



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, February 28, 2022  
By Teleconference**

**MINUTES**

Present: Chair Frank Gifford, Prabhas KC, Betsy Paterson, Diana Pelletier and Sean Vasington

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Frank Gifford called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Approval of January 24, 2022 Minutes**

Diana Pelletier made a motion to approve the minutes from January 24, 2022.

Prabhas KC seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved.

**4. Recommendation re: Board Appointment to fill vacant Board position**

Mr. Gifford said there are four vacant elected Board positions on the Partnership Board if the Board was filled to its cap of six elected Board members per the bylaws.

He said Amanda Hanzlik's position was vacant until her term would end in June 2023. Ms. van Zelm said Bonnie Kumiega's position was also vacant until her term would end in June 2022.

Cynthia van Zelm said Ron Schurin is interested in serving as a Board member for election in June.

The Committee discussed whether it would make sense to fill the two vacancies until the June 2022 Partnership annual meeting as allowed by the bylaws. One possible scenario was to ask former Board members to serve for this interim time period. After discussion, the Committee decided to focus on filling the positions during the regular election time at the annual meeting.

**5. Discussion of new Board members/Student Board representative**

The Committee discussed representation from the Mansfield K-8 school systems and E.O. Smith High School on the Board. Ms. Pelletier will follow-up with Southeast School Principal Lauren Rodriguez.



Mr. Gifford suggested that more UConn students on the Board would be another goal.

The Committee and Ms. van Zelm brainstormed possible new Board members.

Ms. van Zelm will send out a packet to Committee members with the Partnership Fact Sheet, Downtown Storrs Fact Sheet, Board Nominator form, and Board Expectations document for Committee recruitment of Board members. She will also send an updated pipeline of potential Board members based on the conversation today.

Mr. Gifford said he and Mr. KC met with Ms. van Zelm to discuss the solicitation of a new student Board representative. Ms. van Zelm said the goal is to send out the application on March 21 to various student groups and entities at UConn. Mr. KC said a few of the audiences would be the UConn Learning Communities, Schools of Business and Engineering, and the Werth Institute.

## **6. Discussion of Officers**

Mr. Gifford, Board Secretary, and Sean Vasington, Board Treasurer, agreed to serve in these roles respectively for another year if appointed by the Board in June.

Mr. Gifford will follow-up with Board President Kyle Muncy and Board Vice President Toni Moran re: whether they want to continue in their officer roles.

## **7. Review of Bylaws**

Mr. Gifford noted that Mr. Vasington had previously raised the question of whether the definition of the officer roles in the Bylaws needed to be revised based on much of the work of the Secretary and Treasurer was being done by Partnership staff or through the Partnership's agreement with the Town for financial services. Mr. Vasington said he was ok with leaving the duties the same but the Committee agreed to provide some language to define all the officer roles vis a vis the work that staff and the Town do to fulfill some of those duties.

The other item discussed was whether the Board President should be a permanent member of the Governance Committee. The Committee agreed this was a good idea since the President's role is so tied into governance issues.

Mr. Gifford said he and Ms. van Zelm will work on proposed revisions re: above and run by the Partnership attorney.

## **8. Update on Strategic Plan Implementation Process**

Ms. van Zelm said the Board will discuss possible working groups to implement that Downtown Storrs Strategic Action Plan.

Mr. Vasington said he wants to get a clear picture on when the three-month check in with Streetsense begins and what it entails.

It was suggested that Mr. Vasington, Mr. Muncy, and Mr. Gifford would meet in the near future on how the Governance Committee can work on the successful implementation of the Strategic Action Plan vis a vis the next meeting with Streetsense.

## **9. Adjourn**

Ms. Paterson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. KC seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

*Minutes prepared by Cynthia van Zelm*