

## Transcript Sherman Library Regular Meeting Board of Trustees April 18, 2022

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay, welcome everyone. I'm Mariya Hurwitz, president of the Sherman Library Board of Trustees. Today is Monday, April 18th, 2022. This is the monthly meeting of the Board held remotely via Zoom due to public health concerns surrounding COVID 19. I called a meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Please remember to state your name before speaking and to use the Raise Your Hand feature if you wish to ask a question or make a comment. And Laura, I am turning it over to you for the minutes section of the agenda.

Laura:

Thank you, Mariya. First I'll thank Barb and John for agreeing to review the minutes of the meeting today, and for the prior minutes, if there are no objections, I move to approve the minutes from the March 14th regular meeting and the March 21st special meeting through unanimous consent.

Dee Ratterree:

I second the motion [crosstalk 00:01:07].

Laura:

There's no objections? There are no objections. The motion's so proved through unanimous consent. Back to you, Mariya.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Thank you. Thank you, Laura. This is Mariah again. Now for our first item on the agenda, our energy report, I will turn it over to Jamie, our executive director, to introduce our guests.

Jamie:

Hi, this is Jamie Cantoni. You may remember, we were going through some of the issues with contracts regarding Cognizant and Eversource. I was directed to PURA, which is the Public Utilities Regulation Authority, that encouraged me to apply to a program where we might be considered for both an energy audit and a solar audit considering that our building is entirely run on electric energy. And we went through with that at no cost to us. And Marie was wonderful. She came out and met with me, and we did an entire walkthrough of the building, and that was in early February. But it's taken a while for us to get the reports, and I wanted to give them the opportunity to present those to you as well let you know about how those credits and decisions are made every year and then what the timeframe for applying for them is. So, Marie, I turn that over to you. Thank you.

Marie:

Hi everybody. I'm actually going to turn it over to Jody. He's going to present both the solar and the lighting proposals that we have for you.

Jody:

I'm listed as Sarah, but I'm Jody. This is my wife's computer. I'm at home. I actually live in New Fairfield, so I'm right next door to you guys.

Jamie:

You should come visit.

Jody:

Yeah, I have many times. I ride my bike right up 39 and then go up 55 all the time. I'm a project administrator. I work directly with Eversource. So I work for ELC, but I'm the junction, if you will, between our company and Eversource. And I don't know who or isn't familiar with the way the Connecticut energy program works, but we all, as Connecticut residents, put money into the Connecticut Energy Fund, and that money is there for the taking of individuals, businesses, municipalities in the state of Connecticut to make your building more efficient. The only thing that the state is trying to do here is slow your meter down. There is no sale involved here. It's all prescriptive through the state of Connecticut.

Jody:

And what basically happens is when we do an energy audit, we come into the facility, we look at where cuts can be made. The cut obviously is to your benefit as far as your bill is concerned, but that's not what we're trying to do here. The state of Connecticut is just trying to cut as much energy off of everybody's bills as they can so they can apply energy in other places. They can't make enough energy for the whole state, and that's why there is a big push for LED and solar.

Jody:

Now we looked at the library for LED lighting and for solar. So we'll start with the lighting. Now was everyone given the analysis from Eversource?

Jamie:

Yes.

Jody:

Everybody here has a copy of... Biggest no brainer in the world. I actually have it on my phone, so I'm just going to pull it up here, and I'll run down it really fast. The entire project turnkey is \$6,041. There is 18 authorized contractors in the state of Connecticut. If you were to call 18 authorized contractors and say, "Come do an energy audit," they would all give you this piece of paper. This comes directly from Eversource. This is not from the contractor. So it's \$6,041 project, and the state of Connecticut is going to pay \$4,833 of it on day one. They do not want you to pay the balance, which is only \$1,208. What happens is, you get on bill 0% financing that you pay with your savings. So the savings will translate into about \$1,800 a year for the Sherman Library. So if you extrapolate that over 12 months, it's \$160 in savings a month. And what Eversource does is just add \$75 back into the bill for 16 months. It'll count right down onto the bill. It'll say month one, month two, month three, until it gets to 16 and then goes away.

Jody:

This project is cash flow positive from day one. So really what happens is, you sign this piece of paper, ELC comes in, installs all the new LEDs, shakes your hand and leave. The following month you'll see your bill drop about 160 bucks, and then the following month after that, Eversource will add in 75. You'll still be \$90 a month cash flow positive for 16 months. And the library gets all brand new LEDs. Every fixture will be replaced with a new LED. It's really that simple. So up to that point, any questions? No? Pretty straightforward, right? The opposites... Go ahead.

Henry Cooperman :

My question is, is that the LEDs, what is the cost to replace them? Is that included in this plan, or do we then have to start buying all [inaudible 00:06:43].

Jody:

You were breaking up very bad right there. So go ahead and say it again.

Henry Cooperman :

I'm sorry.

Jody:

It's okay.

Henry Cooperman:

My question is that how long do the LEDs last, and how expensive are they to replace?

Jody:

Well, they say they last 100,000 hours. How they got there, I have no idea. They haven't been around 100,000 hours. But for a library that would probably be about 45 years. They're no more expensive to replace than a regular light.

Henry Cooperman:

Okay, thank you.

Jody:

Yep, my pleasure. Go head, yep.

Rosemarie D'Ostilio:

I have a question. So you said they don't want us to pay it off?

Jody:

Well, you can, but there would be no reason to do that.

Rosemarie D'Ostilio:

So I'm one of those skeptics.

Jody:

Yeah, okay.

Rosemarie D'Ostilio:

And what you've said so far sounds great, but I also feel like, wait a minute, there's... I want to do our due diligence. So when you say they don't want pay it off, are there fees, any kind of hidden fees that we don't know or any questions we don't know to ask up until this point?

Jody:

No, the way I always... I'm saying the reason why Eversource says that you don't have to write a check for it is because that deters people from doing it, when they have to come out of pocket. This is a pay as you save program, so you see the savings in the bill first, and then Eversource allows you to finance the balance over 16 months interest free on the bill. So if the project is a \$6,000 project cost and Eversource is going to pay, I'm just going to use round numbers to make the math easy, 5,000 of that... And I always joke around, if you and I walked up to Eversource, and we smacked our hand on the desk and said, "Give us a check for 5,000," they'd take us out of there in cuffs.

Jody:

There's not just some crazy person writing checks at Eversource. Obviously, if they're willing to give you five grand towards the project, they want you to do it. But your \$1,000 balance, what they're trying to do is to get everybody on board. So instead of you having to write a check for \$1,000, they just elongate that out on your bill, and you pay it with your savings over 16 months. It makes it cash flow neutral is what it does.

Rosemarie D'Ostilio:

Okay.

Jody:

Yeah, believe me, my hardest part about my job, and I pour bourbon in a glass every night, is exactly what you said. It seems too good to be true. I've been doing this for 20 years. There's bus that's going to hit anybody here. The bottom line is when we, as individuals, think about our electric bill, you think about your home. You walk in, you throw on a switch, and you're like, "Okay, great. The lights went on." When Eversource thinks about the electric bill, they're thinking about, envision looking out of an airplane when you're flying over a city. They have to illuminate everything. So the state of Connecticut cannot make enough power for the state. And as we continue to build shopping malls and housing developments and new strip malls, the power has to come from somewhere. So it's much easier to reduce in the left hand to give the power to the right hand than to build a new power plant in someone's backyard, which, oh, by the way, they just did in Oxford, Connecticut. Shoot away, Jeff.

