

The Albuquerque Press Club

201 HIGHLAND PARK CIRCLE SE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

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ABQPRESSCLUB.COM

September 14, 2020 @ 6:00pm

Regular Meeting - Meeting was called to order 6:09 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Laura Dunagan - President, Justin Cumley - Vice President, Maynard Cowan - Treasurer, Lynn Embick - Secretary, Will Fitzpatrick - Director, Sarah Blanton – Director, David Hayden - Director
Excused: Ken Hargis - Director
Unexcused: Adam Gates - Director

Reading and Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from Feb 2020 meeting (with amendments) made by Justin, seconded by Sarah. Motion passed unanimously. Lynn will make adjustments to notes on the Drive.
- Motion to approve minutes from Aug 2020 meeting (with full first names) made by Maynard, seconded by Will. Motion passed unanimously.

Officers' Reports

- President - Laura Dunagan
 - A letter was sent to the governor last week, requesting clarification on closure of Social Clubs. Hard copy sent through the mail. No response yet. WHPF is supporting weekly (Sunday) work days. David reported that the hillside planting is helping to deter erosion. Laura will bring drip line to install in an attempt to save money on water, rather than continue using dripline.
- Vice President - Justin Cumley
 - Nothing to report
- Treasurer - Maynard Cowan
 - All rentals are current with payments. Costs have been narrowed down to utilities plus a few others. Bottom line is falling around \$1,600 in payouts per month. Keeping Workman's Comp insurance in accordance with state authorities. We now have the lowest option which also covers volunteers. Apx. \$45,000 in accounts.
- Secretary - Lynn Embick
 - Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

- Membership - Laura Dunagan
 - 2 renewals, still extending memberships. Volunteers for upcoming projects do not have to be active members.
 - Will proposed that we think about promoting paid membership as a donation to the Club. Discussion: Membership to the Club has other benefits besides the bar, including volunteer opportunities, writing opportunities, reciprocity with other clubs, etc. David proposed that if potential new members want to join, we allow them, again focusing on the donation aspect, offering some kind of compensation, like a free T-shirt. Lynn suggested we reinstate membership fees as some other clubs have done, since we have the goal of a social club with other amenities. Lynn will send a list of COVID mandate compliant event ideas that could be appealing and

engage membership. Other clubs have encouraged their members to think of it as a donation. Suggested there be no penalty for those who wait till we are open to renew. Laura led a discussion regarding the many difficulties with using Member Planet for this kind of action, including loss of email communication with “lapsed” members. Mail Chimp could be an alternative. Will suggested that we communicate with the membership that their support is necessary in order to have a club to return to. Laura suggested a set number of months to extend all memberships. Discussion ensued. Maynard suggested all memberships end/renew at the end of the year. No proration. Laura pointed out the issues with lapsed members still being served could be lessened if all memberships are renewing at the same time. Lynn asked if that will affect the distribution of income. Discussion ensued. Suggested to set annual membership date, with a prorated ½ year membership for new members joining in the middle of the year. Hope that bartenders will be more inclined to check the membership list or follow through on members needing to show their membership card.

