

Minutes: Press Club, Board Meeting Tuesday, November 10th, 2015

Date: November 10,2015

Location: Press Club board room;

Members Present:

President, Thom Wright

Vice President-Kouri Antinone; Secretary-David Donaldson; Director-Ken Hargis; Director-Kristen Elliott; Director-Adam De Aloe.

Member Absent:

Treasurer- Cynthia Stepleton; Director- Steve Satchwell; Director- Erin Debenport; Director-Jim Riordan

Also Present:

Manager: Maynard Cowan

Meeting called to order at 7 PM:

President called for approval of the October minutes: Approved without dissent.

President's Report: Thom Wright. Tom reported that he has been very busy this past month and consequentially had less time to devote to building supervision. The boiler failed on November 9th. Jonathan, who is familiar with the boiler, assessed the situation and determined that the it needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Maynard is already attending the the matter. He obtained one quote and is anticipating additional bids on November 11th. In the interim, Maynard feels that we can use space heaters. Thom explained some of the complexity of the old boiler and elaborated on the age of our current pipes.

Committee Reports:

Vice President's Report: Kouri Antinone. Kouri reported that the club experienced an excellent October. Quite a few events were held on the premise including the Halloween party which was a great success. The Club's new selections of beer have been received with great acclaim and Maynard is adjusting his beverage selections to coincide with the seasons.

Treasurer's Report: Cynthia Stepelton. Cynthia was not present at the Board Meeting.

Secretary's Report: David Donaldson. David will continue to preview drafts with Thom prior to submitting the minutes to Ken for posting.

Manager's Report: Maynard Cowan. Maynard referred to the boiler situation and indicated that he is giving it top priority. He reported that Sunday attendance has been improving these last few weeks. Club bartender, Lisa, has instituted "geeky Monday night" to promote Monday attendance, and the last few Mondays have resulted in increased attendance. Maynard indicated that bartenders have taken their own initiative to introduce themes with the hope of increasing attendance. Maynard is currently booking new events for the holiday season and he reported that the club's new mail system is looking very impressive. There had been a minor problem with a beer gas valve, but he was quickly able to arrange a replacement.

Membership Report: Adam De Aloe. Adam proposed nine candidates for membership, and presented a list of eight non-renewing members. He wanted to get a better understanding of how the club defines "communicator membership." since two of the candidates were seeking that membership rate. Kouri proposed that the board approve the seven uncontested candidates, and conditionally approve membership for M. Minore, K. Cox, Kouri's proposal was seconded by David, with no objection. Adam will follow-up and determine whether communicator membership is appropriate.

Web & Media Report: Ken Hargis. Ken reported that the club's web account has been set up and he is currently transferring domains to full Press Club ownership. The Club's Facebook page appears to be effective and the increased number of "hits" demonstrate that the audience is growing.

Social: & Media Report: Kristen Elliott. Kristen referred to the number of social events scheduled in November. and addressed the nomination process. REFER TO: Nomination committee Report.

Art committee: Kouri Antonini. Kouri reported that Lisa has already booked an artist for December and that several other artists are lined up for February and March. Kouri complimented Lisa for doing such a good job. Kouri is hoping to get the zoo animal show set up in the spring.

Bldg. and Grounds; Thom Wright. Thom referred to the boiler issue; and a broken window. Once the new boiler is installed there will have to be an inspection. Anything currently stored in the boiler room will need to be removed. The tenant in one of the apartments reported that the shower area might require attention. . Thom indicated that Club could coordinate the boiler repair with apartment repairs.

Community Liaison: David Donaldson. David referred to an article in the Huning Highland Neighborhood Association in which he encouraged neighborhood residents to consider joining the Press Club. He reported that one new member is already using the club as a venue for her monthly book club.

Nominating committee. Kristen Elliott. The nomination forms were posted in the Clubhouse prior to October 22nd. The committee will use Mail chimp to send notices out to membership. The December board meeting and the annual meeting will be held on December 13th. Kouri recommended that we schedule the annual meeting at 2 PM instead of the traditional 11 AM. She feels that the later time will appeal to more members. Kouri made a motion to set the time at 2 PM. There was no objection. The committee will need to notify membership about the rescheduled time of day.

Audit committee; Thom Wright. Thom reported that Bobby has not been well, and that we only have twenty six days left in this calendar year. Cynthia will need to set up appointment with Bobby in order to get taxes fixed. Thom stressed the need for Cynthia's cooperation. Maynard reminded the board that it is not appropriate for the manager to deal with taxes since he is also responsible for Quick books entries. Some of the task had been transferred to Cynthia. One solution might be to stop doing the payroll in house and switching to a private payroll service. Thom pointed out that the Press Club would still be responsible for entering gross receipts tax. Kouri commented that we need to concentrate on getting Cynthia to coordinate with Bobby. Adam asked what would it cost to get a pay roll service. One solution might be to use our current accounting firm. However, we could also hire a book keeper, but the legal responsibility would still be on the press club. We will need to investigate costs. The overall objective is to take pressure off the treasurer and manager. Another objective is to try to maintain an institutional "memory," and not have to rely on individual board members' recollection of past transactions.

Unfinished business:

The board discussed membership rates: Thom called for a motion to start the discussion. Adam made a motion to reduce social membership dues from the current rates to: \$110 per year for social; \$60 for communicators; \$75 for Out of town and that Journalist dues remain the same at \$50. Kristen seconded the proposal, and the topic was then open to discussion. Maynard and Kouri pointed out the need to increase overall membership and their desire to attract more social membership. Discussion ensued. Thom commented that our focus needs to be on the Press and association membership is "technically" a secondary consideration.

In consideration, Adam proposed that the board set membership dues as: \$130 for social; \$40 for communicators; and \$30 for Press.

Maynard pointed out the definition of journalist had changed in the Twenty-First Century. He questioned whether a blogger can be considered a journalist, and, he wondered how The National Press Club interprets blogger.

Ken made a recommendation that there be a 60% decrease in membership fee across the board. Kristin seconded that motion.

Ken restated the amended: "That the membership dues be reduced to 60% of current prices; The exception is spouse and initiation fees; late payment fees, and employee fees. Honorary membership will remain the same."

Thom asked whether there was any objection to approving the amendment. There was no objection and the amendment was unanimously approved.

Kouri recommended that the revised fees be implemented on January 1st, 2016. and that the new rates and renewals be brought up at the annual board meeting.

Maynard commented that the Club will need to print out new forms. and he questioned how staff members should deal with members who dispute the revised membership rates.

New business; December board will meet at noon; annual meeting at 2.

Christmas/ Holiday decorating party is scheduled on the Saturday after thanksgiving.

Motion to adjourn; All approved. Meeting ended at 9:24 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: David Donaldson, Secretary