

Hellertown Area Library
409 Constitution Avenue
Hellertown, PA 18055

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Of January 25, 2022

Attendees:

In Person: Julia Sefton, Ken Solt, Noelle Kramer, Jane Styer;

Guests: Jayne Shirko, Paul Pagoda, Tom Reiger, Joe Pampanin, David J. Heintzleman, Bob Pasternak, Courtney Snyder, and Hunter Gress

Via Video Conference: Matt Marcincin, Lara Goudsouzian, Andrew Hughes, Beth Bloss, Shanti Sajnani;

Guests: Mark Aurand (Esquire), Janie Heckler, Ali Houpt, Barrettt Geyer, Kristen Stauffer, Victoria Opthof-Cordaro, Nancy Geyer, Robin Rotherham, Kendra Snyder, Dianne Nickles, George Kramer, Bruce Eames, Mathew Milliren, Priscilla deLeon, Kathleen Parsons, Laura Ray, Barb Kissinger, Terri Fadem, Lynn Belles, Earl H, MP, CK, Margaret's Iphone, BOH-IPad-05, Amanda Rogers, Sandra Yeager, 610-462-1104, and others.

President Sefton called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

The Minutes of the November 22, 2021, meeting of the Board had previously been sent to members. The President asked if there were any corrections or additions. Ken Solt made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented, Julia Sefton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ken Solt requested the election and installation of officers be moved to the beginning of the meeting and made a motion to accept the amended Agenda. Andrew Hughes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Election of Officers:

Julia Sefton moved for the appointment of Ken Solt as new President. Jane Styer seconded. Motion passed.

Ken Solt moved for the appointment of Jane Styer as new Vice President. Julia Sefton seconded. Motion passed.

Jane Styer moved for the appointment of Beth Bloss as new Secretary. Julia Sefton seconded. Motion passed.

Julia Sefton moved for the appointment of Andrew Hughes as new Treasurer. Ken Solt seconded. Motion passed.

At 6:48 pm, officers installed, Julia Sefton turned the meeting over to President Ken Solt.

Reports:

Friends of the Hellertown Area Library: Ken Solt reported that the group is working on Pave the Way.

Treasurer: Andrew Hughes reported that in the Library's Balance Sheet as of 12/31 was \$392,000, an increase of approximately 7.5% due to the Endowment.

Andrew made a motion to accept the balance sheet and P&L as presented by bookkeeper. Matt Marcincin seconded. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Library Director's Monthly Report:

Funding - Noelle Kramer reported that HAL received a grant of \$5,000 from Northampton County for ADA related updates. She reported that Northampton County has been extremely helpful in answering questions to be sure that HAL is able to follow grant guidelines.

Events – Noelle announced that HAL received kudos and donation in honor of staff (Marilyn) who went out of their way to provide assistance.

AARP Tax-Aid Foundation is again preparing taxes for citizens of Saucon Valley. They are in the basement every Monday from 2/1 through the end of the tax season (this year 4/18); interest is always very high and appointment slots fill up quickly. Jane Styer, an AARP Tax-Aid volunteer, chimed in that AARP handles all scheduling through their dedicated number: 484-935-3472, and there are a few openings left for this season

Noelle presented the proposed holiday and meeting calendar for 2022. After quick review, Andrew Hughes moved to accept the calendar as presented. Seconded by Beth Bloss. Motion approved.

Buildings/Grounds Capital Improvement – Noelle reminded those present that HAL follows the Saucon Valley School District weather-related closing. If the school is closed so is HAL; if the school has late start, HAL opens as scheduled. Hellertown Borough Road Crew was thanked for consistent and early snow removal.

Teen Trustee: Shanti Sajjani announced that more people are interested in getting involved in fund-raising; which has increased participation and funding.

Buildings and Grounds: Ken Solt noted that high mounted lights outside are not working.

Operations and Procedures: Jane Styer stated Committee had no report at present time.

Personnel: Andrew Hughes stated Committee had no report at present time.

Development: Julia Sefton stated Committee had no report at present time..

Finance: Andrew Hughes stated Committee had no report at present time.

Old Business:

A. Draft Agreement - Jane Styer started the conversation by stating the fact that she was the person who took the 2016 Agreement, made several typo changes and updated the financial support to what the Board had determined would be needed to sustain the present services provided.

Ken Solt then presented the timeline of decisions made by Lower Saucon Township relating to the Library: 1) LST will make a \$50,000 donation to the Library; 2) LST directed its solicitor to commence legal action against the Library if the Library at any point in time denied free library services to residents of LST; 3) LST will make a \$50,000 donation to Southern Lehigh Library and/or Upper Saucon Township.

Matt Marcincin added that Lower Saucon Township is looking for a Regional Library instead of supporting HAL.

Noelle Kramer stated that in order to partake of Pennsylvania State "ACCESS" services, according to OCL rules and regulations, a municipality must be part of a "financially funded HOME LIBRARY".

Paul Pagoda stated "all this sounds like something the Soprano's would do".

The HAL attorney, Mark Aurand stated that as he understood the OCL rules and regulations, a municipality must provide 15% or more of the total yearly support provided to a library by all municipalities; has to pass a resolution or ordinance appointing the library as the municipality's agent for library services AND the library has to accept that designation for residents of municipality which is not the municipality where the library's physical building is located (Library Regs 141.31(2)(D)).

Without greater understanding of the "strings" attached to this \$50,000 DONATION, and after discussion, Matt Marcincin moved to reject the \$50,000 donation check and return it to Lower Saucon Township, if and when it may be received. Jane Styer seconded. Motion passed 5-1, with Lara Goudsouzian opposed.

Andrew Hughes moved that a committee tasked with coming up with policy idea recommendations be created. Seconded by Matt Marcincin. Matter tabled in favor of a Special Board meeting to be held over the coming weekend.

B. Board Appointments - Tabled pending Agreement with the Borough and updated By-Laws.

New Business:

- A. Tentative Special meeting of HAL Board of Trustees scheduled for January 30, 2021, at 10 am; if needed.
- B. Courtesy of Floor:
 - 1) Tom Reiger, President of Hellertown Borough Council: Hellertown, having supported HAL since 1994, will find way to find way to continue services for children of SVSD; there will be a Special Council meeting tomorrow night at 7 pm to focus on HAL situation. Applauded by everyone in audience.
 - 2) David J. Heitzelman, Mayor of Borough of Hellertown: This "history lesson has lots of fallacies"... "we don't need negativity".
 - 3) Priscilla deLeon, Lower Saucon Township Council member: "I have been the lone voice... Keep up the good work".
 - 4) Bob Pasternack: "former employees and building creators, now passed on, would be horrified".
 - 5) Mark Aurand, Esquire, attorney for HAL: We need to think about the process with State properly and produce new By-Laws removing all Lower Saucon Township references.
 - 6) Tom Reiger: our attorneys will create a new Agreement for sole support of the Library.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Andrew Hughes, seconded by Beth Bloss. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Styer, Secretary