Jeff Matusow:

This is Jeff Matusow. So this savings that you refer to, is that just an assessment that you say by changing all the bulbs from existing to LED, we're going to probably save \$160 a month, or that's some hard number?

Jody:

It's a hard number because you can't lie about math. So what happens with these projects is, all of your lights are removed from the equation. So if you break this down to a single light bulb, if you have a hundred watt light bulb that burns 10 hours a day at 10 cents a kilowatt, that'll give you your billing derivative. If you change any three of those formulas, if you change your hours or the wattage, it will change the billing. So all the lights that you have in the library are removed. We know the run time, the wattage, and whatever source is charging. It then gets built into an LED format and just reinsert it in the bill, so it is very exact.

Jody:

Again, I been doing this 20 years. I've never seen one be more than 5% off in any direction unless you guys change what's happening on your side. So if you were to say, "Oh, we're going to not run the same hours that were running," if you run more hours or less hours, that obviously change your consumption. But all things being equal as it is now, it will stay right in that ballpark. Shoot away, Dee.

Dee Ratterree:

Very often I find the lighting from LED harsh and unwelcoming. Are there ways to... This is Dee Ratterree Ratterree. I'm sorry.

Jody:

No, I see. I said, "Yeah, shoot away, Dee."

Dee Ratterree:

So is there a way to choose how many lumens or daylight, sunlight? I know daylight's kind of horrible, actually, really.

Jody:

I agree with you. My wife hates every LED bulb we have in this house. What you're referring to is Calvin temperature. So Calvin temperature is how white and or bright the light is. So once you guys decide to move forward with this project, the project manager will come to the facility and re-walk it with somebody there and say, "What temperatures do you want these lights?" So anything that's in a 3,000 Calvin temperature leans a little more towards yellow. Anything that's in a 5,000 Calvin temperature runs a little more white. An office light on a two by four troffer over your head, for example, is a 4,100 Calvin temperature, that white light. Usually for a library, municipality buildings, and stuff, in an office setting we'll go 4,000. In the library, you'd probably do 3,800. Shoot away, yeah.

Dee Ratterree:

Who are you?

Barbara:

I'm Barbara. And it says Roger because I'm using my husband's computer.

Jody:

Yeah, same as me. I'm Sarah.

Barbara:

[crosstalk 00:13:38] Okay. I'm going to give you a worst case scenario.

Jody:

Okay.

Barbara:

What if we had a major power failure in the town, okay? We're in the center of town. This is not unusual.

Jody:

I know exactly where you are.

Barbara:

Okay, and when they put it back on, we get a power surge, and it blows all the bulbs.

Jody:

There is no bulbs. There are diodes...

Barbara:

Diodes? Okay.

Jody:

And they're run by drivers.

Barbara:

So what happens though?

Jody:

Nothing.

Barbara:

Nothing will happen?

Jody:

Nothing will happen. It's a driver. It's not affected by a power surge.

Barbara:

Okay, that's good to know. That's how much technology I know about this.

Jody:

No, that's okay. LEDs are actually warrantied for 10 years. So for the first 10 years that you have the lights, if anything happens to any of them, they get replaced at no cost.

Barbara:

Okay, so after 10 years, it's our nickel.

Jody:

Yes, it is your nickel. But again, I haven't seen any failures with LEDs. In the early stages of LEDs, before they really came to market, they were horrible. Remember pulling up to a traffic light, and when they first went LED and all the little diodes were out? They've kind of perfected the driver application, so all the lights will illuminate correctly. We haven't had any problems at all, and we've been installing LEDs since 2016.

Barbara:

My follow-up question is, is there any downside to this?

Jody:

There is not a downside in the world to doing this project, especially with the state paying 80% of it.

Barbara:

Okay, thank you.

Jamie:

Great.

Jody:

Yep.

Irit Granger:

Yes, you mentioned the project manager. Where does he come from?

Jody:

Project manager comes from ELC also.

Jamie:

Which is the consulting company that we're using.

Jody:

Yeah, we're not a consulting company. We're actually an ESCO, which is an energy services company. So we're based in Newtown. So I would assume that you called Eversource, correct?

Jamie:

Correct.

Jody:

And they told you to call us because we're the closest ESCO to you. That's why everything's prescriptive. If you were to say, "Oh, I want to use the ESCO that's in Hartford," they wouldn't want to drive all the way down here, but if they did, they would be giving you the exact same paperwork that I'm giving you.

Jamie:

PURA told us to contact you.

Jody:

Okay.

Irit Granger:

So then you are the project managers and the installers then of the lighting.

Jody:

Yes, we initiate and put the program into place in your building.

Irit Granger:

Okay, thank you.

Jody:

And if you want to go one step further with that, because sometimes somebody will say, "Well, why isn't Eversource here doing it?" That's a prompted question. The Connecticut Energy Fund is our money. When I say our money, state of Connecticut residents. So what happens is, we all pay into that fund through your electric bill every month. At the end of the year, whatever's in that fund, the DPUC out of Washington, DC, matches that. So last year I think we had 68 million dollars in the fund. The DPUC throws 68 million dollars in the fund and says, "Here, go spend it." But Eversource, it ministers the fund. They don't get to keep any money. So you wouldn't hire 30 people to work at the library with no benefit because you'd be paying that bill. It's the same theory for Eversource.

Jody:

So what Eversource did is picked 18 vetted authorized vendors. We go through unbelievable training. We have to follow all of Eversource guidelines. And then what'll happen is, when there's a project, we're the glorified wrench turners. We go out and we install the lights for Eversource, and then they just pay us for installing them. But Eversource, other than getting the benefit of the energy reduction, has nothing else to do with the fund.

Jamie:

Please disagree Mariya, or anyone else, but in interest of respecting the time of the consultants that have agreed to join us tonight and the length of our meeting, unless anyone has some questions that can't wait, maybe if people have some questions they think of later, they can email them to me and I can send them to the consultants so we can move on to the solar portion of the presentation. So if there are any last burning questions, please... Laura.

Laura:

Thank you. Two quick questions. How long does the implementation of the project last and how long does it take? And does the building need to be closed to do this?

Jody:

No, not at all. The building does not have to be closed. The install crews run 24-7. So we work with you of when the crews can get in there. And from the time that you sign the documentation to install, runs four to six weeks.

Laura:

During business hours.

Jody:



Yeah, well with business hours, when you're closed, weekends, it doesn't matter. Whenever you want to do it is fine.

Jamie:

Okay, and Marie, your hand is raised. Did you want to say something?

Marie:

I wanted to comment on that 80%. It wasn't always 80%. It's not always. They happen to be offering 80% right now, which is a great opportunity for you to take advantage of. Prior to that, it was about 25%.

Jody:

Because of COVID, right now Eversource is a little flush with cash in the Connecticut Energy Fund. The crazy part is that they need to spend all the money in any fiscal year to ask for money the following year. So they're taking municipalities and what they're calling microbusinesses, anything that's under a \$20,000 project will get 80% funding. And if you'd like, we can keep talking about the lighting because the solar project's horrible. You're not going to do the solar project, that I know.

