

SAUCON VALLEY LIBRARY TASK FORCE

Overview

April 12, 2012

Overview of Task Force

- Lower Saucon Township has had an annual agreement with the Bethlehem Area Public Library for library services since 1978
- The agreement has a per capita fee which is assessed against the Township's population of 10,772 for a 2012 total of \$183,467
- In 2009, the Township Council asked its Library Committee to explore other alternatives for library services for Township residents.
- The Library Committee reached out to the Southern Lehigh Library and the Hellertown Area Library to obtain information on their services, costs, etc. for library services.
- Due to state library district restrictions, the Southern Lehigh Public Library advised that they could not accommodate our request for a meeting to discuss their services.
- The Library Committee met with the Hellertown Area Library Trustees in 2010 and asked them to submit a proposal showing how library services could be offered to Township residents
- In 2010 the Library Committee recommended to the Township Council that a Task Force be established to study the feasibility of consolidating library services for Township residents at the Hellertown Area Library.

Formation of Task Force

The Task Force was established in 2010 and representatives from the Lower Saucon Township, Hellertown Borough and the Hellertown Area Library were appointed to the group.

Task Force Members

Hellertown Borough

Joseph Pampanin
Gail Nolf
Cathy Kichline, Borough Mgr.
Tina Krasnansky, Finance Mgr.

Hellertown Area Library

Reverend Lamar Handwerk
Michael Evangelista
Alison Finkbeiner
Jessica Goedel
Robin Rotherham, Library Dir.

Lower Saucon Township

Lynn Koehler
Mike Karabin
Kim LaBrake
Tom Maxfield
Jack Cahalan, Township Mgr.
Cathy Gorman, Finance Dir.

Task Force Meetings

- The Task Force has been meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month since January 2011
- The meetings start at 5 PM and are held here at Lower Saucon Township
- Public input is welcomed at these meetings
- We also have an email address: info@lowersaucontownship.org where members of the public who cannot attend the meetings can send in comments, ask questions about the Task Force's activities
- The minutes of the Task Force meetings are posted on the Lower Saucon Township website at www.lowersaucontownship.org/svlibtaskforce.html
- The Task Force will continue to meet through July of this year when they are required to provide a report of their findings to the Township, Borough Council and the Hellertown Area Library Trustees

Task Force Responsibilities

- Familiarize itself with State Library Code requirements (22 Pa. Code § 141.21) for local libraries.
- Familiarize itself with library needs of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township residents.
- Gather and analyze current and future demographic data on Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township.
- Evaluate the Financial Plan and Timeline for Library Service to Lower Saucon Township prepared by the Hellertown Area Library Board.
- Evaluate the short-term and long-term financial impacts of a consolidated library system on the two municipal budgets.
- Evaluate the immediate and long-term location, building space, staffing, and technology needs of a consolidated library.
- Identify areas of analysis where professional independent consulting services would be necessary to supplement the Task Force's work.
- Explore regional opportunities for library services for Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough.
- Serve as conduit to elicit and receive public input on feasibility of consolidating library services.
- Prepare a formal, written report documenting the Task Force's findings no later than July 1, 2012 and make presentations of the report at Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township Council meetings.