

L.E. Phillips Senior Center Board of Directors

Minutes of the December 12, 2023, board meeting.

No absences

President Graaskamp called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Minutes of the October board meeting and a special Dec. 5 meeting were approved unanimously with Wirth moving and Mero seconding.

Treasurer Kinderman gave a positive budget outlook, saying, "We always finish the year strong."

Donations to the center through the Friends fundraising letter "are trending in a good direction," Treasurer Kinderman added.

The center also is receiving increased income from its wellness programs, she said, adding, "We are seeing the income in line with the investments we have made with the expansion of the center.

Expenses "are looking consistent," Treasurer Kinderman added.

Other board members noted that total donations also have increased.

"I'm so pleased with that" increase, said Past President Deignan. "This is a blessing."

Executive Director Minor reported on the ongoing hiring process for a new maintenance person and a new program coordinator. She added that both the city of Eau Claire and Eau Claire County have approved their annual appropriations for the center: \$40,200 from the city and \$30,000 from the county.

The new LED lights in the Great Room have been installed and are so bright that usually only one set of lights needs to be turned on, Executive Director Minor said, adding that carpeting has been installed in the director's office and the adjoining board room.

A discussion was held concerning the recurring smell in parts of the center's downstairs. Experts have been unable to find the source of the smell, but the inspections will continue.

Executive Director Minor distributed membership numbers indicating that there were 2,662 members in November 2023, compared with 1,851 in November 2022.

"The staff and all volunteers are really working hard when you see that kind of growth," Executive Director Minor said.

President Graaskamp moved and Bates seconded approving spending up to \$5,000 to create an opening between the community room and pool room downstairs to create more room for pool players. The computers in the community room will be moved upstairs.

The board unanimously approved a 2024 budget of \$449,700, with Mell moving and Pocernich seconding. The budget for the first time includes an appropriation for employee benefits.

Nominating Committee Chairman Zorn presented Mary Mero for a second term on the board representing board membership. He also presented himself and James Bunkelman for reappointment

to three-year terms. All nominations were approved unanimously. Officers will be re-elected in January.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m. with Deignan moving and Mero seconding.