

OLLI Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2024, Zoom meeting

Present: Helen Meeks, De Tonack, Jim McLoughlin, David Dyke, Charlyne Berens, Greg Jensen, Carol Myers, Paul Van De Water, John La Duke, Jim Van Kirk, Roger Lempke, Zakkiyah Mustafa, Bob Michl, Jeanette Wellsandt.

Absent: Barb Schliesser, Nancy Mitchell, Mary Ann Losh, Polly Feis, Bob Bleicher, Teri Hlava

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

Motion by David Dyke and a second by Carol Myers to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024, meeting. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Van Kirk reported there was little change from last month's reports to this month's reports. The Foundation funds' market value has gone up \$55,000 since last June's report, and all foundation funding remains steady. Van Kirk reported OLLI revenue is at 81% of the yearly projection and expenses are at 72% of projections. The current year cash carryover amount stands at just over \$36,000 but the projected end of the year total will be less as many invoices are still outstanding.

Chair's Comments: Helen Meeks praised OLLI volunteers and staff for reaching targeted goals developed in the Three-Year Plan. Helen also asked Bob Michl to consider including feedback on member satisfaction in the upcoming end of year annual report.

Director's Report: Bob Michl reported little progress is being made with efforts to collaborate with the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is planning for alternative locations to conduct classes in Omaha as needed. Space will need to include technology to zoom sessions to members not only in Omaha, but to the rest of the state and across the country as needed.

Bob Michl also presented benchmark data obtained from the OLLI National Resource Center. Of significance is OLLI at UNL's membership numbers and operational practices. Bob noted that OLLI at UNL staff is compensated significantly below the national average of OLLI employees.

Old Business: John La Duke presented the slate of candidates for elections that will be occurring in May. Four candidates for the two open "representative" spots include Suzzane Scheid, Gene Stohs, Ruth Tomlinson, and Susan Rocker. Officer candidates for the 2024-2025 OLLI fiscal year include Jim Van Kirk, Council Chair; Jim McLoughlin and Nancy Mitchell for Vice-Chair; Paul Van De Water for Treasurer; and Audrey Paulman for Secretary.

Paul Van De Water and Bob Michl presented an updated draft of the 2024-2025 proposed budget. The budget proposal included costs for a proposed addition to the OLLI staff.

Bob Michl presented a draft of the proposed agenda for the June 12 Advisory Council Retreat.

Helen Meeks reminded the council the retreat will include updating the policies, procedures, roles, and responsibilities of the advisory council. She encouraged members to get proposed updates to her or Bob Michl as soon as possible.

New Business: Bob Michl reported the Fall Symposium planning committee will be meeting on April 9 to begin discussing possible topics for the October 12 event.

Helen Meeks shared thoughts on what the Lincoln OLLI Open House could look like if it involved a 30-minute presentation. The staff will discuss this recommendation and all other planning of the event at a staff meeting later this week.

Committee Reports: Jim McLoughlin reported registration for the pop-up event at the Cellar 426 Winery in Ashland on Wednesday, April 10, is full. He also noted the Ambassador Initiative currently has 15 ambassadors working with 85 members who have requested an ambassador. The group is actively recruiting more ambassadors.

Carol Myers reported Bob Michl had signed four agreements with STAR Destinations for proposed trips. The trips include a Rhine River Cruise, a trip to Scotland and Northern Ireland, and domestic trips to Philadelphia and the Smokey Mountains. Details will be released as soon as the promotional literature is completed and delivered to the office.

Charlyne Berens commended the quality of classes offered in Term 4 (Spring). Despite the concern for registration numbers and revenue, the spring term provided quality programming that far exceeded all expectations.

Greg Jensen briefly discussed plans for seeking sponsorships for 2024-2025 major events. He and Bob Michl have had some positive conversations with some significant potential sponsors.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

The next meeting will be May 13, 2024, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.