Jamie:

Okay, well, is that something folks would like to go over or not?

Jody:

We can go over it. You guys, everybody has the solar proposal, correct, too in front of them? [crosstalk 00:20:20] All right, I'll go off of memory. Actually, I have it right here, too. I can pop it up. I don't know if I would mess you guys up. Can you see that?

Jamie:

No, I'll make your screen shareable.

Jody:

Okay, I'll have to figure how to do that.

Jamie:

No, I just made your screen shareable. You should be able to do that.

Jody:

Oh, okay. Can you guys see that proposal?

Mariya Hurwitz:

No, Jody did you click on your Share Screen button and then tell...

Jody:

Oh, hold on. No, no, no. I didn't do that. Stand by one. I'll get...

Jamie:

So my summary says that the project total is a \$100,224 and the lifetime total income is \$196,770.

Jody:

That is correct. So you can see that now, right?

Jamie:

Yeah [crosstalk 00:21:08].

Jody:

Kind of half of an airplane and then half of a proposal?

Jamie:

Yeah.

Jody:

All right, let me just...

Jamie:

Expand your screen maybe.

Jody:

Yeah, I just got to get the little thing... There we go. Everyone can see that?

Jamie:

Yeah.

Jody:

Eversource has had a real big problem with solar for the past six years. And in a nutshell, they're still feeling their roots out on the solar program. So over the years, they used to have what's called an LREC/ZREC bid, and that's where you'd go in and you would bid your solar project to Eversource and say, "We want to put solar on our building, and this is what it will save the state of Connecticut and/or get power to our building." And you'd bid it and you could actually lose it. Eversource would say, "Look, we're not going to allow you to do it." So in the interest of Eversource trying to get everybody on board as far as just creating energy, they came out with a program, what's called the Buy-All, this year. And a Buy-All is that you can put solar on your building and sell the power back to Eversource over a 20 year contract, so that's not using power for your building whatsoever.

Jody:

So you hit the nail right on the head. This again, it's prescriptive through Eversource. To put solar on the building would be \$100,000. And over 20 years, you would collect back \$170,000 plus a check from the federal government for 26,000, giving you a total return of \$196,000. But, and I'm not being Debbie Downer here, but it takes 20 years to obtain that money. [inaudible 00:22:57] So we're seeing some of these projects go out that are \$600,000, and the customer's getting back 2.6 million. So that's a different animal. But for the town to put \$100,000 of revenue into a project to have to wait 20 years to collect

\$96,000, in my opinion, is not worth it. In my opinion, but I can't speak for you guys unless you want to tout going green or whatever.

Jamie:

Well, just to be clear to everyone, the town would not be paying that money. We would have to get that money through a grant or a bank, just so that everyone is aware.

Jody:

Yeah, I would almost wait, to be honest with you. I would almost wait to see when Eversource is done with the Buy-All program, if they're going to offer straight solar to feed your building. Now, you can do that with this, also. You offset the power that you're using, and then take some of the money and offset some of the money. But this is what Eversource is offering as of now. And oddly enough, even if you went the other way with it, if you said, "Sure, I'm going to sign this right now. Jody, get in the car. Come pick it up," I couldn't do anything with it cause the program's closed anyway. So until they reopen it, we're dead in the water.

Jamie:

Okay.

Barbara:

I have a question.

Jody:

Okay.

Barbara:

We don't know what the Feds are going to do yet.

Jody:

As far as what?

Barbara:

As far as solar, any new initiatives on the federal level?

Jody:

Well, I know what they're going to do.

Barbara:

Nothing, right?

Jody:

No, this year they're giving... Last year it was 33%. This year it's 26%. Next year it's going to be 22%. In the year after that it's going to be 18%. The push right now on a federal level for energy, believe it or

not, is EVs, electric vehicles. So that is the schedule, unless they change their initiative as of now. Can it change? Absolutely.

Barbara:

Yeah.

Jody:

But it has followed that stair step so far. If we were having this conversation last year, the federal government would be paying 33% of the project, not 26.

Barbara:

Right, well, I don't know what they're going to do. They may do nothing. But if there truly is an energy bill that comes out, it may look a little better for us and another...

Jody:

That is accurate.

Barbara:

Yes.

Jody:

You are accurate.

Barbara:

Okay.

Jamie:

Certainly looks good. It may not make financial sense, but in terms of PR and social awareness and environmental awareness, that's a huge zeitgeist among libraries right now.

Jody:

Yes, if someone were to donate the \$100,000, then it makes all the sense in the world.

Jamie:

Right.

Jody:

Because what happens after the 20 years is you would collect the 196,000 over 20 years. And at the end of 20 years, there's two things that happen. One, you can renegotiate with Eversource at the new current rates, or B, you can say, "You know what? I want to route all the power to the building now. Let's just go ahead and do that." And then they'll change the junction box, and they'll feed your building with the power. So the system is yours. When you put that solar system on the library, the Sherman Library owns it. So you are just contracting with the state to sell them the power.

Dee:

This is Dee Ratterree.

Jody:

Yep.

Dee Ratterree:

I'm actually asking Jamie which of the two alternatives she feels is a better, one for the library and for the long haul. And I'm putting you on the spot, I'm sorry.

Jamie:

Yeah, that's okay. Because there's another project that I need, when I have time, ha ha ha, that was intended to be pursued as a third arm of this. And that's putting in EV charging stations, which there are specific grants for...

Jody:

We do that.

Jamie:

But because we are not a municipal library, it's a little different for us than it is for other people. And so the original idea... So there's this huge race right now among Connecticut libraries and libraries all over the U.S. to be carbon neutral, to be green, or even carbon positive, and to also offer these electric energy saving solutions to their communities, such as the electric vehicles charging station. People who have them, they've got to go to these places and charge their vehicle, and then they have 30 minutes to kill while their vehicle's charging. What better thing to do than go hang out in the library, right? And then is that a source of income for the library, or is that a tax write off? And so that was something that I needed to explore further that I have not had the opportunity to do. So I can't give a definitive answer on what I think is, if I had to choose one, the better solution, but obviously, without doing any further research, it's pretty obvious to me that having the inside fixtures refitted is a...

Dee:

[crosstalk 00:29:03] the way to go. [crosstalk 00:29:06]

Jody:

Can I chime in on EVs? Do you mind if I chime in on the EVs?

Jamie:

Sure.

Jody:

Okay, I can give you all of your information right now, and all your work will be done for you. So the state of Connecticut will pay 100% of an EV station to be installed in the library up to the connection point. So what that means is running the electricity off of your box, dredging, burying cables, creating the ballards in front of the charger so no one knocks it over. And then they will pay 50% of the charging

station that you choose. And I can email you a list of authorized stations, because we do it also for the state, that Eversource will allow you to put at your place.

Jody:

There are three different kinds of chargers. There are fast chargers that will charge a car in 15 minutes, that cost north of \$100,000, which is insanity. There are level two chargers which will charge the car within four hours, and then there's the low grade charger that'll take between six and eight hours. 99% of the people so far that we've installed an EV charger for have went into that middle of the road category. So if you want to do a middle of the road category, Eversource will pay up to half of the charger for you, and 100% of the install of the EV charger. All you need to do is tell us where you want it, and we'll give you all the documentation. It's another thing that's going to be prescriptive through the state. So even if you called Eversource and said, "Hey, I want to do an EV charger with you," they're probably going to tell you to call us because we're the closest to you, and the paperwork will show you all the fixed pricing that I can send to you.

