MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SPECIAL LEISURE SERVICES FOUNDATION HYBRID MEETING ON THE 21st OF JANUARY 2025

Chairman Gattuso called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Those present: Linda Ballantine, Amy Charlesworth, Bret Fahnstrom, Christina Ferraro, Anthony Gattuso, Jim Houser, Terri Oates, Tom Perkins (arrived 3:32pm), Rafal Piontkowski, Kevin Romejko, Erika Strojinc (arrived 3:55pm)

Absent: Thomas Campone, Al Crook, Dennis Hanson

Also present were Anne Kiwala, Superintendent of Development; Andrea Griffin and Rachel Hubsch, Superintendents of Recreation; Tom Draper, Superintendent of Marketing and Communications; Liz Thomas, Foundation Manager; Megan O'Brien, Events Coordinator; Laren Spears, intern; Michael Manos, intern; and Jessica Vasalos, Administrative Manager, as recording secretary.

Introduction of Guests
Superintendent Hubsch noted new Recreation Specialist Jenay Harrington was absent due to illness. Michael Manos and Lauren Spears introduced themselves as the new recreation interns.

Superintendent Kiwala recognized Foundation Manager Liz Thomas for her 20 years of service to NWSRA.

Approval of Agenda for January 21, 2025
Chairman Gattuso requested a motion to approve the agenda for January 21, 2025. Trustee Oates made the motion, and Trustee Ballantine seconded the motion to approve the January 21, 2025 agenda. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Conflict of Interest
No conflicts of interest stated.

Approval of Minutes for December 10, 2024
Chairman Gattuso requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2024, meeting. Trustee Fahnstrom made the motion, and Trustee Ballantine seconded the motion to approve the Minutes from the December 10, 2024 Board Meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Correspondence
Written:
None

Oral:
None

SLSF Reports

1. 2024 Year-End Report – Superintendent Kiwala reviewed the year-end report highlighting the events revenue in 2024 surpassed 2023 events revenue by over $70,000, with nearly 200 more event attendees compared to last year. Breakdown of Grants given to NWSRA – total of $350,000 in 2024 with the largest percentage supporting Accessible Transportation this year.
2. 2024 Year-End Fundraising Events Comparison – Events Coordinator O'Brien reviewed financials for 2024 events, stating that all events brought in over the budgeted net revenue with the exception of the Women's Golf Outing and the Arlington Classic Golf Outing. Attendance increased in all events.
3. 2024 Year-End Sponsorship Update – Foundation Manager Thomas reported that sponsorship raised $170,050 in 2024 and is budgeted to raise $178,000 in 2025. To date, the foundation has secured just over $22,000 in sponsorship for 2025. SLSF has seen a decline in participation in virtual campaigns and will not be running them again this year. This revenue will be replaced with paid community volunteer opportunities.
4. 2024 Year-End Grant Report – Superintendent Kiwala reported that the grant application submissions significantly increased in 2024 in an attempt to secure new recurring grantors. $128,400 in grants secured this year with 2 new grantors and 1 recaptured grantor.
5. 2023 vs. 2024 Annual Appeal Comparison – Superintendent Kiwala reported that this year's Spring Appeal raised funds for Accessible Transportation. The two appeals combined raised around $14,600 – which is less than the previous two years despite emailing and mailing to more prospective donors.
6. 2023 vs. 2024 Annual Giving Comparison – Superintendent Kiwala reported that in 2023, more support was given to general programs and this year more to Accessible Transportation. SLSF has historically given less to athletics and inclusion but will be allocating more support to inclusion in 2025. Restricted donations vs. amount granted was reviewed to show how much of the funding for each pillar was raised through restricted donations. SLSF does not typically solicit restricted donations/grants for athletics because we have historically carried over restricted funds year to year due to the success of the Palatine Hills Golf Classic, which raises funds for Athletics.
7. 2025 Strategic Goals – Superintendent Kiwala reviewed the 2025 strategic goals, which are broken down into four focus areas. Some highlights for goals this year include: have business and donor involvement in each of the member park district service areas, collaborate with community organizations through volunteering, increase marketing library / photos /videos, add 2 new trustees to the board, review/update bylaws and board admin policy, and implement a new donor management system.

Marketing and Public Relations

Superintendent Draper reported that the Marketing Department submitted the Gala impact video to the IPRA conference marketing competition. Marketing is currently preparing materials for the Gold Medal Fashion Show and conducting the model

interviews. Marketing also helped promote the collaborative dine to donate event with Bear Family McDonald's in November.

NWSRA Program Report
Superintendent Hubsch reported that 4 winter break camps were held over the holiday break, serving over 60 campers. Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, and Palatine hosted facilities. Athletics programs are active: 2 snowshoers and 4 skiers from NWSRA athletics will be attending winter games in February. One NWSRA snowshoer will attend World Games in Italy. One basketball team made it to state tournament.

Review of Financial Statements
Superintendent Gerea shared that the investment portfolio performed well in 2024 with a 14% gain. The operating account, money market account balances, and income statement were reviewed. No questions were raised.

Superintendent Kiwala reviewed highlights from the 4th quarter income statement, specifically those lines that were outside a 10% variance from budget; including the administration expense increase and reduction in fundraising expenses.

Warrant:
Chairman Gattuso asked for a motion to approve the December Warrant, in the amount of $151,880.91. Trustee Romejko made the motion and Trustee Oates seconded the motion. Upon roll being called, the vote was as follows:

AYA: Linda Ballantine, Amy Charlesworth, Bret Fahnstrom, Anthony Gattuso, Jim Houser, Terri Oates, Tom Perkins, Rafal Piontkowski, Erika Strojinc , Kevin Romejko, Jonathan Salk, Christina Ferraro

NAY: None

The motion carried.

Old Business
Conflict of Interest
Superintendent Kiwala informed the Board that Jess Vasalos will be resending the Docusign for the Conflict of Interest document and all trustees must sign and return.

New Business
Appointment of President
Trustee Romejko addressed the Board stating that at this time Tracey Crawford is on a leave of absence and we will be postponing the appointment of an SLSF President.

Installation of Officers
Chairman Gattuso asked for a motion to approve the installation of officers for the terms of January 2025 through December 2027: Chairman, Anthony Gattuso; Vice Chairman,

Terri Oates; Organizational Treasurer, Kevin Romejko. Trustee Fahnstrom made the motion and Trustee Charlesworth seconded the motion. Upon roll being called, the vote was as follows:

AYA: Linda Ballantine, Amy Charlesworth, Bret Fahnstrom, Anthony Gattuso, Jim Houser, Terri Oates, Tom Perkins, Rafal Piontkowski, Erika Strojinc, Kevin Romejko, Jonathan Salk, Christina Ferraro

NAY: None

The motion carried.

Information/Action Items

2024 Year in Review

At this time the SLSF team presented a year in review for 2024. The presentation is available on the SLSF Directors site.

Board Member Goals for 2025

Superintendent Kiwala stated that she will be reaching out to set individual meetings with trustees to set Board member annual goals.

Board Member Comments

Chairman Gattuso stated that he would like to have more social Board engagements in 2025 to increase Board comradery.

Gold Medal Fashion Show

Event Coordinator O'Brien announced that the event will be on February 23rd and if you would like to volunteer, donate, sponsor, or attend please reach out to staff.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Event Coordinator O'Brien announced that the event will be on March 8th and if you would like to volunteer, donate, sponsor, or attend please reach out to staff.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Gattuso called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 pm. Trustee Ballantine made the motion and Trustee Oates seconded the motion to adjourn. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Kevin R. Romejko

Secretary