



SPLKA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

February 15, 2024 9:30am

SPLKA In-person & Virtual Meeting

“The mission of SPLKA is to preserve, promote, educate the public, and to make our lighthouses accessible to all.”

1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum (AI)

- a. Meeting called to order at 9:32 a.m.
- b. Present: Al Cocconi (President), Mark Hallenbeck (Vice President), William Gardner (Treasurer), Susan Land (Secretary), Jack Greve (Executive Director), Larry Stultz, Ericka Nielsen, Rob Vensas, Nic Amicone, Dean Collingswood, Carol Cooper (Bookkeeper)
- c. Absent: Bobbi Rymer
- d. Guests: Jim Gallie, Kasey Cline, Ginger Gunlock

2. Pledge of Allegiance (AI)

- a. Pledge of Allegiance led by Al Cocconi

3. Audience Comments/Correspondence (Jack)

- a. None

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of meeting minutes - January 2024 (AI)

1. Motion to approve the January 2024 minutes was made by Larry and seconded by Ericka. Approved unanimously.

b. Treasurers Report (William)

1. The association did better in January 2024 than they did in January 2023
2. QuickBooks online is still having some difficulties. Carol Cooper will continue to work the bugs out and both she and William are confident that things will be fine.
3. Motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Larry and seconded by Mark. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Staff Reports: (Jack)

-Executive Director

1. See written report
2. The lightshow for LNBL was approved by SHPPO
3. Summer merchandise is arriving.
4. We are seeing an increase in volunteers for WRLS
5. SPLKA will be the recipient of funds generated by the Blessing of the Boats which will combine with the 100 Year Celebration. Susan Land moved that the association apply for a liquor license allowing for beer and wine sales for the event to be held at 950 W. Ludington Ave., Ludington, MI 49431. Ericka Nielsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Marketing

1. See written report

-Operations

1. See written report

-Maintenance

1. See written report

-Curator

1. See written report

b. Officer Reports: (optional)

- President

1. None

- VP

1. None

4. Committee Reports: commentary and questions (led by committee people)

- a. Committee reports were not done verbally due to other business.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Ludington State Park construction update

1. Guest Ginger Gunlock suggested that SPLKA explore avenues through the federal government regarding the possibility of grants to offset the loss of revenue due to the closure of Ludington State Park. She also recommended that the association speak to the National Register of Historic Places for ideas regarding assistance with operational costs during the shutdown. She also suggested approaching the Small Business Administration for possible grants to help offset the costs. Ericka is going to follow up with the SBA.

2. Guest Jim Gallie (Park Manager) assured us that SPLKA staff will still have access to the lighthouse. He and his supervisor, Kasey Cline, shared that the contractor has not been hired yet, so the closure window may differ slightly from what is currently planned. Bidding for the project at LSP will begin in early April and the contractor should be hired in May. The Park Service should have more information in June. Jim has assured SPLKA of his willingness to work with the association and has already approved additional bus days to help increase revenue.

3. Kasey Cline (District Park Manager) spoke of numerous ways the state may be able to help during the closure. She indicated that there are internal grants and partnership match grants which could help with some of the projects that need to be done at the lights. She also indicated that she has some capital outlay funds she may be able to use. She also thinks that they can help with marketing techniques to help educate people on the work SPLKA does to help generate donations and indicated a willingness to sell merchandise on their websites. She emphasized that no one wants to shut down, but safety is the primary concern making it necessary.

b. Strategic Plan

1. The draft of the updated strategic plan will be available for a vote at the April 2024 meeting of the board.

- b. BSP Historical Structure Report (HSR) – 75% review update
 - i. The HSR is 75% complete. They have cited as areas of concern cracking in the plates on the galley and issues with the Milwaukee cream brick used in construction. There is an area on the north side of the building where the wall is popping out and sand is infiltrating the structure. Issues with the cladding were also cited. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that we need to wait for the HSR to be finished before investing time and money into projects.
 - ii. It was suggested that we need to commission an engineering study of the structure. Jim Gallie shared that the state has funded engineering studies in the past and he believes that they would consider ours for funding. He offered help in putting together a Work Item Proposal to help create a path to resources. Al suggested that we work on some of the necessary repairs while the park is shut down.
 - iii. Rob suggested that we immediately reduce the number allowed at the top out of an abundance of caution and that volunteers be trained to keep the numbers down. He also recommended additional signage.
 - iv. Jack suggested that we have emergency actions plans in place, which include how to get people down from the tower in an emergency. Susan suggested that we have AEDs at both the top and bottom of the towers. Larry asked about their use on the metal decks. Jim Gallie will check into that.

7. New Business:

b. Blessing of the Boats

Addressed under the Executive Director’s report

8. Executive Session

None

9. Open discussion

None

10. Motion to adjourn at 11:13 a.m.

Next scheduled Board Meeting March ,21 2024 at 9:30 am, Zoom and in the office.