Jeff Matusow:

What are those chargers cost, roughly?

Jody:

The chargers cost for a level two charger, anywhere between \$4,000 and \$6,000, depending on which one you choose. Now, the price is indicative of stations. So when I say a station, it could be a single station with two leads. So that way it would go in between two parking spots, so it'll actually charge two EV vehicles at any given time.

Jeff Matusow:

So the cost would be \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Jody:

That is accurate. Again, there's a lot to it, but if you were to call any one of Eversource's ESCO, we do all the work. So what we do is, if you said, "Yes, we want an EV charger, it's not as easy as just going, "Okay, great. We'll give you an EV charger." We come out with an engineer, we look at your panel, what your electrical service is, if there's an available slot, or if it needs a subpanel, where we're going to run the lines. Then we drew engineered drawings, and they get submitted with an application to Eversource for the payment for the install. Once that gets approved, we'll go ahead and install the base. You pick your charger, and then it just gets connected. Very...

Jamie:

And I know some libraries charge folks to charge their vehicles, and that's considered income, or some of them just take it off of that accrual off their savings from their meter, but...

Jody:

You should charge

Jamie:

Just so you know, we are a 501c3. We're not a municipal library. So that may affect our savings in the program.

Jody:

Yeah, it won't. It won't because you're still... I understand that you're not part of the town, but you're still a library, and the Eversource umbrella really pulls you into that municipality pool, if you will. And as far as charging or not charging, a lot of people in your situation will pick a charger where if someone comes, they have to swipe a credit card, and then it just bills their credit card for the power. Otherwise what you're going to get, is you're going to get somebody that's going to go shoot basketballs across the street at the Sherman School while they're charging their car at night.

Jamie:

Yeah, well that's certainly a lot, I think certainly at least for me, to think about in considering whether the solar panels are a worthwhile project or not. So I thank you so much, Jody, and thank you, Marie, for taking your personal time to join us and help us to greater understand these offers and these processes. And I think after everybody has a little while to think about it, we can come back to it and maybe we can preemptively figure out how to position ourselves if we think it's a good idea, move forward with a solar option in the window for availability next year. And we'll continue to consider the project summary for indoors for the coming year. As long as no one has any more questions or is in disagreement, anybody? Dee?

Dee:

I have just one thing. Should we create an energy committee to look more... Three or four people to look more closely at this, not let everything rest on your shoulders?

Jamie:

That would be great, but I don't think we need to do that tonight. I think it's a great idea.

Dee:

No, okay, good. Wait, my other question is, do we all get Teslas if we get the EV chargers?

Jamie:

I don't think they're giving those away yet.

Jody:

I would like a Tesla.

Dee:

All right, come on.

Jamie:

Okay.

Mariya Hurwitz:

I don't have any questions. Thank you very much Jody and Marie.

Jody:

Oh, it's my pleasure.

Jamie:

Thank you, Jody and Marie.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Great information.

Jody:

All right, bye bye, guys. Have a good night.

Jamie:

Thank you, you, too.

Marie:

Thank you.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay, get off. This is Mariya again. All right, so Jamie, I'm going to have you move us into executive session. We have some trustee vacancies and staffing to discuss, so I'll have you move us over, or I make a motion that we move in a moment, and then I will call you when we're ready to have you join us for the staff department discussion.

Jamie:

Okay.

Mariya Hurwitz:

So it is 7:08 PM. I'd like to make a motion that we move into executive session.

Ara:

I'll second it.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Thank you, [Ara 00:36:04].

Jamie:

Okay, wait a minute. I think I just did this wrong, sorry.

Mariya Hurwitz:

That's okay.



Transcript Sherman Library Regular Meeting Board of Trustees April 18, 2022

Mariya Hurwitz:

This is Mariya Hurwitz, 7:59 PM returning from executive session. We do have one item to vote on, coming out of the executive session. So I will make a motion. I would like to make a motion to nominate the candidate Ellen Archer to the board of trustees, effective May 1st 2022. Can I have a second? Right. Dee, thank you very much. All right. Can I have a show of hands for those approving the nomination of Ellen Archer? All right. Laura, let me know if you're good with the count.

Laura Jagodzinski:

I'm good.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay. Thank you. So moved, we have nominated Ellen Archer effective May 1st, 2022. And Henry I'm designating you to reach out to Ellen to let her know, and that we'll be getting documents her way. Laura, I guess... Do you coordinate that with Jamie or does Jamie just do it? We'll talk. Okay.

Laura Jagodzinski:

We'll talk.

Mariya Hurwitz:

All right. Let me know if I can help in any way. All right. So let's move on to our rest of the agenda. Moving on to reports. Jamie, do you have anything to add to your director's report?

Jamie:

No, not at this time.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay. Does anybody have any questions for Jamie on her report? Okay. Secretary report. Laura, did you have anything to discuss? I know there was no report needed, but do you have anything to discuss regarding secretary business?

Laura Jagodzinski:

Nothing to add.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Nothing. Okay. Any questions for the secretary? All right. Treasurer. Henry, do you have any verbal report you wanted [crosstalk 00:02:02] from the treasurers?

Henry:

Yeah, so everybody got a copy of the financial report and it's just showing that current year to date, we are at negative \$39,436. And the bulk of that was an increase in payroll, the change in staff and the payout to Ashley and the additional benefits and the building reserve, which we'd never had before was put into the expense line, as well as the opera expenses. So it's a little bit for financial bookkeeping reasons. It looks like we have a loss, but really all that money has not been spent. The membership is

even to the same period of last year. So the other income was the book sale has brought in additional funds that we didn't have in the past. And that's the investment, I'm sorry. That's the treasurer's report.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay. Thanks Henry. Does anybody have any questions regarding the financials or Henry's report? No?

Okay. Thank you. I'm going to be right back to you Henry investment committee.

Henry:

Sure. So the investment balance at the end of March was \$1 172,450. And that was an increase of \$12,600 from the end of February. So we went up in March. The portfolio still is doing well, considering the ups and downs of the market. And so that's the investment report.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Questions for Henry? Okay. Anything further to discuss for nominating committee Henry?

Henry:

Not at this time.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay. Thank you. Any questions? No? Okay. All right. Fundraising reports, I'll start with you, Laura, do you have anything to add to your reports?

Laura Jagodzinski:

Sure. Laura Jagodzinski. A couple of things just to note in terms of progress, Jamie and I have been thinking through a change to the way we do the silent auction and Jamie suggested using bid numbers instead of people writing down their names. So we're going give that a shot for the soiree and we're working out the logistics of that. But that's something that we've not done before. I know from checking people out, it really helps a lot in checking people out. Let's see...

Laura Jagodzinski:

What is important to bring to your attention. So I'd like to just cover and reinforce how you can help with the soiree. So I encourage everybody to sell five tickets to the soiree. Similar with the golden ticket, Jamie has envelopes with five tickets in it and a log sheet. So I encourage you to sell five tickets. If you choose to buy them yourself, I encourage you to give them away because what makes the event a success is attendance. Ticket sales are only about 40% of our total income for the budget. So we want people to be there and have fun. I'll also ask that you promote the event, try and encourage your friends, families, and neighbors to buy tickets. I have additional flyers. I may reach out to a couple of people individually. I put up flyers in Sherman and in New Fairfield, but if we can put up flyers elsewhere, that would be great, and I'll leave some with Jamie for you to pick up.

