

SPLKA Board of Directors Meeting
October 15, 2020
MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum:

Zoom meeting called to order and a quorum established at 9:35 AM.

Members present: Al Cocconi, Mark Hallenbeck, Ted Robinson, Bill McBeth, Larry Stulz, Bob Baltzer. Excused Absence: Roger Pashby

Staff present: Peter Manting, Jim Hardie, Rachel Bendele, Matt Varnum, Carol Copper, Cherie Hockenberger.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Al Cocconi

3. Audience Comments/Correspondence:

No correspondence was noted and all staff members were present.

4. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of September Board Meeting Minutes:

*September 17, 2020 minutes approved with no amendments/changes and filed.

b. Treasurer's Report:

*Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented. Report Filed.

Comment: Ted assured the Board that we are managing our finances well, in spite of the current and very trying times.

c. Staff Reports:

i. Executive Director:

- Reviewed written report and filed
- Highlighted: A meeting with Al Cocconi, himself and former State Senator Geoff Hansen. The Senator passed along some potential contacts which may help with our fundraising campaign. State funding for our Breakwater Projects has been approved; awaiting allocation of funds.

ii. Operations and Gift Shop:

- Reviewed written report and filed
- Highlighted: 2021 volunteer applications are being received at the office with seemingly increased volume compared to similar times in previous years. Working on improving On-Line Gift Shop appearance and usability.

iii. Maintenance:

- Reviewed written report and filed.
- Highlighted: Mice continue to be a big problem. The sump pump at LNB Residence replaced. Sumps at BSP working OK to date. Painting continues at LSP tower.

- d. Officer Reports:
 - i. President: Al's verbal report highlighted a meeting with former State Representative Geoff Hansen (Peter also mentioned this). Obtained several contacts which Al will follow up on (Ford Motor, DeVoss, Van Andle, etc. Would like to "link" the Indy TV 13 video with our Facebook page.
 - ii. Vice President: None
 - iii. Secretary: None
- e. Committee Reports:
 - i. Education: Mark verbally reported that no new major initiatives have been undertaken since our last meeting. The committee is beginning to develop an "archive game" in which folks will look at an archived picture and answer a multiple-choice question about the picture, thus helping to bring our "history" to the "present". Details to follow.
 - ii. Finance: Al verbally reported that fundraising continues to be a high priority. He has sent letters and information packets to several large companies and foundations. He encourages folks to continue to forward potential donor contacts. A Fundraising Book is being updated so that members/individuals will know what information to share (with potential donors) and how to share it.
 - iii. Personnel: Deferred to "Executive Session"

5. Unfinished Business:

- a. Lake Michigan Water Levels:
 - The State has completed engineering reports for both LSP and BSP Lights. State funding for both projects has been approved and included in the 2021 Michigan State Budget. Awaiting allocation of funds.
- b. Tower Repair:
 - Peter explained that Kendra Thompson of Thompson Architects and Design has been unable to visit BSP to give an unofficial estimate of scope of work and cost to repair the tower. The ensuing discussion generated the following **Motion**:

Motion by Ted and seconded by Mark to: "Authorize Peter to contact Kendra Thompson of Thompson Architects and Design to schedule an appointment for Ms. Thompson to visit BSP in

order to inspect the tower and render her opinion on whether a “scaled down” / temporary repair could be accomplished on the tower in an effort to minimize a financial impact. Cost of visit and evaluation not to exceed \$500.00

Following discussion in which it was decided that Peter would try and schedule a “pro-bono” visit, the motion was defeated.

*Peter will contact Ms. Thompson and attempt to schedule a visit prior to the November Board meeting.

c. Capital Campaign

- i. Peter has not received any referrals, but is sending initial contact e-mails to contacts forwarded from Rep. Hansen.
- ii. Peter has written several grant requests for the remainder of this year totaling roughly \$60,000.00. Some of the foundations include: The Dryfus Fund (\$10K), The Ford Foundation (\$25K), Americana (up to \$20K).
- ii. Grants and donations to the Capital Fund Campaign for 2020 total roughly \$62,000.00 Total now is: \$155,622.69.
- iv. Al read a list of prospects/contacts that he will be following up with.

6. New Business:

a. First reading of 2021 Budget: Ted and Peter reviewed the first draft of the 2021 Budget. Highlights include:

- i. Total Budget of \$516,675.00 a decrease of \$42,410.00 from 2019.
- ii. Increase Grants to roughly \$60,000 based on the over \$85,000.00 received to date in 2020.
- iii. Tower Climbs projected a slight increase of \$6210.00 based on increase cost of tower fees.
- iv. Contributions are projected as a decrease of \$6729.00.

b. Probability of Opening the Lighthouses Next Spring:

No one really knows this answer. Larry shared that his friend, a prominent Cincinnati physician, sees things “getting back to normal” by May 2021. The Board and Staff are planning a “normal” opening next Spring.

7. Open discussion for the Board:

- a. Rachael shared some concerns about the two “Day-Keeper” groups and the lack of response for next year’s schedules. These two groups seem to be waiting to see how the virus plays out before committing to a set schedule.
- b. Normal applications are coming in quite regularly, i.e. no concerns for the regular schedule at this time.

8. Review of Action Items:

Action Items were reviewed and the new listing filed with these minutes.

9. Motion to Adjourn: Regular Board meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM. Board met in Executive Session at 12:01 PM to discuss 2021 Staff salary structure. Executive Session adjourned at 12:08 PM.

10. Next scheduled Board Meeting is November 19, 2020 at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Baltzer, Acting Secretary
Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers’ Association