



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, April 24, 2023
By Teleconference**

4:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Chair Frank Gifford, Steve Bacon, Rachel Goldberg (joined at 4:03 p.m.), Kyle Muncy, Betsy Paterson, Diana Pelletier, Ron Schurin, and Sean Vasington (joined at 4:05 p.m.)

Absent: None

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Chair Frank Gifford called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of March 27, 2023 Minutes

Betsy Paterson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2023. Steve Bacon seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Appointment of Committee Members

Cynthia van Zelm said Jessica Carilli, the local manager of Blaze Pizza, and Sabrina Hosmer, a local speech pathologist, are both nominated for the Celebrate Mansfield Festival Committee.

Rachel Goldberg joined the meeting at 4:03 p.m. and Sean Vasington joined at 4:05 p.m.

Ms. Paterson made a motion to approve the recommendation of Jessica Carilli and Sabrina Hosmer for membership on the Celebrate Mansfield Festival Committee. Kyle Muncy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Review Board and Officer Positions

a. Nomination of Ron Schurin for 3-Year Term

Mr. Gifford said Ron Schurin is currently filling a term left open by a previous Board member and will be eligible to be approved for a full 3-year term at the Annual Meeting this June.

Ms. Paterson made a motion to nominate Ron Schurin for a 3-year term on the Partnership Board of Directors. Mr. Muncy seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Mr. Schurin abstaining and all other members in favor.

Mr. Muncy said he, Mr. Gifford, and Mr. Vasington are UConn's current appointees to the Board and that he and Mr. Gifford are up for reappointment. Both are currently planning to continue on the Board, but Mr. Muncy and Mr. Gifford stressed the importance of continuing to work with the UConn President's office to seek future appointees. Mr. Gifford recommended, and other Committee members agreed, that the Board President should serve as Chair of the Governance Committee to increase efficiency and conserve the Partnership staff's time and resources.

Mr. Gifford said he, Toni Moran, and Mr. Vasington plan to continue as Secretary, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Board, respectively; Mr. Muncy said he plans to continue as President. The Board will vote on the slate of officers at the special meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Ms. van Zelm said Ms. Goldberg has agreed to serve as a student representative for another year. Colby Trembley, the other student representative, will be studying abroad in the fall, and Board members have been looking into potential candidates to replace him. Ryan Aylesworth will be up for reappointment to the Board, and his appointment will be voted on at the May 22 Town Council meeting.

Mr. Gifford said he plans to continue to serve on the Governance Committee but step down as Chair. He noted several tasks the Committee accomplished this year, such as reviewing the succession plan and the Executive Director job description, and encouraged members to focus on recruiting new Board members and other volunteers.

6. Discussion of Volunteer of the Year

The Committee discussed whether to name a Volunteer of the Year at this year's Annual Meeting. As Volunteer of the Year is not necessarily an annual award, they decided not to give the award this year. They plan to focus on efforts to recruit volunteers and possibly solicit nominations for the award for next year.

7. Annual Meeting Update

Ms. van Zelm said she will meet tomorrow with Michelle Polgar, Managing Director of Connecticut Repertory Theatre, to review the use of the Nafe Katter Theatre for the Annual Meeting and a social after the meeting. The meeting invitation will likely be sent next week to the Partnership members and the Downtown Storrs businesses. The main agenda item at the Annual Meeting will be Mr. Schurin's election.

Mr. Gifford noted that the UConn Human Rights Institute is hosting a film festival this summer and suggested that the Partnership partner with UConn for similar programs. Ms. van Zelm said Partnership Senior Communications Manager Kathleen Paterson has been in touch with a contact from the Human Rights Institute about a possible collaboration with the downtown restaurants.

Diana Pelletier suggested highlighting organizations at Annual Meetings that have partnered with the Partnership, such as the Ballard and the School of Fine Arts, in addition to volunteers.

8. Adjourn

Ms. Pelletier moved to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Paterson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Minutes taken by Joshua Stern