

Minutes of the Jan. 23, 2024, meeting of the
L.E. Phillips Senior Center Board of Directors

Absent: Bates

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

The December 2023 minutes were approved unanimously with Deignan moving and Mero seconding.

Treasurer Kinderman gave the financial report, saying, "The numbers, looking at them holistically for the year, look very, very good. It was a good solid month."

In particular, she said, the Friends Donations fund ended 2023 with \$10,000 more in donations than in 2022.

President Graaskamp reported that a 2024 contract has been signed with the operator of Rock Steady Boxing for use of space in the lower level of the senior center for Parkinson's activities.

He also said that planning has begun for a strategic planning session this spring. A consultant will work with the board, he added.

"It will help us prioritize where we need to go," President Graaskamp said of the strategic planning process.

Executive Director Minor reported that Kristen Hartzel has been hired as the program director, Kathryn Rowe Butler will handle marketing, and Jim Stanton is the new maintenance employee.

"It's been a lot of change," she said of the staff changes.

In 2023, Executive Director Minor said, senior center members participated in 138,970 activities, adding, "That's a ton of activities to participate in."

Senior center members also contributed 10,877 volunteer hours in 2023 as well.

The 25th annual Water Street Mile is scheduled for July 13, Executive Director Minor said, although there is road work scheduled for Menomonie Street that will affect the route.

An open house is scheduled from 4-7 p.m. on Feb. 13. Assisted Living Advisors is the sponsor for the event.

Executive Director Minor suggested the board consider offering employees of HSHS and Prevea health systems who are being laid off this year a free one-year membership. Mell moved and Zorn seconded a motion to offer eligible HSHS and Prevea employees a free one-year center membership that includes use of the fitness center.

Finally, she said, December membership numbers were 2,670, a 36 percent increase over the December 2022 membership numbers of 1,959.

Building Committee Chair Jim Bunkelman reported that a solution has been found to the long-standing issue of a foul smell in the senior center's lower level. Sewage from the senior center is stored in a tank below the floor and is supposed to be pumped to the city's sewage system, he said, but the pump was

broken, although an emergency pump was operating. After the pump was replaced, the odor disappeared.

The parking lot is finished except for landscaping, he said.

Nominating Committee Chair Zorn offered a slate of officers for 2024 of President, Pieter Graaskamp; Vice President, Bryan Bessa; Treasurer, Jerilyn Kinderman; and Secretary, Doug Mell. Mero seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jim Deignan will continue as Past President.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m., with Bessa moving and Deignan seconding.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. Feb. 20.

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