

**SOUTHERN LEHIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday June 20, 2023
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Acting President, B. Eames, at 6:35 PM

In attendance: Board members T. Beil, E. Deebel, B. Eames, P. Leonard, V. Maund, K. Moyer, K. Parsons, J. Schubert, and C. Wayock were in attendance. L. Saeger, Library Director, was present, as was Joe Leeson, BOD Solicitor. Fifteen people spoke. Approximately 30 people were in attendance including reporters.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- Approval of minutes of general business meeting of April 2023 with correction.
- Approval of Treasurer's report for May 2023. Note that there was no April report because the May meeting was cancelled.
- Approval of Librarian's report.
- Motion to approve the materials by J. Schubert, seconded by K. Moyer; unanimously approved except for V. Maund, P. Leonard and C. Wayock, who abstained.

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

Prior to visitors speaking, K. Moyer announced that because there were so many people in attendance, 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.

Melissa Sutyak, SLPL Childrens librarian and Upper Saucon township resident introduced herself to the new board directors since she had not met them. She talked about her job, including creating multiple programs that were always oversubscribed. She also said that the staff and board time spent on discussions about LST residents joining SLPL was taking a toll on the staff and said that the library was a necessary community center.

Karen Klutinoty, another SLPL employee and Upper Saucon township resident said she had been employed by the library for twenty two years and that morale had never been so low. She had concerns about getting staff for new positions.

Ashley Murphy, UST resident said that LST residents would prefer that HAL be their library. She also said that the appointing of the two new UST representatives to the board seemed to be cronyism since they were also employees of the township and one of the new board members was not a resident of Southern Lehigh School District.

Priscilla deLeon, a LST board member, said had voted no on the last proposal give to SLPL and spoke of a previous split between LST and Bethlehem Area Public Library. She asked who would be paying the cost increases if LST joined SLPL. She said Lower Saucon residents would prefer to use their home library in Hellertown.

Dan Braden, LST resident asked us to think about why the SLPL's bylaws were not updated, why is LST making a proposal to SLPL? Why do they insist on a ten year agreement?

Mary Dawson, LST resident asked the board not to accept any proposal and said the LST board was litigious and untrustworthy.

Robin Socha, LST resident said that 145 more people have gotten HAL library cards since May 1st and there are a total 890 LST residents who have gotten HAL library cards since January 1st.

Lynn Hill, LST resident, Opposes the proposal and wants HAL funded by LST. She said that the proposal puts both libraries at risk of financial ruin.

At this point, T. Beil asked for clarification from solicitor Leeson if there was a proposal from LST on the table. Solicitor Leeson said there was not.

Laura Raye, LST resident asked the board not to accept any proposal and said that the recent SLPL board appointments were unethical.

Kathy Pichel McGovern said she was a 60-year resident of LST and that it took her 27 minutes to drive to SLPL.

Donna Solove, a UST resident, said that libraries are the heart and main artery of a community and that the proposal made no sense.

Anne Schubert, UST resident since 1983, encouraged transparency, praised past board members and staff and said that

UST made a sham of listening to voters at their meeting.

Anne Marie Crown, a nineteen-year resident of LST said that the library is the soul of the community.

Mark Ozavik, a LST resident, said while he doesn't use the library himself, he supports it and said the LST board was untrustworthy.

Dave from LST said that he hopes the board does not enter into any agreement with LST and instead that LST funds HAL.

At this time 35 emails (since the last meeting) had been sent to the full board from Southern Lehigh and LST residents and none were in favor of LST joining SLPL. To date since LST first proposed joining SLPL, 110 emails have been received, none in favor of LST joining SLPL.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

Old Business

- By-laws
 - B. Eames reported that the bylaws had been turned over to UST for approval. As a condition of SLPL's lease of the property where the library stands, any bylaw change must be approved by UST. T. Biel, who is also the township manager, said that he had talked with their solicitor and he said that our proposed bylaws are inconsistent with the state library bylaws. That is, it's a state law that each municipality can only have a voting member if they contribute 15% of the total funding of municipalities towards the budget. Only UST and the School District do that. T. Beil said that we might put our state aid in jeopardy if we do not follow that rule. Attorney Leeson said that was something that could be looked at. B. Eames said that M. Sullivan (district consultant) has told the board a few times that it's a rule that is routinely ignored. There was no action taken and a suggestion was made by B. Eames to continue the discussion at the next meeting. K. Parsons suggested that if bylaws are to be looked at again, it would be a good idea to add that any board member be a representative of the municipality they represent and not an employee of that municipality. T. Beil pointed out that any bylaw change would have to be approved by the SLPL board and also UST. He also said that UST didn't require residency because it is not in the State Library laws or SLPL's bylaws.
- LST status
 - Discussion about a motion that was passed at the April meeting to have a meeting with all funding partners and the library board. A motion was made by P. Leonard and seconded by V. Maund to rescind this vote. All in favor except for K. Parsons who voted no and E. Deebel who abstained. The vote was by individual vote.

