

Approved Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Room - 7:00 pm
May 17, 2023

Trustees Present: Pat Wieser (presiding), Anna Alemani, Melissa Banks, Scott Bennewitz, Dave Briggs, Ben Chan, Randy Herbertson, Celeste LaCroix, Jay Norris, Krishna Patel, Sheila Ward, Peter Zakowich, Barrie Rosen, Andrew Wilk

Trustees Absent: Rob Haroun, Jenna Markowitz, Andrea Berkley, Jeremy Price, Stefano Pacifico, Meena Pellerin

Guests: Dick Lowenstein, Kristin Mott

Pat Wieser called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

President's Report: P. Wieser

Pat reported that the May Book Sale was a success financially. She thanked the team and everyone who volunteered for their participation.

She shared that Board surveys and the Executive Director evaluation will go out soon, adding that we expect 100% Board participation. She reminded everyone the surveys are straightforward, succinct and anonymous.

She encouraged Trustees to participate in the Memorial Day parade, saying several volunteers have already agreed to march.

Finally, Pat mentioned that June 8 is when Bill will receive his award from the Westport/Weston Chamber of Commerce for Citizen of the Year. She encouraged as many people to attend as possible.

Finance Committee: S. Bennewitz

Scott reported that the Finance Committee met yesterday. The committee plans to revisit our budget assumptions in June.

Treasurer's Report: S. Bennewitz & P. Zakowich

Scott reported that we anticipate to be at or ahead of budget by end of year, noting that the café and retail are doing well.

Peter said in advance of auditing season and given the financial climate, we are taking steps to ensure all of our assets are properly protected.

Development Committee: K. Patel

Krishna reported that Booked is on track to deliver its best results ever. The event sold out in 40 minutes. Tickets for virtual attendance will go on sale soon. There was discussion about how to keep the momentum going forward to ensure fresh perspective and additional fundraising activities.

She mentioned ongoing discussions about plans to create Giving Circles and recognize donors, encouraging non-committee members to join the discussions if interested.

She also noted that Annual Appeal surpassed its goal.

Governance & Nominations Committee: S. Ward

Sheila reminded everyone that the goal of the forthcoming Trustee surveys is to see what's working and what could be improved. She reiterated the link we be sent soon, and Melissa will help with results.

She shared more details on the recruitment process, including that we have 3 positions to fill. Interviews will take place with the RTM on May 31st and June 1st; the Board will vote at the next meeting.

Executive Director Report: B. Harmer

Bill reviewed his ED report previously distributed.

CommonGround was discussed at length, including how to continue the conversation to promote civil discourse and expand the working committee.

He also highlighted upcoming events - among them: Lundberg Family Foundation Master Film Series; Andrew Wilks Presents; Nicholas Dawidoff's "The Other Side of Prospect"

Bill noted the summer reading program begins in June for those with kids.

New Business

None

Other Business

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Pat Wieser entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm. Andrew Wilks made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Melissa Banks. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

Barrie Rosen
Secretary