

**Lake Barcroft Village  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 9, 2023 MINUTES**

President Ellen Raphaeli called to order the March 9, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors at 3:20 p.m. Also present were Sam Rothman, Ross Kory, Cathy Williams, Jane Guttman, Lisa DuBois, Beth Auerbach, Walt Cooper, Sue Morse, and Executive Director Cindy Waters. Liz Gianturco and Nazir Bhagat were absent.

The agenda was approved without further additions, and the minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting were accepted as written.

President's Report--Ellen thanked Cindy for her excellent presentation at the Lake Barcroft Association meeting. Ellen also reported that in addition to our advertising the vests at the Quarterly Meeting, she had advertised the Village vests on LakeLink and received some queries about purchasing them. The village is offering the one-size-fits-all vests for \$20 (or two for \$30). Village members receive a \$5 discount. Ross said that he had received a check for two vests and that purchase requests should be directed to him. Ross and Cindy both have inventory.

Treasurer's Report--Ross recalled his financial report at the Quarterly meeting and asked if anyone had questions. February happened to be a big month for the Village financially because of several large expenses, but other months will balance those expenditures out. One item that Ross wanted to bring before the Board was Helpful Village. Ross has ignored the billings for their monthly fee because LBV isn't using their features. Although he doesn't think LBV should be paying full price for their features, he has concerns about completely abandoning Helpful Village because there could be a time when we need their services. Ross called Helpful Village's CEO Manuel Acevado and explained the Village's position that it doesn't make sense to pay the full fee. He offered \$400 per year to maintain the license. A lengthy discussion ensued. Manuel countered with \$600 per year. Because it makes sense as an expenditure in the realm of insurance, Ross's inclination is to pay the requested \$600.

Alternately, Ross realizes that the Board could stop paying and close down all features. The Board could then see what happens in the interim. Ellen asked what the full fee is. Ross responded that it is \$1.00 per member per month. The situation remains that Helpful Village is supposed to be a user-friendly platform, but it isn't. Early on in the Village's history, Richard Morton designed a program based on what Alexandria at Home shared with the Village as an alternative for saving data for activity sign-ups. It is based on Microsoft Access, a member management program. Cindy likes using Access and says it is working for the Village's needs. Access even has capabilities for building more applications. Beth brought up a memory of her first meeting three years ago when even then there was a discussion about Helpful Village. She

feels the Board has wasted so much time discussing it. She is inclined to say goodbye to it. Ellen thinks like Beth, that now is time to let it go for now.

Ross moved and Lisa seconded the motion that LBV move on from using Helpful Village. However, two people were opposed even though the Board voted in favor of abandoning Helpful Village. Considerable discussion ensued, which led people to lean toward keeping the service as a place setter by paying the \$600 fee. Sam moved that the Board table the item, Lisa seconded and the consensus was to table. Because the Board may need to look for other membership management software in the future, Cindy suggested that the Board ask the new member Nazir Bhagat to work on a committee to consider the future of Helpful Village.

Ross wanted the Board to consider the investment issue again. He has talked with Truist about their CD-based options to increase our interest returns. Instead of following an earlier plan of creating an account on eTrade, Ross suggests we purchase government-based securities because of rising interest rates. Treasury bills are paying more than 4%. Ross suggested that it would be more expedient to go the route of a Truist CD than investing in eTrade. Jane moved and Walt seconded the motion to purchase a CD from Truist. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Executive Director's Report -- Cindy referred the Board members to her February activity report. She then jumped ahead to report that plans for the Tenth Anniversary luncheon are on hold until she receives the menu from 2941 Restaurant. A maximum attendance of 60 persons has been set. Invitations and responses will need to be designed and printed at the appropriate future time. Cindy plans to send an email soon to inform the LBV membership of the June 3 date of the event. More information will follow.

Vice President's Report—No report because of Liz's absence.

## **Committee Reports**

Communications Committee--Chair Jane Guttman reported that the May issue of *The Villager* will contain features about the three newly-elected nominees to the LBV Board, Ellen Raphaeli, Jane Guttman and Nazir Bhagat. The deadline for articles is April 30. She thanked Ellen for making some nice changes to the website.

Fundraising Committee--Chair Lisa DuBois reviewed her findings from a Corn Hole tournament vendor, Talk of the Town. She wants to market the activity to other surrounding neighborhoods of the Lake Barcroft community. She further advises that the Village should seek a beach rental in late April or early May. The second item that Lisa wanted to discuss was the wine tasting fundraiser on either June 10 or 17. She plans to have a proposal for the ticket costs and details of the Corn Hole tournament soon, which she'll distribute to the Board.

## Volunteers and Services Committee—No report

Program Committee--Chair Walt Cooper mentioned the 14 events remaining in March, including Happy Hour at the Mandelbergs on March 25. Coffee and conversation is back on the schedule, as well as plans for a poker group with Marty Mandeberg in charge. There are also opportunities for some language conversation groups. One of them is a German conversation group led by Judy Hilton and Don Christian.

Keeping in Touch--Chair Cathy Williams reported that a meeting of the KIT captains is planned for late March. Louise Ziebell plans to resume a walking group and exercise program.

Operations Committee--Chair Beth Auerbach had no report.

Technology Committee--Chairs Jane Guttman and Ross Kory had no report.

## **Old Business**

### March Quarterly Meeting- comments?

Ellen said that the speaker Becky Cranna's presentation, which was very informative and full of audience participation, is recorded on her cell phone and that Shirley will help to get the audio loaded onto the website with a link to the YouTube Channel. Becky has offered her slides to be uploaded to the website. Cathy took notes of the meeting and created a report of the meeting.

### Biennial Report

Sam is still working on the report.

### Helpful Village response to going into inactive mode?

This issue was already discussed during the Treasurer's Report.

### Survey of present members--tallying

Ellen reported that so far 20 members have responded to the survey by the deadline date. She will send a reminder email to those who haven't submitted their surveys. In addition, Ellen will send her updated tally to the Board members by email.

### Celebration of 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Village

Cindy updated the Board on the Anniversary event in her earlier report.

## **New Business**

### Hybrid Meetings

Ellen will look into this matter before the next Quarterly meeting.

Suggestions received re: next quarterly meeting

Exercise has been suggested as a topic for a future meeting. Sam also recommended a program on providing housing for German POWs during World War II. The POWs were relocated to Camp Meade and Fort Hunt, as well as several other areas in the Metro area.

Ellen thanked Beth who faithfully served the Board for three years as vice president and operations manager. She also frequently contributed to controversial issues. Beth requested, after she leaves the Board, to let her know if she can do anything else to assist Board issues. She would like to volunteer for the Vice-President's Ad Hoc committee on Rethinking Committees and Updating Bylaws for the Website.

Finding no other business to discuss, Ellen asked for a motion of adjournment. Jane moved and Sam seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 4:59 p.m. The Board went immediately into Executive Session concerning the seating and organization of new Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Morse, Secretary

Next Board meeting – April 13 at 3:15 pm via Zoom