

Silver Bay Council | Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 10, 2023, 6:45 pm
Watson & Via Zoom

Facilitator: Anne Erling, Council President

Notes Recorded By: Natalie Shotts, Vice President

Welcome and Announcements—Anne Erling welcomed and thanked everyone for attending, in spite of the downpour, reviewed the agenda, and highlighted that new leadership will be voted in this evening.

Adoption of the May 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes—Motion was made to adopt the minutes of the May 20, 2023, Meeting. Motion was seconded. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

State of the Bay—Peter Doliber, Executive Director—Peter apologized for missing the last meeting and gave a quick recap of the latest updates and developments at Silver Bay.

- All children's activities have been moved to one place at the Children's Pavilion and Spiritual Life has been moved to Slim Point.
- Happy Hours are now being serve before dinner in Berkaw Lounge, which guests seems to enjoy.
- The gift shop has been moved into the store, building more activity there.
- They are unbundling room, food service, and program rates so guests have options to opt out of. This helps us lean into our mission and get as many people as possible to experience the campus and the uniqueness of it. Peter expects the new pricing structure to be shared in the next few weeks for the 2024 season.
- In two weeks, guests will now be able to make room reservations on Expedia.
- Air Conditioning has been added to Trinity and Brookside, thanks to funding from a donor.

Peter then opened it up for a Q&A

- **Carolyn Hoeschele asked if Silver Bay received funds to replace the floor in Gullen Lounge.** Peter stated it will cost \$20,000 to refinish the floors; we have one donor who funded \$1,000 and is challenging others to get 19 people to do the same.
- **Bob Whitaker asked about the lack of information in the weekly Breeze.** Peter stated in previous years we were publishing 40–50-page booklet each week, which was time consuming and costly. We split it up to two booklets, one that is evergreen and lists the standard program times, and a weekly flyer listing the events for that week. With staffing adjustments—as Zac had left at the onset of the summer and a new Communications person was hired—a few loose ends were missed.
 - **Debby Wattenbarger asked if there is an online version of the Breeze,** and Peter mentioned you can access the weekly Breeze online as well as download the Silver Bay App on your smartphone.
- **Anne Erling asked when planning next year is it possible to line up and publish the lecture series early so people can make reservations to be able to attend?** Peter stated that is the plan, and the goal is to have a minimum of one lecture a day and plan the series well in advance. Peter added that more people have been stepping forward as speakers.
- **An attendee asked what the status of Hepbron Hall is.** Peter stated there are two options—we can repair it and keep the shell of the building or we can tear it down and rebuild. Silver Bay received \$1 million of historic preservations funding to winterize and add AC to Fisher Gymnasium, as it is a historic building. Walt Lender, Vice President of Development and Government Affairs, is exploring ways to secure funding and see if we can apply for more preservation benefits and apply those to Hepbron, Sunnyside, and Paine Hall. To apply those funds to any building, we would need to preserve the historic nature and have it look exactly like it was when

it was built. For Hepbron, we could possibly work on the area between the hall and outside wall. Peter commented that for any building that is torn down, Silver Bay would have two years to rebuild. Peter stated Hepbron is the only building of its kind on the Lake and it would be ideal to preserve it.

- **An attendee made a general comment about the appearance of the Inn and how well it now blends in** with the rest of the campus, which other attendees were in agreement with.
- **An attendee made a general comment that having Patty manage Pickleball was a great idea**, building community among members and making it a great place to meet up.
 - Adding on to this Peter stated that there are more restoration plans in the works for that area, which include a universal access ramp to get to the Silver Spirit, which is expected to cost between \$80,000 - \$100,000.
- **Anne Erling asked if it would be possible to have topic conversation tables in the cafeteria**—where there could be a signup sheet and dedicated tables where people can sign up on a certain topic and people can sit and talk about that? Peter said he is open to that and we can coordinate with Lucas.
- **Peter added that Silver Bay is making more of an effort with environmental sustainability initiatives.** The utensils in the store are biodegradable. The water we use is Lake George Water and we have eliminated all water bottles being bought and used at conferences in our goal to reduce single use plastics.
- **Sharon Sassaman asked why Bay Beach shrank.** Peter stated he wasn't aware it was shrunk as this was the first summer since Covid started that the beach has been opened. He will look further into that.

