Lifetime Learning Institute CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN COMMUNITY WITH Bard

Council Minutes
September 22, 2026
9:00am - 10:30am
Via Zoom

Council & Committee Members Present:
Carmela Gersbeck, Alan Katz, Robert Inglish, Jill Lundquist, Mary McClellan, Grace McKay, Susan Simon, Eleanor Wieder, Marc Wieder Guests: Cathy Reinis
Council & Committee Members Absent: Chuck Mishaan
Call to Order
President Alan Katz called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Approval of Minutes Council Meeting, August 3, 2026: Motion to approve the minutes, Council Meeting August 3, 2026 by Carmela, seconded by Eleanor, All in favor

Secretary Correspondence (not distributed)
Susan reported:

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

Treasurer's Report
Marc reported:

- Report on file, still waiting for answers from Bard for certain items

Tech Training
Carmela reported:

- Report on file, needs to train team member who will handle visuals

Business
Mary

- Fall Semester (Update)
    - Considering restructuring teams for better organizing & distributing reWorking on creating a Facilities Team to handle classroom assignments, seating, opening of classrooms

Alan

- Fall Harvest Luncheon: addition of two Bard musicians: retroactive approval
    - Motion to approve extra cost ($300) for musicians by Grace, seconded by Carmela, All in favor

Alan

- By-laws fix: we are short on the required 11-15 Council members
    - Since we dropped 2 Member-At-Large positions from Council we now have 10
    - Discussion about amending Article IV of the by-law for membership approval vote
        - Motion to revise by-law Article IV to replace 11-15 Council members to "no less than 8" by Jill, seconded by Marc, All in favor
    - A Survey Monkey will be sent to members to vote on by-law change

Alan/Marc

- Approval for Treasurer to make Bard donations (other than Early College High School and Senior to Senior done in the Spring)
    - Any check request on behalf of LLI should be approved by Marc or Alan
    - Marc should get any invoices for review before Bard sends a payment and needs to be informed of any expenditures
    - Bard accounting needs to provide complete information regarding payments on behalf of LLI that have been made
        - Motion to approve/authorize Marc to make 2026-27 budgeted Bard donations by Grace, seconded by Jill, All in favor

- Policy for disbursements not directly charged to Bard must be approved by Treasurer or President to be discussed at the October Council meeting
    - We need to have a policy regarding an LLI petty cash fund so we don't have to go through Bard accounting for certain small expenditures (that may also need a W-9 form)
    - The petty cash fund would be funded with dues of Council members paid in cash
    - Marc will write a Petty Cash policy and a Disbursement policy for discussion

Carmela

- Nametag for non-member presenters
    - Discussion & No, we don't do that

Alan

- Planning & Evaluation Team Discussion
    - Reinstate as a Committee? No, keep as a team w/no more than 2 Council members on team & bring any recommendation to Council

- Council will present topics it wants addressed, the team would come up with a plan & present to Council for suggestions, revisions & approval
- Need to parse what is actually going to P&E. Some topics require more time for research.
- The P&E team would request input from people not on the team, for example, someone who has knowledge on the topic as just part of the P&E research getting information rather than giving an opinion
- We need more strategic planning
- Alan would like suggestions for new team members (with the hope that they will help bring new people into LLI governance) and any items Council would like discussed
- Grace as Second VP designated Eleanor Weider to chair the P&E Team

Alan/Jill

- Civic Engagement: Discussion to change from a Team to a Special Interest Group (SIG)
  - This team currently reports directly to Council
  - A Special Interest Group does not have to report to Council - They will have an assigned point person to contact (Laura Brown)
  - This could get members interested in starting other Special Interest Groups
    - Motion to revise Civic Engagement to a Special Interest Group by Carmela, seconded by Marc, All in favor
  - Suggestion: change Membership Development to “Membership Enrichment” - for further discussion

Alan

- Further discussion about in-person meetings
  - There is a quality to in-person meetings that’s different than remote meetings
  - Meet at a room on campus, possibly: 1. the Yellow room in the Student Center, 2. The Alumni Center, 3. Berringer Center. Robert will find out what’s available
  - Looking at having our October 19th 9:30am meeting in person. When location is confirmed there will be a notification of meeting sent to all members via MailChimp
  - There will also be a Zoom link available for the meeting
  - We won’t be doing this monthly but we will discuss the frequency at a later date

- Policies for review

FIN 11/22A. LLI Council establishes need-based scholarships to LLI members for partial or full coverage of annual membership fees. The amount of said scholarships shall be determined annually by Council. New and renewing members who wish to apply for said scholarships shall petition the Council President, in writing. The President shall be authorized and empowered to award such scholarships, at his or her discretion, and the payment of such scholarship shall be made directly to LLI on behalf of the member(s). (*Was FIN 4/21, revised to FIN 11/22A in November '22, revised in March '25)*

- Discussion
    - By requesting directly to the President, it does keep it confidential
    - Although it states the scholarship payment is made directly to LLI, we are not "paying ourselves" but rather deducting the amount from budgeted income
- No changes to FIN 11/22A at this time. Alan will draft recommended changes to 11/22A for discussion at our October meeting

FIN 11/22B. Any cash reserve requirements for LLI accounts shall be determined annually by Council. (*Was FIN 11/13, revised to FIN 11/22B in November '22, revised in March '25)*

- Discussion
    - Do we need this policy?
    - Suggested that P&E w/the Treasurer look at this and create a financial plan going forward
    - Expenses go up - if we aren't increasing our membership dues, adjustments need to be made. Therefore, we have to use our cash reserve wisely
        - Motion to delete FIN 11/22B (in preparation of revising 11/22A) by Marc, seconded by Carmela, All in favor

Discussion not on today's agenda

- Winter/Holiday Party - Bring it back!!
    - Will look at how this will work in the future, on a date after Bard students leave campus for holiday break
    - Robert will ask Bard what facilities on campus (Manor House, new North Campus Center) can be used for a party when the students aren't on campus - but…then we have to pay Parkhurst (high) prices for food
    - It's a good idea to have more social events and can discuss for the spring and next fiscal year
    - BTW, the Fall Party is full (120 RSVP'd yes + 2 on wait list) - no formal speeches, mainly socializing

Reports on File:

Vice Presidents' reports	Carmela Gersbeck VP1 and Grace McKay VP2
Treasurer's report	Marc Wieder
Curriculum Committee	Mary McClellan
Membership Development	L Walker
Program Support	Carmela Gersbeck
CCE Liaison Report	Jill Lundquist
Civic Engagement Team	
Communications Team	
Mentoring Team	Grace McKay

Adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting by Marc, seconded by Grace, all in favor
Alan adjourned the meeting at 10:30am

Next LLI Council Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2026 @ 9:30am/TBD + Zoom

Submitted by,
Susan Simon, Secretary