Laura Jagodzinski:

The other thing that we ask the trustees to help with, one of the things that everybody really likes about the soiree is all the food. It'll be different this year, and that'll be handheld food. But all the food is donated by friends, families, and trustees. Lauren is overseeing the food. So she'll be reaching out to everybody to see how you might be able to help us in providing some... Pass around foods. And then I'll

send a schedule out when we have one, but we can really use a fair amount of help in set up, moving furniture, clearing out the barn, things like that. We do that on Thursday afternoon. And then on Friday afternoon, we clear out the actual space in the library. And at the end of the event, we have to get the circulation space back to normal because the library opens up for patrons on Saturday. So I'll send a little schedule out and ask you, if you can find some time and give us a hand, we'd really appreciate it. And we're also going to sell the Biblio Blend Coffee. And that's it. Any questions?

Mariya Hurwitz:

Jeff.

Laura Jagodzinski:

Yes, Jeff?

Jeff:

So I got an email today about the golf event, but I think the soiree is probably similar. So I clicked through to it and it said go to the library website to buy tickets. And when I went to the library website, I really wasn't sure how to buy tickets. I've gone back and it looks like there's a banner. When you open up it says, "Welcome to the library." It's red. And then after some period of time, it switches to the soiree and then after some period of time, it switches to the golf event. And then you click on the golf event and you can buy your tickets, but I didn't know that. And I got there and I just went down the page, looking for it. I couldn't find anywhere to buy golf tickets. Because I was ready to send it out to the people I know who want to do it, but... So maybe there-

Mariya Hurwitz:

I have a thought. Jamie, I had Ashley slow down the banner, or maybe I had you slow down the banner at one point because there was something we needed it to be slower for. I'm wondering if it's too slow and we can speed it up again?

Jamie:

Yeah. I frankly don't think that even matters. I'll just change the links again. You guys don't even know the number of hours that were spent doing all sorts of little, really tiny things, just like that. And it clearly missed one. So I will change that.

Laura Jagodzinski:

Let me just answer Jeff's question because Lauren had the same question. And maybe it'll be easier if I just send it in an email, but there's numerous places to be able to get to buy a ticket. Across the very top of the banner where it says programs, right, it lists fundraising and there's a button for Soiree '22 and The Golf '22, you can get there through going through the calendar because it's on the calendar and there's a link to that page. So several pages, Jamie and I talked about potentially changing the homepage on the library. Right now there's a lot of text about what the hours are for the library is open, right underneath that carousel. And maybe changing that to just say the library is open normal hours and then add something about, "Click here for the golf tickets." And, "Click here for the soiree tickets."

Jamie:

Yeah. The problem with that is making sure not to upset Marie and the other problem is... And Jeff's completely right, people expect everything to be fed to them on a platter. They're not going to hunt and peck. And especially when we're asking them to spend money. So, that is something that I'm just going to... Another thing I'm going to have to fix.

John:

Jeff's whole thing in terms of fixing I'm on the page now and under Sherman Library Annual Golf Tournament it says for more information, there's a link. And when you link to it [inaudible 00:11:07] says, "There's an error, we couldn't find the page you're looking for."

Jamie:

Okay. I don't know where you are on the website, John.

John:

I went to fundraising events, [inaudible 00:11:19] fundraising events.

Jamie:

Yeah. I don't like that page, but that's a comment and a discussion for another time. We have a lot of-

John:

Yeah. I'm not raising a question about the format, but just the [crosstalk 00:11:31]-

Jamie:

[inaudible 00:11:32] pages on our website.

Laura Jagodzinski:

I got it. John it's Laura Jagodzinski. John, I see that, and I know where it's broken. So if you look at... You're on the web page? If you look at the very top where it says services programs, if you go right to the bottom of the list is Soiree '22 and Golf Tournament '22. And then we can fix that broken link on the fundraising events page.

Jamie:

Yeah, Laura is right, but Jeff and John are also right. And we have a lot of unnecessary busyness on our website that just confuses people and creates unnecessary work for the people who are updating it. I mean, I spent all day on Friday fixing tiny little things associated with golf when we were supposed to be closed, so. It's up [crosstalk 00:12:24]-

Jeff:

[inaudible 00:12:24] to put a button?

Jamie:

There are buttons, there are lots of buttons.

Jeff:

Well, I'm just saying, the good... The nice email went out to everybody and it says, "Click here." And it takes you to the homepage of the library and it's not shooting you in the face click here. Because we're asking people to pay \$300, that would seem to me like.

Jamie:

I understand.

Jeff:

... let's send them straight to that place where they can spend \$300. Because I couldn't find it. I'm board member, I looked for it. There are other people who might say, "Screw this." And just leave it, so.

Jamie:

I understand.

Jeff:

[inaudible 00:13:01] my suggestion.

Jamie:

There's only so many hours in a day, but I do understand and you are correct. Speaking of which, since Lauren isn't here, the golf fundraiser is up and last week, even though the Historical Society said that they would not be doing their barn sale this year, they changed their mind. And so there was a big scramble on my part this week to put that back in motion on our end and get all the advertising and everything relating to that out as well. So our book sale is back on.

Irit:

Oh good book sale too? Great. Yep. That's great. Hopefully the weather will be great Laura. Right?

Laura Jagodzinski:

Hope so.

Jamie:

I hope so.

Mariya Hurwitz:

All right. Does anybody else have any questions for Laura? Because I think Irit's got an update as well.

Irit:

I don't have a general update, but Lauren was supposed to be here with us today, but could not be and asked me to cover what's been happening so far with the golf event, but it's all right here in the report. Obviously there's a little, few little bugs in the system, but Jamie managed to get, at least, it up on the new program that we have. So the save-for-date has gone on and obviously just like the soiree, she wants all of us to help spread the word. A flyer went out, it would be nice if we could just forward it to people. And she is encouraging trustees to sponsor a whole, like many of us did last year. But again, it's just encouraged. And she said she's working on sponsorship packages with Jamie because I had asked

Lauren to be clear on, if we're going to help get sponsors, we need to be able to tell them what they're going to get for their money. So she responded and said she's meeting with you Jamie on that. So is that good?

Jamie:

Yes. I had a meeting with her and Al and it was a very productive meeting. We talked about some of the downfalls of the... Not downfalls, but missed opportunities to make the golf fundraiser as successful as it could be. And so they were very pleased with the things that I'd done and my suggestions, and you can see the different sponsorship levels on the registration page. And I don't think this is the time or the place for it, but Lauren and I are in discussion about talking to board members regarding how to discuss some of those options with potential sponsors.

Irit:

Okay. So that will be forthcoming at some-

Jamie:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Irit:

Okay, great. Okay. Oh, so we can look on the website in the meantime and see what the various sponsorship levels are?

Jamie:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Irit:

Okay, great. That's it for, I think, us [inaudible 00:16:31].

