

**APPROVED MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF
LIFSPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS
3/22/2022**

PRESENT

Susan Poretz, President
Natalee Rosenstein, Vice-President
Maureen Bybee, Secretary
Peg Nau, Treasurer
Laura Phillips, Registrar & Task Force for Online Learning
Connie Cuttle, Coordinator of Curriculum Committee
Susan Davis, Membership Coordinator
Susan Krompfer, Program Support Coordinator
Colleen Greco, Co-Coordinator of Events and Services
Maureen Huben, Member-at-Large and Events & Services Co-Coordinator
Diane McDowell, Member-at-Large
Anne Miller, Member-at-Large
Leslie Surprenant, Member-at-Large
Rich Davis, *Ad Hoc* AV Committee, Coordinator

ABSENT

Lee Gable, Member-at-Large and Class Managers Coordinator

Susan P called this special meeting of the Lifespring Board via Zoom to order at 9:31 a.m.

Susan began with a complimentary note from Marvelene Beach, a former LS VP, regarding the Spring 2022 course offerings and followed with inspirational quotes regarding the opportunity that lies in difficulty and growth precipitated by adversity.

This meeting was called to address the issues raised in a second meeting with Rahel Gruenberg, Executive Director of the WJC held on 3/14/22 regarding our future use of space at the WJC.

Rahel confirmed that these policies are firmly in place for the coming year:

- the WJC will require proof of vaccination status for entry to the building with no exceptions,
- social distancing will be required,
- masking requirements will likely follow the CDC guidelines at the time of classes,
- doors to the building must be locked at all times,
- most likely the kitchen will be available,
- equipment other than the Zoom specific equipment may be used by Lifespring,
- the WJC Janitor (Carl) is now full time and available to assist LS

- classrooms must be vacated and restored to WJC requirements for their Family School program of 14 students using multiple classrooms by 3:30 p.m.
- the children in the Family School are not screened for vaccination status.
- the WJC intends to begin a full time daily preschool with additional child care in the fall of 2023 which will mean that there will be no space for LS at the WJC from that date forward.

Susan P then asked the Board to consider the questions of Lifespring's purpose, philosophy, affiliation, primary home, and programming possibilities as we discuss our immediate and longer term responses to the impending loss of a central meeting space.

Susan P. has appointed an emergency *ad hoc* committee of herself, Natalee, Susan D., Laura and Connie to continue working toward a plan for the future which will be initially guided by today's Board discussion.

The following ideas and concerns were brought forward:

- The WJC was confident that repairs would be completed in time for fall 2022 classes since they are doing less extensive work on the building than originally planned.
- Move some or all classes to another day.
- There were some reservations about Monday as an alternate day considering that many people take extended weekends out of town.
- Reduce number of classes on Wednesday and/or changing class times on Wednesday to allow an earlier ending of classes so that the changeover to the WJC Family School is easier.
- The question of additional or different fees if we use the building for two days was not addressed with the WJC.
- Moving in person classes to Monday and digital classes to Wednesday would give us the 2022-23 year at WJC while we explore other venues for the future.
- The work of the Space Committee reported at our last Board Meeting can be reviewed as a starting point for what might be or is not available.
- Fred Costello could be helpful to us in locating space and advocating for us with venues in Saugerties. Can we get the Town "in the loop" at this point?
- Offer fewer classes in rooms not needed by WJC on Wednesday afternoon.
- Develop a system for vaccination screening that does not require personal confrontation at the door e.g. special Lifespring identification badges.
- Offer only two periods of classes on Wednesday with a longer break between to preserve the opportunity for socialization.
- Some members are also members at other LLI's so selecting an additional or alternate class day should consider class days at Bard and New Paltz in particular.
- The WJC seems flexible and cooperative for the coming year so there will be room to negotiate with them for this year giving us time to search for the future.

- Ideas for reexamining the Mount Marion or St. Mary's school were proposed.
- Proposals to rent from or affiliate with Ulster County Community College were offered.
- Might LS Members already planned for Wednesdays to be their course days making it difficult for them to change to another day?
- If necessary we can remain fully virtual for the fall with the exception of two courses which could be accommodated outside of the WJC.
- Other LLI's and senior organizations are beginning to meet in person so we might be less appealing if we do not have in person availability.
- Inquire about Bard's current experiences with in person classes
- We do not need to respond to WJC or commit to WJC immediately.
- We must all be alert to space opportunities and convey any possibilities to the new committee quickly.
- Are there benefits to affiliating with a college?
- We do have benefits being affiliated with Saugerties. Are we really able to develop an independent school with affiliation with a larger organization?
- Is the old Zena School in Woodstock now owned by the Lineman Institute a possibility?
- Can we consider hotels with conference space?
- Is there usable space at the tech center?
- There is much to juggle as we continue to face the unknowns of COVID variants in addition to our desire for in person meeting space both short and long term.

Natalee asked for a sense of the meeting regarding authorization for the emergency *Ad Hoc* Subcommittee for Space Issues to go forward with its work of investigating alternate long term space and to report back to the Board.

Susan P adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Maureen Bybee,
Secretary