In closing, Peter thanked Council for their supportiveness, and volunteering their time to support the programs and projects around campus.

Officer and Committee Reports

- **Treasurer's Report—Natalie Shotts, Vice President; on behalf of Peter Meyers, Treasurer**—Natalie reviewed the following financials and stated that Council currently has \$2,706.78 on hand, but she expects that number to be between \$5,000 - \$6,000 once the raffle and puzzles sales are tallied.

As of Last Council Meeting on May 20		
On account with Silver Bay	\$	1,928.74
Glens Falls National Bank (GF) Checking Account	\$	1,432.90 *
Glens Falls National Bank (GF) Savings Account	\$	1,019.20
Total	\$	4,380.84
Income as of June 30 (Silver Bay)		
Adjustment for Actuals: Livestrem cost (final cost \$3,766.30 – not \$4,000)	\$	233.70
Puzzle Sales	\$	442.00
GF Savings Account Interest	\$	0.24
Total	\$	675.94
Allocations & Discretionary Spending		
Silver Bay (Discretionary) - Latin Night Food Allocation	\$	(500.00)
GF Checking – Rocking Chair Seats	\$	(700.00) *
Total	\$	(1,200.00)
As of September 30, 2022		
On account with Silver Bay	\$	2,104.44
Glens Falls National Bank Checking Account	\$	732.90
Glens Falls National Bank Savings Account	\$	319.44
Total	\$	3,156.78
Available funds (minus discretionary spending of \$450)	\$	2,706.78
*note that the allocation of \$700 was denoted in the May treasurer report, but has not yet been ordered		

- Natalie stated at the beginning of the year, Council was asked by Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (I.D.E.A.) Committee if some of the community members would sponsor an international EMP by hosting a dinner at their home, but since there were 53 International EMPs, that would have been a challenge to pair one-two per community member. The best possible solution was to sponsor their Latin Night, which was open to the entire staff, and Council Leadership agreed to use a portion of their discretionary funds to allocation \$500 towards food for the event. The event's total cost was \$1,000, and depending on funds available, Council can consider funding the entire event next year.
- **Fundraising—Natalie Shotts, Fundraising Chair**—Natalie gave the following overview of the puzzle and raffle tickets sales:
 - Puzzles sales as of August 9, 2023 = \$1,442.88
 - There are 18 left to sell (which would be an additional \$540)
 - Silver Bay \$1,400 Gift Certificate Raffle sales through August 10, 2023 = \$1,500
 - We experienced some communication challenges with the raffle and promotion through Silver Bay's channels, plus it has had some competition with the Craft Shop's quilt raffle, and Scott Cotton's fundraiser for Silver Camp. Overall, the raffle has been well received and we expect sales to pick up, as they normally do, the last two weeks of the raffle.
 - Natalie stated the ways in which the \$1,400 gift certificate could be used: 3-day off-season stay for two in the William Boyd Center, a 3-day weekend for a family of 9 in a cottage, an annual family membership, Silver Camp, Boat slip fees, or towards a person's/family's weekly reservation. The only thing it couldn't be used towards is the store.
 - Natalie thanked the Council members who have volunteered their time to sell tickets in person.
- **Allocations—Natalie Shotts, Allocations Chair**—Natalie stated in the May 2022 meeting we had voted and approved the \$3,500 purchase of an industrial size coffee urn that is filled and used at locations around campus. Since time had lapsed between getting a quote and the allocation request to the actual purchase, the coffee urn actual cost was \$4,085.50, which is \$585.50 more than we approved. Natalie requested the additional \$585.50 be covered by Council. **Motion was made to allocate \$585.50 to fully fund the coffee urn.** Motion was seconded. All voted in favor and motion was passed and approved.
- **Tidy Time Update—Natalie Shotts, Tidy Time Co-Chair**—Natalie stated there was a small turnout for the Spring Tidy Time, but May is always a challenging month due to family obligations with college graduations and moving and/or weddings. A lot was accomplished, racking up 275 Council volunteer hours, and projects included: Trail water bars and maintenance, porch painting and screening (at Juniper, Elm, and Sycamore), Craft shop cleaning and organizing, weeding the tennis courts, washing and cleaning rocking and Adirondack chairs, Puzzle box labeling, and cottage cleaning and prep.
 - Natalie stated that Fall Tidy Time will be held October 6-9 and hopes all in the room can attend. Natalie then showed [a recap video of the previous Fall's Tidy Time](#).
- **Membership Update—Carolyn Hoeschele, Membership Committee Chair**—Carolyn stated Erin and Andrew Brown would like to be members. The Brown's, from Crestwood, New Jersey, recently bought a house locally on Friendship Trail. Andrew is a Silver Bay "lifer," and his wife Erin, from California, has been coming with Andrew.
 - **Motion was put forth for Andrew and Erin to be members.** Motion was seconded. All voted in favor and motion was passed and approved.
 - Ming Crusey commented that Erin and Andrew's daughter and son did a wonderful concert at the Chapel as a fundraiser for the Lake George Association, and sees events like these as an opportunity for Council to participate in the future as we have a lot of talented people on Council.