Mariya Hurwitz:

Thanks. Did anybody have any questions for Laura or Irit? Or Jamie? Okay, great. Let's see. All right. So I think that brings us to unfinished business. Because I know John, you're going to discuss programming committee and updates on unfinished business. So I am going to turn it over to you for your programming community survey discussion.

John:

Okay. Jamie, could I get screen sharing?

Jamie:

You should have it already John.

John:

Oh, okay. Oh yeah. Okay. Can you see that?

Mariya Hurwitz:

Yes.

John:

Okay. So we've been working on the survey and we circulated the text and got several comments [inaudible 00:17:25]. Laura noted that one of them somehow or other got missed. So I just wanted to run it by you, which is in item nine. What additional services, if any, we would like to see and would yourself use? She suggested adding an item about more types of technology with an example, and then a request to specify. Any concerns about that? And the example she gave was MakerSpace. I don't know if... I mean, I have no idea what MakerSpace is. And I think part of my concern about the item altogether was, well, if we specify anything, that it may confuse more than help them.

Laura Jagodzinski:

This is Laura J. So John, I think that's fine if you leave it blank. I mean, you could say a 3D printer. I just know that those are some of the items that were mentioned during the board retreat.

John:

Okay. Any objection to adding that to number nine?

Dee :

Only that you need to have somebody who knows how to do it.

John:

Well, I mean these, these are community interests and concerns. I mean, for everything, we'd have to have people who are going to be able to do it.

Dee :

Cool

Jamie:

And equipment if it's a 3D printer.

Dee :

Right. And money.

Jamie:

Right. [crosstalk 00:18:56]

Mariya Hurwitz:

Good information though. This is Mariya. What if 15, 20 people list that item? It'd be nice to know that people are thinking of that.

John:

The only other thing was that in number four, "How do you currently use library?" It says, "Use the computer." And then number five, "How important are the following services?" It says... Where is it

here? "Access to computers and printers and fax [inaudible 00:19:23] they should be brought into alignment with each other." That is the computers [inaudible 00:19:29] printers and fax should be added to use the computer.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Yes.

John:

They tried to make the wording consistent. Okay. That's it when the [crosstalk 00:19:40]-

Mariya Hurwitz:

I think Ro has her hand raised, John.

John:

Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead Ro.

Rosemarie:

Am I off of mute?

John:

Yes.

Rosemarie:

I don't know if I understood correctly, but I think leaving it blank and just asking for suggestions is the best idea. I would vote for that just because it... We will get more ideas and we're not... It doesn't make it sound like we're committing to offering anything.

John:

Well and the [inaudible 00:20:12] technology.

Rosemarie:

Correct. Yes.

John:

Okay. I don't think it's a major issue [inaudible 00:20:18]. Okay, the other... There are a series of some issues related to the process. Publicity-

Jamie:

Wait, John. Before you go to process, I wanted to bring up questions four, five, and six, if you could scroll up. So four, it says, "Come to the library due to attend a library program,." And everyone might decide that that's splitting hairs, but we actually haven't offered that in two years. So I don't know if we want to say "as applicable" or something like that. Just [crosstalk 00:21:01] maybe not... Maybe that's too much. But, something that's mentioned in both four, five and six is, "Attend library family activity and fundraising events." And this is an issue that we have come up against this year with the soiree and the



discussion around the COVID requirements for the event in that there were a number of community members that said, "You can't do that because the women's soiree is a community activity that the library puts on for the community in appreciation of them supporting the library."

Jamie:

And that is not the case. It is a fundraiser. I would say a family activity would be something more along the lines of a program where it was like parent and child flower arranging or something. So I personally think that it would be in our best interest in terms of what I have to do and what the board has to do to disambiguate those two ideas in people's heads, that they're not one and the same and they shouldn't be lumped together. And all the examples given are fundraisers. None of them are family activities.

John:

Well, I think-

Mariya Hurwitz:

Can we just make it and/or?

John:

Or could it... If it said "library, family and fundraising events" or "family events and fundraising activities", something like that because they are all family events, they may not be family activities in the sense of hands on kind of stuff and so forth. And I [crosstalk 00:22:50]-

Jamie:

I just want to remove that notion that because we are doing a fundraising event and your family might participate in it, that it is somehow a service that we are providing for you and therefore we cannot have separate rules than regular library services that we provide for free.

John:

I don't think you-

Jamie:

You see what I mean? We just-

John:

We can solve COVID policies in a survey. I think that we're asking about the substance of them and how we [crosstalk 00:23:19]-

Jamie:

Okay. Then for maybe... Perhaps we give some examples of activities that aren't fundraisers as well? I'm just trying to... I mean, I have to deal with this feed on the ground every day.

John:

Well, my concern, Jamie, is that if we simply say fundraising events, that a lot of people may not see the Holiday Gala, the [Duck Fest 00:23:40]. From the perspective of the community, they're community

events or family events. It's from our perspective that they're fundraising events. And so I think that [inaudible 00:23:52] the issue is to talk about those events, the Holiday Gala, the Women's Soiree and so forth. We're not saying [inaudible 00:23:59] I seek out for fundraising events. So I think it's more to describe them using both terms in a single item, rather than trying to split the difference between them, because I think that's too confusing.

Jamie:

Well, right. What I'm saying is my concern has been the fact that people have misinterpreted what they are, and that has been a problem in dealing with people in the library. I'm just saying, that's my concern.

John:

I don't know. Anybody else have any feelings on this? Because I don't want to go on too long.

Dee :

No, but I would go with what Jamie says, because she's boots on the ground.

John:

Okay.

Dee :

Or high heels, as it usually is, but...

Irit:

I mean, on the other hand, if it's just one or two people that were-

Jamie:

It's not one or two people trust me.

Irit:

Okay.

John:

Okay. We'll make them separate events. We'll turn them into two separate things.

Jamie:

I mean, we can make them separate or we can just include others examples. I'm just saying that right now, it looks like they're one and the same and they're [crosstalk 00:25:10]... We understand that they can overlap, but they are also-

John:

What would you use as an example for the family activity, that's not a fundraising event?

Jamie:

Parent and child flower arranging.

John:

I'm sorry?

Jamie:

So there's a program... There's someone town who does flower arranging and they really want the library to host a family activity that's parent and child flower arranging.

John:

Okay.

Jamie:

I mean, it's not something we've done and people might think it's weird but-

John:

If we put in the example it'll cover the two different things, if that's okay. Yes? No?

Laura Jagodzinski:

Well, we've never done it. So it seems strange to put it in this survey. I don't know.

Jamie:

Ro has her hand up.

Rosemarie:

I think I hear what Jamie is saying, that people come in and they're thinking it's a community event and should have a set of rules around it, when in reality it's a fundraising event and we get to set the rules around that as we want. So I think the wording... What I think I hear her saying is that the wording makes it sound like it's all in one. And the reality is the family activities... I don't know, I might be wrong on this, but when I read family activities, I think of things that would be covered under attending a library program.

Jamie:

Exactly.

Rosemarie:

Because they're library programs, right? They're not a separate family event. Everyone knows they can bring their family to Duck Fest. We don't have to say that, that's a fundraising event and they all know that. A family activity or program is a library program and that's under... That's already covered under, "Come to the library and you attend a library program." Right? [crosstalk 00:27:12] off on that.

Dee :

Could it not just be and/or fundraising events?

