



Council Minutes
October 20, 2025
9:30am - 10:39am
Via Zoom

Council & Committee Members Present:

Robert Beaury, Kayla Bell, Carmela Gersbeck, Karen Kane, Collin Lovas, Jill Lundquist, Grace McKay, Chuck Mishaan, Susan Simon, L. Walker, Michael Weinstock, Eleanor Wieder
Guests: Cathy Reinis

Council & Committee Members Absent: Mary McClellan

Call to Order

President Robert Beaury called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes, Council Meeting September 15, 2025 by Carmela, seconded by Collin, All in favor

Secretary Correspondence

Susan reported:

- No postal mail received, all emails received will continue to be forwarded to appropriate

Treasurer's Report

Karen reported:

- Up to date for the 2025-26 fiscal year

Tech Training

Carmela reported:

- Will be providing training when necessary

Business

Collin

- Parking on Campus (Update)
 - A questionnaire will be sent next year to measure interest in carpooling for the Spring '26 semester when people have an idea of their class schedule
 - Request that we look at the initial survey (on shared drive) & make comments/suggestions - he will adjust for the new survey
 - Ask "Do you need pick up & drop off at home?"

- Karen suggested we look for a centralized location in each town for parking/pick-up for those who can & do drive
- Grace asked how we can be sure that the person is a good/legit driver? Although, it is not our responsibility to check their driving record
- Put a disclaimer on website to acknowledge that LLI is not responsible or holds any liability for drivers

Chuck

- Hybrid classes (Update)
 - It seems to be inevitable that this will be needed and there is a small team experimenting with this in the Spring '25 semester
 - Council would like to see a plan before we approve Hybrid Classes
It can't work unless furniture can be removed & we may have to reduce the # of people in the room as well (as discussed at September Council meeting)
 - Chuck & his team will work on this and have a proposal for November meeting

Robert/Jill

- Exit surveys for members that do not renew. (Discussion)
 - Although it was suggested that we send out a survey, general consensus is that just a phone call is the best & most personal way to do it, and this has been successful in the past
 - Carmela has a spreadsheet with notes about survey results

Robert/Karen

- Review and approve annual donations to Bard.
 - Various discussions/suggestions during Council meeting led to the distribution chart (*Appendix A on page 5*)
 - "Bard College Endowment Transfer" will be changed to "TBD" for more flexibility
 - Motion to approve Annual Donations allocation by Michael, seconded by Jill, all in favor
 - Karen will start the transfers/donations next week except for Senior to Senior (May) & Bard Early College (June) upon receipt of documentation

L Walker

- Winter Party - Discussion (*See Appendix B on pages 5,6,7*)
 - No more Blithewood for parties, nor anywhere else on Bard Campus
 - Discussed alternatives listed in Appendix B
 - Although Beekman Arms looks the best for an "elegant" cocktail party from 3-5, do we really want to set a precedence for the future with higher expenses (or perhaps lower expenses with more volunteers)
 - Michael: A fee & higher expenses will annoy many and as a result will not attend
 - Robert: Scrap holiday party for 2025 and replace with a Fall Harvest party in 2026

- Robert: Scrap holiday party for 2025 and replace with a Fall Harvest party in 2026 after the Fall '26 semester
- Lyn: A viable alternative for discussion is to replace the Holiday 2025 Party with a Fall Harvest Party in October 2026 that uses the Montgomery Place Pavillion. This would be a nice bookend to the academic year, along with the May annual meeting/picnic event
- We could have it at Montgomery Place Pavillion & include house tours
- Motion to postpone 2025 Winter Party & replace with 2026 Fall Harvest party @ Montgomery Place Pavillion by Grace, seconded by Karen, all in favor
- Robert will notify Debra for the newsletter

Collin

- Election 2026 (Update)
 - Has been making calls but to date, no one has said yes for President, 1st Vice-President, Treasurer
 - Nancy K suggested we establish a nomination & election committee headed by the 1st Vice President
 - Committee formed!
 - Committee members are Collin, Eleanor, Chuck, Michael & Kayla

Robert

- Mentor/Mentee initiative - draft article for November newsletter (Pending)
 - Mentor program under Council? (Yes)
 - Mentor needs to be accountable to someone on Council
 - Grace volunteered to oversee the program
 - **Wait until December newsletter for any "publicity" Cathy will notify Debra

Robert

- No meeting in December
 - Motion to approve by Collin, seconded by Carmela, All in favor

Existing Policies For Review

Susan

- **ORG 07/24**
 - This policy is missing some lines so will be researched, corrected, & discussed at November Meeting
- **PROG 01/13-A.**
 - No Changes

Reports on File:

Vice Presidents' reports	Collin Lovas
Curriculum Committee	
Governance - Finance	
Membership Development	Lyn Walker
Program Support	Carmela Gersbeck
CCE Liaison Report	Jill Lundquist
Civic Engagement Team	
Communications Team	

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Michael seconded by Carmela, all in favor
Robert adjourned the meeting at 10:39am

Next LLI Council Meeting: Monday, November 17, 2025 @ 9:30am/Zoom

Submitted by,
Susan Simon, Secretary

Appendix A:

Bard Lifetime LLI: FY26 YTD Income Statement v. Adopted FY26 Budget

10/20/25	Actual FY25 (FYE 6/30/25)	FY26 Adopted Budget (FYE 6/30/26)	FY26 YTD Inc. & Exp. @ 9/30/25	Variance: Budgeted FY26E vs. FY26A YTD
Contributions (9480) & Scholarships (9400)				
Dean's Discretionary Fund	(9,250.00)	(9,250.00)	0.00	9,250.00
Bard Music Festival	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	0.00	1,000.00
Center for Civic Engagement (CCE)	(10,800.00)	(10,800.00)	0.00	10,800.00
CCE Leadership Fund (aka Student Sanctuary Fund)	(5,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dean Stuart Stritzler-Levine Senior to Senior	(3,150.00)	(4,000.00)	0.00	4,000.00
Early College in HS	(2,250.00)	(2,250.00)	0.00	2,250.00
Fisher Center	(1,250.00)	(1,250.00)	0.00	1,250.00
Fund for Visual Learning	(2,750.00)	(2,750.00)	0.00	2,750.00
Hessel Museum	(1,250.00)	(1,250.00)	0.00	1,250.00
Joan Tower Scholarship Fund	(1,750.00)	(2,500.00)	0.00	2,500.00
Student Support & Relief Fund	(3,500.00)	(3,500.00)	0.00	3,500.00
Bard College Endowment Transfer (9790)	(2,700.00)	(1,200.00)	0.00	1,200.00
LLI Donations, Scholarships & Transfers to Bard	(45,150.00)	(39,750.00)	0.00	39,750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES + SCHOLARSHIPS / DONATIONS	(69,736.00)	(80,540.00)	(14,443.20)	66,096.80
NET INCOME	(11.00)	(40.00)	64,081.80	64,041.80

Appendix B:

PROPOSAL FOR LLI HOLIDAY PARTY

Our LLI holiday party can NOT be held on the Bard Campus this year, as there is no longer a space that can accommodate our historical group size of 100-115 people with food and drink, (see NOTE* below).

Below is a proposal for a full-service, turnkey event at The Beekman Arms, which will cost \$6,000-\$7,000. We also contacted the Hotel Kinsley in Uptown Kingston, which was much more expensive.

DISCUSSION:

1. Should we spend LLI funds for a holiday party? (Note: the cost could be off-set by charging members \$20 per person).
2. What are the ramifications logistically and otherwise of the above.
3. Should we move to an ALTERNATE less expensive, do-it-yourself type party, possibly in the Fall (2026).

COST Beekman Arms (see proposal below)

100 people: \$7,320 OR \$5,320 if members pay \$20 PP

80 people: \$5,856 OR \$4,256 if members pay \$20 PP

NOTES:

- Our Blithewood event with Parkhurst cost about \$3,100 YAG, for reference.
- Off-campus is more expensive, so we converted the Holiday Party from an evening gathering to a late afternoon event.
- If we ask Members to contribute, we recommend NO more than \$20 per person, as we feel it will be a barrier otherwise.
- We arranged for Bard students to provide music.

BEEKMAN ARMS PROPOSAL

December 11 from 3 PM to 5 PM

Banquet Room (adjacent to the sunroom)

Set-up: combination of seated round tables and standing bistro tables

[Sample Menu](#)

GUESTS: 80 to 100?

COST (all 2 HOURS except where noted)

\$15 for 1 stationary appetizer (Artisanal Cheese)

\$25 for 5 passed hors d'oeuvres 1 HOUR

\$20 wine and beer

\$ 0 soft drinks, juice, coffee, tea included

\$60 per person

\$ 0 room charge (\$500)

\$ 0 bar set up (\$200)

22% Tip + Fee (no sales tax 501c3)

\$7,320 for 100 people

\$5,856 for 80 people

DEPOSIT: \$250

BALANCE: due 2 weeks prior

MUSIC: we arranged to have Bard students play

DECORATIONS: Beekman Arms holiday decorations in place

BENEFITS: elegant location, close to Bard, full service event with no volunteer resources needed, plenty of parking

DOWNSIDE: expensive, sustainable for future years?

ALTERNATE IDEAS

An event that is not full-service would be more economical. We would find an outside space nearby, hire a caterer, rent furniture if needed, enlist volunteer help for set-up and break down, etc. If we do this it is recommended for 2026 only. Suggest we convert the Holiday Party to a Fall Harvest event, so that Robert I. and Lyn are present to oversee, otherwise other leadership needed.

ELMENDORPH INN (sample venue & cost)

\$75 Rental

\$2,000 caterer TBD (Note: Adams deli type platters/cookies is \$500)

\$540 Wine 3 cases

\$50 Sparkling waters etc.

\$75 Flowers

\$100 Server

\$100 Plates, glasses, napkins

\$100 Table rentals

\$1,540 to \$3,000 Total

BENEFITS: nice old historic home in Red Hook center, inexpensive rental

DOWNSIDE: 20 parking spaces, remainder street parking

Limited seating (wooden chairs along room perimeter)

Volunteer intensive

Limit of 75 people

MONTGOMERY PLACE PAVILION (\$2,500 est)

A Fall Harvest luncheon in the Pavillion with a guided tour of the newly opened Montgomery Place Mansion is another idea, (October 2026).

*NOTE: Bard Campus venues we contacted but declined include: Blithewood, Montgomery Place Mansion, Campus Center North, Chapel of the Holy Innocents, lobby of RKC and others. The only space that actually can accommodate our group size with food and drink is the Bertelsmann MPR, which we deemed not festive for a holiday party.