- Erin added it was a wonderful event and a video of it is now available [here](#).

Elections for 2023-25 Council Executive Team—Anne Erling, President—Anne thanked the newly formed Nominating Committee for mapping out the succession of leadership for the Council. Anne stated the current committee members are Elyce Brown as Chair, Pam Fischer, Natalie Shotts, Chris Kleinheinz, and Anne. Anne reviewed the slate of officers up for nomination along with their backgrounds.

- **President: Natalie Shotts**—Former EMP, who has been coming to Silver Bay since 1972, has been attending Tidy Time since 1980, and for the past 10 years has helped her mother, Penny, lead Tidy Time. She has been a member of Council since 1995, and has formerly filled the Treasurer, Vice President, and President roles.
- **Vice President: Debby Wattenbarger**—Former EMP, who has been coming to Silver Bay since before she was born, has over the years attended Tidy Time off and on, and has attended TT more recently for the past 9 years.
- **Treasurer: Ben Brumbaugh**—Former EMP, who has been coming to Silver Bay since a young child, and has been attending Tidy Time for the past few years with his Dad.
- **Secretary: Chris Kleinhenz**—Chris will be continuing her second term as Secretary. Chris and her husband Marc have been coming to Silver Bay for quite some time for the Lutheran Conference. A few years ago they saw the Tidy Time Council FaceBook post and have been attending Tidy Time, and volunteer throughout the summers.
- **Motion was put forth for Natalie, Debby, Ben, and Chris to be elected as Council Officers** in their selected positions. Motion was seconded. All voted in favor and motion was passed and approved.

Peter Meyers Appreciation—Anne Erling and Carolyn Close—Anne took a moment to thank Peter for his tenure on Council as Treasurer and Vice President and invited Carolyn Close up to say a few words.

- Carolyn presented Peter with an Appreciation Wooden Art Plaque, handmade by Natalie, depicting a rocking chair on the porch of the Inn, which is a symbol of Peter's years of dedicated work on refurbishing the rocking chairs around campus. Peter thanked everyone and stated while he is moving states away, he will return and be a part of Tidy Time.
- Natalie took a moment to thank Anne for all the work she has done over the past two years as President, most notably beefing up some of the existing committees, forming two new committees (communications and nominations), and starting the directory.

Closing & Adjournment—Anne Erling, President—With no further questions and business discussed, Anne set in motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor to end the meeting.