOD Meeting- Tuesday, May 16 - 6:30 PM in person at SLPL

Friends Group meeting – Monday, May 8- 1 PM in person at SLPL

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by B. Eames, seconded by V. Maund; unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

K. Parsons, Secretary

Note: * indicates BOD member that represents a municipality that doesn’t contribute at least 15% of total municipal revenue and is an ex-officio member as per the library’s bylaws.