T. Beil started a discussion about a small committee to revisit having Lower Saucon Township join SLPL. K. Moyer asked if adding the non-voting members, her and E. Deebel would count as being quorum breakers. Solicitor Leeson said they could join the committee. Discussion about whether M. Sullivan could be a member of the committee.

K. Moyer made the following motion, To form a special information seeking committee consisting of two voting representatives from Upper Saucon Township, V. Maund and P. Leonard, one representative from the School Board, K. Parsons and the ex-officio members K. Moyer from Coopersburg and E. Deebel from Lower Milford along with Attorney Leeson and M. Sullivan, our district consultant to evaluate the challenges and opportunities of providing library services to Lower Saucon Township. The committee's assessment should include identifying the advantages and disadvantages of providing library services to Lower Saucon as well as legal constraints and likely operational impacts. The committee is authorized to contact representatives of LST, Hellertown, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, and comments from the public as part of its evaluation and assessment of these issues. The committee shall provide the full board with a written report of its findings and recommendations. Unanimous approval by individual vote.

A decision was also made not to discuss LST until after the committee submits its findings. Board agreed.
- Facilities Committee
 - Lighting Project – V. Maund said she has been talking to different contractors including Albell Electric who did the original work. She will bring back more information at the July meeting.
 - People Counter –Discussion of four different options and actual cost because some had updates included

in price and some did not. P. Leonard made a motion that we accept option three, by TRAF-SYS and installed by Crossroads IT, seconded by J. Schubert, and unanimously accepted by individual vote.

- Fundraiser Update
 - K. Moyer resigned as chair of Read Between The Wines due to her work commitments and expressed appreciation for everyone that had volunteered in the past. She said that she would help, but could not continue as chair.
- Solicitation Policy
 - A new policy barring solicitation on the library grounds was presented and there was a short discussion. There was not a previous policy. K. Parsons made a motion to accept it as presented, K. Moyer seconded it and it was approved unanimously by individual vote.

New Business

- Facility Maintenance
 - L. Saeger said that the contract with advanced door had been renewed.
 - L. Saeger reported that the gutters need repairing. Discussion about if this should be done by the roofing people who installed them when they replaced that section of the roof. V. Maund will investigate that.
- Personnel
 - L. Saeger said that Danielle Monroe had been hired as a circulation desk clerk but she has been unable to find a reference librarian. She said this is partly due to not being able to offer benefits and noted that this is a problem that she has brought up before.
- Conflict of Interest/Code of Conduct
 - Solicitor Leeson reminded new board members that they must sign the forms. L. Saeger went over the job description of board members. Clarification that a second term is permitted.
- Notice of retirement/resignation
 - L. Saeger gave her notice of retirement and said her last day would be June 30. Board members thanked her for her service of 34 years and expressed their unhappiness at her leaving.
 - B. Eames announced that he was resigning from the board, effective at the end of the meeting.
- Election of new officers
 - Discussion of new officers with the vacancy of B. Eames and C. Kruse. The following motion was made by C. Wayock to elect President – P. Leonard, Vice President – K. Parsons, Secretary – V. Maund. The entire slate was unanimously elected by individual vote except for B. Eames who abstained. J. Schubert will remain Treasurer.
- Board Committee Assignments
 - The following committees were assigned:
Human Resources/Personnel- K. Parsons and E. Deebel
Facilities – J. Schubert and V. Maund
Finance – J. Schubert and C. Wayock
Fund Development – K. Moyer, C. Wayock and V. Maund
Strategic Plan – K. Moyer and T. Beil
Motion to approve these assignments made by C. Wayock, seconded by V. Maund. Unanimous approval by individual vote except for B. Eames who abstained.

OPEN DISCUSSION

V. Maund brought up the lack of detail regarding the Treasurer's Report. She is uncomfortable with the current report and would like to see a complete bill List and Income statement included with the Summary report that is currently provided to the board members. V. Maund stated that she plans to abstain from approving future Treasurer Reports until this matter is given further discussion and view. T. Biel said that we perhaps we do not do this until later since we are currently without a director. K. Parsons mentioned that our bookkeeper is not a business manager and works part time. J. Schubert and L. Saeger confirmed that the treasurer report is done the way it is because of past practice. No action was taken.

REMINDERS

SLPL BOD Meeting- Tuesday, July 18 - 6:30 PM in person at SLPL

Friends Group meeting – Monday, July 10- 1 PM in person at SLPL

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by C. Wayock, seconded by J. Schubert; unanimously passed.
B. Eames abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm K. Parsons, Secretary