- Will requested a break: 7:27pm, Back in session 7:32pm
- Motion made by Will that all memberships will lapse Dec 31, 2020. Renew in January. A half year membership for new members will be afforded to those joining after July 1st. Prorated at half membership cost for the first year only. Seconded by David. Discussion continued. Justin suggested we revisit the idea of monthly income vs once-a-year income from membership. The general consensus was that, in spite of the lack of guarantees that a future Board will spread out the spending of the income appropriately, there are safeguards and actions that the Board and members can take to squash such events from happening. The change could eliminate hours of work for the Membership Committee and make it easier to hold bartenders accountable for checking on membership status. The amount of lump sum monies would come at an otherwise slow time for the Club, and the ½ year memberships would encourage new members to join at their moment of initial interest.
 - David called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.
- Buildings and Grounds - David Hayden
 - Squirrels remain an issue. Maynard ordered traps. David will set traps and relocate squirrels. David volunteers to get downstairs bathroom touchups finished by the end of the month. Those include: installation of paper towel holders, toilet paper dispensers, an additional layer of paint, and caulking touch up.
 - David chased off a man from the premises who had broken into an electrical panel on the porch. There was damage to the wires to the timer for the porch twinkle lights. The police were contacted, arrived, and a report was filed. Maynard will contact an electrician for repairs. We are seeing an increase in aggressive behavior from non-members who seem to be homeless frequenting the premises. David and Maynard suggest installation of motion sensor lights. The cost of IPS cost for standby and response seems unreasonable considering the frequency of occurrences. Officer Castalano, the responding officer to the aforementioned complaint, indicated that the Club is part of his beat. Will suggests a request for increased patrol. Maynard made a motion to put in motion detecting lights on porch in strategic positions so as not to disturb the neighbors. Sarah seconded the motion. Discussion continued: Justin suggests four to cover downstairs and upstairs porch or just three for upper porch. Electrical box does not have to be fixed before installation if the timer is bypassed. Suggested to continue with use of lights, after hours only, once the Club has reopened. Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
 - David said the Sunday clean up “party” went well. Weeds were pulled, grass was attended to. Tables on the patio were rearranged to accommodate social distancing guidelines. Buildings and Grounds will continue to support the Sunday events.
 - There needs to be a continuation of a past conversation about the updating or clarifying of the Buildings and Grounds Committee description. The current descriptions for Buildings and Grounds and Property Management committees were read and found to conflict and lack clarification. Maynard pointed out that to his knowledge the Property Management Committee

never functioned. Other Club descriptions were considered. David has been expected to perform as a handy-man around the property in conflict with the current description, in part due to a recently terminated agreement for hours of labor in exchange for a decrease of rent. In the past, there has been a precedent set of subpar work by non-professionals to avoid incurring costs, and self-interest in determining who gets called to conduct property repairs. We would like to avoid both of those situations, while not putting the Buildings and Grounds Committee in a position to be taken advantage of. David pointed out that the practice of using non-professionals has caused a series of long-lasting issues. Lynn suggested that the Manager should have a list of approved professional contacts and a procedure to follow in the case of an emergency, and that the committee's job should be to oversee the long-term maintenance and renovation as described in our Operations Manual. David made a motion to refer to committee the clarification of the description of the Buildings and Grounds as well as the Property Management Committees. Will seconded. Vote: Motion passed unanimously. David will chair the committee, joined by Justin, Lynn, and Sarah. Committee will report back at the next meeting.

- Will requested a break: 8:59pm, Back in session: 9:04pm
- Maynard brought it to the Board's attention that the cooler temperature is not maintaining. We will need to monitor and make a future determination about action.
- Laura informed the Board that the liquor license renewal deadline was extended to October. Our paperwork is ready to go.
- Newsletter - Lynn Embick
 - Laura would like to use the newsletter to encourage a letter writing campaign by members to elected officials, with a form letter available on the website. Lynn has submitted the Secretary's article. Will will compose an article focused on community for newsletter to go out on Oct 1. Laura would like to bring back the networking aspect of the Club by highlighting member-owned businesses. Lynn will compose an article highlighting the many benefits of a Club membership. Laura solicited more pictures from Board members.

Unfinished Business

- Press Conference Committee never took off. Laura would still like to invite all affected businesses to participate. Many businesses that seem to fall into the "indoor recreation" category are now operating. Will agreed to chair committee. He will reach out to local bars and the coalition, Brewer's Guild, and distilleries. Laura agreed to reach out to ABC for guidance and will act as a sitting member on the committee. Other committee members will include Lynn, David, and Justin. Justin will continue to reach out to fraternities and the ABQ Social Club.
- Tabled: Committee to update Code of Conduct (Will)

New Business:

- Organization of Annual Membership Meeting and voting (December). Will re-visit.

Maynard made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by David. Meeting adjourned at ?