

Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, April 10, 2023

online Zoom meeting

Present: Barbara Schliesser, Helen Meeks, John La Duke, Carol Myers, Charlyne Berens, De Tonack, Nancy Mitchell, David Dyke, Mary Ann Losh, Paul Van De Water, Jim McLoughlin, Jim Van Kirk, Roger Lempke, Greg Jensen, Maxine Moul, Dick Vautravers (for Nancy Comer), Bob Michl, Jeanette Wellsandt

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Helen Meeks at 9:01 a.m.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Van Kirk reported that we are three quarters of the way through the year. We have 88% of the projected revenue already collected without counting revenue from term 4 and term 5 enrollments.

Presently, there is over \$200,000 in carryover money. Bob intends to make sure the carryover amount does not exceed 6 months of operating expenses and will spend down excess for an Omaha open house in June and other needs for next year. Beginning in July, OLLI will be responsible for all bank fees encumbered when members pay by credit card. Helen thanked the OLLI members for their generous donations, and the resource committee for helping to raise those funds.

Director's Report: Bob reported that membership is at 1,392 and enrollments are pacing towards an all-time high.

Bob recognized Jeanette Wellsandt for having a proposal to present at a lifelong learning conference at Clemson University this summer. She will speak about multi-format classes. Bob will also present on multi-format classes at the Osher National Conference in San Diego this fall. Helen Meeks will also attend this conference representing OLLI at UNL as a volunteer.

Chair's Report: Helen reported on two upcoming events. The first is the OLLI volunteer appreciation dinner on May 10th at the Lincoln Country Club at 5:00 p.m. The other activity is the Advisory Council retreat to be held on June 14th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in GNHS Room 121. She also said that the fiscal status of OLLI revenue is trending in the right direction, and we need to keep course fees at an affordable level.

Old Business: John La Duke reported there are four candidates, including a person from Omaha, running for the two Advisory Council seats opening at the end of the year. The candidates who are running are active members of OLLI. Helen thanked John for steering this process.

Candidates for officers include Helen Meeks (Chair); De Tonack (Vice-Chair); Barb Schliesser (Secretary); Paul VanDeWater (Treasurer). Candidates for the three-year council representative positions include Doug Jose, Audrey Paulman, Teri Hlava, and Zakiyyah Mustafa.

Bob talked about the second draft of the budget based on 1,430 OLLI members. The budget will be approximately \$409,000 and will be a zero-sum budget. There was some discussion about using promotional codes to incentivize people to join and rejoin. The budget also includes the new credit card fees. The budget committee planned to meet to discuss how to address this fee in the future. The final vote on the 2023-24 budget will occur at the May meeting.

New Business: Bob reported that OLLI will hold an open house in Omaha on Tuesday, June 27 at the Tri-Faith Center from 9:30-Noon. It will be called “A Taste of OLLI – Omaha.” Staff are currently in the planning stages for this event.

Committee Reports:

Marketing: Nancy Mitchell from marketing said they have finalized guidelines for seeking sponsorships which have been sent to Bob Michl. Helen asked that when finalized, they should be reviewed by the council.

Membership: Ten more OLLI members signed up for the Ambassadors program last month, so more members need to be recruited to be part of this activity. There will be another pop-up social event on Wednesday, May 3 at Rocking Joe’s Coffee and Winery.

Curriculum: A question was raised regarding how to recruit and select facilitators to work with classes. Charlyne and Helen said there was a multiple pronged approach, and the process can be done in many different ways.

Resource Development: Greg Jensen said he has enjoyed working with Bob Michl and the intern specialist for media. He also thanked Bob for having definable projects for donors to help with funding. The Foundation is moving forward with estate gifts, and members of the Pillar Society will be honored at the May 10th event.

The Fall Symposium will focus on Misinformation and Disinformation.

We are still in need of chairs for diversity and events. Please submit suggestions to Bob in these two areas if you have recommendations.

Please mark the date of June 14th for the retreat.

The Pillar reception will begin at 4:00 p.m. on May 10th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting will be on May 8th by zoom at 9:00 a.m.