John:

Or how about if it was done at... Instead of family activity, which may be a misleading phrase in this context, if it said community/fundraising events.

Jamie:

No, I think community, again, falls into that pitfall. If you were going to say-

Dee :

We need separate them.

Jamie:

I think the easiest thing to do is separate them, but if people are really opposed to separating them, then I would say family events and fundraising events, and we'd have to give a few legitimate examples of family events that are not fundraisers. Just [crosstalk 00:27:53]-

Laura Jagodzinski:

I would like to know who... If people are going to attend fundraising events, period. I do think that should be its own category now that [crosstalk 00:28:02]-

Irit:

Yeah, I think they should be separated too John. And I think that would solve... Sorry, John.

John:

It's fine. [crosstalk 00:28:11] I just don't understand... I think that most of the, what we're calling family activities, most people would think of within the framework of programs. And I think that the things like the Holiday Gala and so forth, although they are fundraising events, most people are coming to them as community events. Not as not because, "Oh, I can't wait to go to an event where the library raises money." They're saying the library does some things that are fun in the community.

Laura Jagodzinski:

But in terms of the survey, do we... Does that need to be pointed out? That's more, in my mind, a marketing thing or a presentation thing. In the terms of the survey we want to know, do you like to come to these fundraisers? I mean...

John:

But my point is that I don't think people are coming to them because they're fundraisers, they're coming to them because they're fun.

Laura Jagodzinski:

But I want to know if you want to come as a fundraiser so that you'll [inaudible 00:29:14] [crosstalk 00:29:15] that's what I want to know.

Jamie:

I want to make sure that you know that you cannot... That people understand that there can be a separate expectation in set of rules for events that are after hours outside regular library operation

events, because they're different. They're not one and the same. And they're seeing... When we use that verbiage, they're saying, "Well, these are one and the same." And that is my [crosstalk 00:29:47]-

John:

[crosstalk 00:29:47] an example of a family activity that was not a fundraising event that was one that we actually have, that would help. That would make it easy to combine the two into a single item.

Jamie:

So then maybe we don't for now. I think maybe people realize that when it comes to any library event, whether it's free or for fundraising, that all are welcome and bring your family, bring your friends, bring your neighbors.

Irit:

I feel think it's a little ambiguous, John, where it says "to attend a library program" or "to attend a library family activity." I don't understand the difference between that.

John:

No, I'm agreeing but my concern is, if we take out library... The family activity part, then the choice is to attend library fundraising events. And, as I said, I don't think people say, "Oh, it's really important to me to attend library fundraising events."

Jamie:

It could be.

John:

Well, it could be, but I don't think that's why most people go to those events. So I think that calling them community and... Community/fundraising events or something like that.

Irit:

Yeah. Maybe call it that, community [crosstalk 00:31:12]-

Dee :

And/or, and/or, and/or.

Irit:

Community/fundraising events.

Dee :

And/or.

Laura Jagodzinski:

I think that's what Jamie's saying, is that she doesn't want it to say community because then it's convoluting the [crosstalk 00:31:26]-

Jamie:

People are getting confused. And I think that people realize that fundraising can be fun, but it is fundraising. There's no lying about what it is. Everybody knows what it is. They know why they do it. And sometimes they do it because it's fun. But it is what it is [crosstalk 00:31:46]-

Mariya Hurwitz:

How about attend fundraising events/activities, and-

Dee :

No, that doesn't help at all.

John:

I think that, I mean, either we combine them or we simply say fundraising events and assume the family activities are under programs.

Irit:

I'm in favor of [crosstalk 00:32:07]. I vote for the latter option.

Dee :

Me too.

John:

Okay. Is that acceptable to everybody? [crosstalk 00:32:18]

Mariya Hurwitz:

Heads up, John it's been 16, [crosstalk 00:32:22] 17.

John:

No, that's why I'm was feeling a little impatient. Okay. These other things actually, many of them can be pushed off till next meeting if need be. There's some issues about how we do publicity. We had a number of possibilities and in particular, we rejected the idea of ads in the papers as not very effective and of postcards to town residents as overly costly-

Rosemarie:

Expensive.

John:

There's a problem of, since the primary survey will be in an electronic format and it's very easy to complete online, but that does mean that people who are uncomfortable doing that, we need to have a process by which they can turn in written ones. But if so, that means that there's going to need to be some trustee work to transcribe them into the electronic format. And then there's just some scheduling related issues. So all of that, I know we're running out of time. So can we pick those up next time, Mariya, rather than trying to settle them now?

Mariya Hurwitz:

Yeah, John, what's your goal on distributing the survey?

John:

What do you mean? What's the [crosstalk 00:33:42]-

Mariya Hurwitz:

Time wise.

John:

Somewhere here, it says, I think. Wait a minute. Oh, we didn't come up with a hard answer for that. Oh, advertising and the link and hard copies made available in July. And then in August, I mean, again, the question of how long to allow for responses, we haven't come up with an answer on.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay. I mean, I think if it's July, then you still... If we do this early May, wrap it up, probably still have time. But I [crosstalk 00:34:27]-

John:

I mean, realistically, since all of this is a next fiscal year thing, we can't subscribe to SurveyMonkey until the next fiscal year begins. And then it's going to take me a few days to put the material [crosstalk 00:34:41], SurveyMonkey format. So I think realistically we're not going to be able to get the thing out until sometime in July. So there's some time for solving these other issues.

Mariya Hurwitz:

All right. This is Mariya again. Laura, we can do our agenda in any order we want. And so to ensure John gets his due time, we could move this unfinished business item earlier in the agenda, correct?

Laura Jagodzinski:

Yes.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay. Does that work for you John?

John:

Yep.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay.

John:

Very good. Thank you.

Laura Jagodzinski:

Thanks John.

Mariya Hurwitz:

All right. Thank you very much. Laura. I noted no update on liquor liability, correct?

Laura Jagodzinski:

I have not reached out to John.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay. No worries. But if there are no questions, we'll move on to new business. Okay. Jamie, any COVID update to provide? And if not, that's fine. It was on the agenda.

Jamie:

Yes, the staff would very much so like the COVID committee to reconvene again. And I think we can discuss all the business associated with that at another time.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Okay. Any questions on COVID for Jamie? Okay. All right, Jamie, then let's move on to promoting the non library events and I'll give the floor to you.

Jamie:

Sure. So it is library policy that the library does not promote other institutions events. And there's a few reasons for that. Some of them are because we want to promote our events. Some of them are because then the person who's in charge of that would spend all of their time promoting everyone else in town's events. And part of it is for legal purposes. And so there is a group in town that came to me, one person reached out and said, "Bill Garrison has passed away. We know that he was very involved with the library. We want to do something for him and we want the library to promote it." And I thought, "Oh gee, well, this is a conundrum because Bill Garrison did an awful lot for the library, but we don't promote other institutions events." So I thought about it a while and I thought, well, I want... This is something I think I should bring to the board, but this is also something I need more information on.

Jamie:

So the next person who had more information, I spoke with them at length and I explained the situation that the library doesn't do that and why the library doesn't do that. And I said to them, "This might be something my board wants to do, and this is how we can not break the law or our own policy and do that, is the library can be a co-sponsor to the event." And they said, "Well, what would that mean?" And I said, "Well, that would involve planning and publicity and sharing expenses." And they said, "You know what, no, we don't want to change our publicity. We don't want to say the library is co-sponsoring it We get it, we understand that it's against the law to share your subscriber list with purposes that people have not signed up for."

