

LE Phillips Senior Center

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 28, 2026

Time: 8:00–9:30 AM

Location: LEPSC

Present: Mary Mero, Jim Bunkelman, Larry Zorn, Jackie Minor, Janet Lesniewski, Colleen Bates, Beryle Middleton, Linda Mogenson, Denise Wirth

Absent: Aric Burch, David Backstrom

1. Call to Order

Chair Bessa called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

2. Approval of Minutes

The March 24, 2026, minutes were approved unanimously (motion by Mell, second by Mero).

3. Treasurer's Report – Kinderman

Reviewed balance sheet focusing on designated and endowment fund balances and their intended uses. After a slight delay, we received the annual funds from Eau Claire County in March. Donation and fundraising income increased in March. Fundraising efforts related to the resource fair are going well to date. Contracted services were elevated in March due to added expenses for IT-related services. Repair and maintenance and wellness expenses were also higher for one-time purchases and repairs. The unrealized loss on investments reflects current market conditions. This is a paper loss and would not be realized unless a sale transaction was initiated.

4. Director's Report – Minor

- a. Fitness Classes:** United Way Grant application in process to support program needs.
- b. Eau Claire Marathon:** LEPSC is one of three designated charities and is eligible for an \$8,000 donation based on volunteer hours. A table will be hosted at Sonnentag on Saturday. Cardio Drummers will cheer during Saturday's 10K and Sunday's marathon.
- c. Resource Fair:** Fully booked with 74 tables.
- d. Volunteer Appreciation:** Held in April with 100 attendees. "Souper Heroes" theme; staff provided soups.
- e. Sunrise Exchange:** Meets weekly at the center and donated storage shelving.
- f. Thrift & Craft Sale:** Scheduled Thursday–Saturday.
- g. City Funding:** Members expressed concern about potential funding loss. Reassurance given that efforts are underway to sustain operations.
- h. Clean-Up Day:** Scheduled for September 12, 2026, 8:00–11:00 AM.

5. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee (Bessa)

- **City Funding:** On March 10, 2026, the City Manager and Finance Director announced a plan to discontinue \$36,000 in annual funding. Board members and the Director have since met with four City Council members to advocate for continued support.

- **Annual Meeting:** Scheduled for May 26 at 10:00 AM. Agenda will follow last year's format. Board recognition, 2025 highlights, financial overview, committee updates, and a strategic plan update will be included. City funding will be addressed. A plaque is being created to honor Pieter Graasskamp.

b. Building Committee (Bunkelman)

- Roof project scheduling in progress.
- Dining room paint ready; scheduling underway.
- Boiler replacement estimate: \$19,600 (Wiersgalla Plumbing & Heating).
 - Motion by Mero to approve up to \$25,000; second by Zorn. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Programs & Community Outreach (Mero)

- Programs and room usage reviewed.
- Future programming criteria: relevance, affordability, and schedule fit.
- Evening classes discussed to attract working adults.

d. Finance Committee (Kinderman)

- In process of completing application for annual County funding for 2027.
- Audit completed with no concerns; report pending. Tax filing in progress.
- Met with Ameriprise to review investments and explore member education opportunities.

e. Fundraising & Planned Giving (Bates)

- Annual campaign underway. Board members asked to donate and help distribute letters.
- Suggested development of an annual report to highlight impact for donors.

f. IT Committee (Minor)

- Hardware inventory completed.
- Reviewing user needs as Microsoft discontinues free nonprofit services.
- Current IT support costs are high; alternative providers will be explored.

6. Old Business

- Eggplants concert scheduled for May 8; open to the public.
- The *Eau Claire Leader-Telegram* continues to provide positive coverage.

7. New Business

None.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM (motion by Mero, second by Kinderman; passed unanimously).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 8:00 AM, followed by the Annual Meeting at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Wirth, Secretary