Jamie:

That's a whole nother talk we can all get into sometime, if you want to. "We'd actually rather you not publicize the even because we don't want to share sponsorship of the event." But I wanted to let you guys know that and know that we were approached and this entity is hosting the event at another



nonprofit in town. From what they told me, that entity is not a co-sponsor either, they're simply hosting the event and they really want ownership of it.

Jamie:

So originally my issue was how do we try and become co-sponsors if that's what you want? But it's now become very... So that's when it was put on the agenda, but it has since become very clear to me that they don't want to share that. And so...

Mariya Hurwitz:

Irit, did you have a question?

Irit:

Who is the "they" that doesn't want the library to co-sponsor? Is this Bill Garrison's family? Or-

Jamie:

No, this is a nonprofit in town that Bill Garrison was very involved in for a very long time.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Henry.

Henry:

Yeah. So if you want me to share, this organization came to the JCC and asked if they could have a Memorial for Bill Garrison. And because I was friends with Bill Garrison, from day one on the investment committee, the JCC had decided to donate their space and we're getting no... They're just giving a donation and that... It's their event. So it's their Memorial for Bill [inaudible 00:40:28], so.

Jamie:

Right. So at the end of the day, after this conversation, this said, "Honestly, we really just wanted to use you to generate all the publicity. And we understand that's legally not something that you can do without being co-sponsor. And we really don't want you to be. We want this to be our thing.

Irit:

Okay.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Barb, did you have a question?

Barbara:

I'm just starting to understand, because it was a little muddy there to begin with. It seems like what they may have wanted also, as you said, was access to our member list. Because they probably have a list that they're going off of because of the organization that Bill belonged to. And that what they hoped was to maybe merge that with the library list to see how many additional people they could invite.

Jamie:

And we legally can't do that, and that would create such a-

Barbara:

No, I understand that.

Jamie:

... problem for us with other organizations in town. That would just-

Barbara:

I don't know if we would want to... Well, they don't want us to promote it or be co-sponsor?

Jamie:

No, but they are... Sherman's a small town and everybody works together and they would be delighted if anyone from the library board who worked with Bill would want to go and celebrate him. And if they wanted to say something, that's great. There was an issue of them, and this could just be a mistake in language, inviting people who were formerly associated with the library, who are no longer, to speak on behalf of the library. And that again may just have been a linguistic mistake on their part, I don't know. That would not be appropriate, obviously. It would be absolutely appropriate for people to come, associated with any organization in town, and speak of their experiences in working with him, but not as a representative for any institution that they're no longer with.

Dee :

So no is the answer, right? Just playing no, Uh-huh (affirmative), we're not doing it.

Jamie:

Well, essentially they told us no, but I... Originally, it wasn't a no, which is how it got on the agenda. But then I felt it should stay on the agenda so that everyone was fully aware and that there are no hard feelings and this is how they would like it to be. And everyone's invited. And if you knew Bill, please go.

Barbara:

Okay, [crosstalk 00:43:27]. Barbara, and I don't know if this is a good idea. It may be a terrible idea. Would they be adverse to our sending an email, to the people that have given us permission to send them an email, that explains... That says we are sorry to hear about the passing of Bill Garrison, who was always a very great volunteer for the library. And that we understand that there will be a Memorial service for him at...

Jamie:

We can't do that by law because we're not co-sponsoring the event.

Barbara:

No, we're not co-sponsoring [crosstalk 00:44:08]-

Jamie:

But that wouldn't be any different than us telling people to go to a church service or something, which we can't do.

Barbara:

But the difference is that he did serve on our investment committee for many, many years [crosstalk 00:44:22]-

Henry:

And they donated a lot of money to the library.

Barbara:

And they donated a lot of money to the organization. So is there any way that we could mention this? Like in a newsletter, for instance, the people that give us permission to send them the newsletter. Just mentioning that he was a great friend of the library for many years, served our investment committee for many years and that we understand that there will be a service for him.

Jamie:

Because we're not hosting the event, and because we're not co-sponsoring the event, legally we can't. The JCC could, because they could say, "We're not hosting this event, but it's happening at our premise." But legally we can't. And if... Well, we don't want to cross that line.

Henry:

I just want you to know that Millie is going to be speaking at the event.

Jamie:

Right. And I think she absolutely should, but as a spokesperson for herself and her relationship with Bill, not as a representative for the library.

Henry:

So you're saying that since I'm the chairman of the investment committee, I cannot speak my relationship with Bill? That seems [crosstalk 00:45:42]-

Barbara:

Well I think you absolutely can, Henry.

Jamie:

No, you absolutely can. And you can even say, "I'm speaking on behalf of the library." Because you are currently associated with the library.

Henry:

Oh, okay. I just wanted-

Jamie:

Yeah.

Barbara:

It would be wonderful too.

Jamie:

[crosstalk 00:45:57] It would be fantastic, actually. Thank you very much if you would.

Henry:

Yeah. They asked me to speak on behalf of the investment committee, because Bill was so active. Actually he helped form the investment committee back in the day before my time.

Jamie:

Yeah. I heard that. I think that would be absolutely wonderful. And thank you very much, Henry.

Henry:

Yeah. And I think as many members of the library board should try to attend because Bill and Helen were very big donors. If you go into the library, you see their name. And he was such a gentle soul and she is such a lovely woman that has always done well for the library volunteer. Am I correct Laura? That you did a lot of volunteering for the library?

Laura Jagodzinski:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Henry:

Yeah.

Laura Jagodzinski:

I know she attends events. I know they've been very generous to the library.

Henry:

Right. Yeah. So, no good [crosstalk 00:47:03]-

Barbara:

Barbara. That may solve the problem Henry, because I really believe in my heart that with what he did for this library, should be recognized in some way. And if you are allowed to speak as chairman of the investment committee and talk about what he did for us, I think that's extremely important and appropriate.

Henry:

Oh, good. Okay. Yep.

Laura Jagodzinski:

It's Laura. I completely agree, Henry. It would be fantastic if you could do that.

Henry:

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Yeah. Will definitely do that.

Mariya Hurwitz:

Thank you. Are there any other questions, concerns around the topic of promoting non-library events?  
Sorry, my dog's barking.

Laura Jagodzinski:

It's Laura. I just want to clarify. It's Laura J. So Jamie, the question is the e-newsletter, our e-newsletter distribution list needs to be used for the purposes only of library programs, because that's what people have signed up for and that's how they said that they'd be used? Is that the understanding?

Jamie:

So programs, fundraising events, and if... Say the library were to be closed because of weather or construction or something like that. But yes, library only.

Laura Jagodzinski:

Okay. Thank you.

Jamie:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mariya Hurwitz:

Did anybody else have their hand raised? Ro, you're good?

Rosemarie:

I'm good. But I'm going to have to go soon.

Mariya Hurwitz:

No, we're done. That was the last item on the agenda. Okay. So if there are no further comments or questions, I'm going to make a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM.

Barbara:

Second, Third, fourth.

Mariya Hurwitz:

All right. Thank you all.

Laura Jagodzinski:

Thank you. Goodnight.

Henry:

Goodnight. Thank you.

