

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14TH, 2014 NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING VERSION TWO CORRECTED FOR NAME SPELLING, MINUTE APPROVAL AND MOTIONS.

The November 14th, 2014 meeting of the National Press Club board of governors was gaveled into session at 6:38 p.m. in the Zenger Room. Chairman Mellgren asked Vice-Chairman Ballou to act as Secretary for the meeting. There was no objection.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Belkind, Hughes, Burr, Wojno

OFFICERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Snyder

GOVERNORS PRESENT: Mellgren, Ballou, Barks, Dunn, Fitzgerald, Geewax, Greiling-Keane, Morton, McCluskey, Struglinkski-Broadfield

GOVERNORS EXCUSED: Shop

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The board of governors approved 18 new members and moved one of the 18 proposed to communicator

The board also approved one member moving to Retired status and a Journalist member to communicator

The board of governors declined to reinstate an expelled member who appealed to the board of governors for reinstatement.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Thomas Burr presented the 2015 NPC budget along with executive director McCarren and Georgetta. The year has been up and down. A discussion ensued on the positive financial position of the club versus that of 2008 when the club was deeply in the red. The budget will be presented for a vote during the December meeting.

ROCKWELL PAINTING UPDATE

The Rockwell painting is hanging in the Rockwell museum in the Berkshires. Discussions continue about having other art, a replica of the Rockwell work and the journalistic work of members being posted in the space were raised. Complaints about the painting loan have been basically non-existent according to executive director McCarren and President Belkind.

UPDATED HOUSE AND BAR COMMITTEE RULES

Governor Morton discussed some of the changes in the House Rules from the House and Bar committee. He asked for feedback from the governors.

BOARD-PASSED ALCOHOL SERVICE POLICY LANGUAGE:

As a follow on to October's discussions on underage alcohol consumption liability concerns regarding the club, treasurer Burr presented language that sought to decrease liability to the club.

A thorough discussion on the scope of and language of any proposed policy including any concerns regarding a balance of upholding the law, enforcement, retaining younger members, bar access and staff responsibility. The language that passed the board is as follows:

It is the policy of the National Press Club that no member or guest who is not above the legal age as mandated by the District of Columbia be served alcohol, and that staff must confirm the age of any person attempting to purchase an alcoholic beverage. Furthermore, no person under the age of 21 shall be allowed into the Reliable Source unless accompanied by a National Press Club member who is at least 21 years of age or older.*

This is not a by-laws change, but change in the club's legal policies.

After passage Governor Broadfield suggested that the membership application and process be tweaked to check ages along the way and add signage, website presence and house rules editing to aid in enforcement and better tracking of underage members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

Bill elected to take questions on his written report. Governor Barks congratulated Bill on the Georgetown deal and asked Bill to expand upon what was included in it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 1st, deadline for nominations for the Vivian awards

January 12th – Vivian awards

January 13th – Board appreciation dinner

January 16th – Presidential handover

January 24th – NPC Presidential Inaugural

President Belkind reflected on Sen McCain's book tour kickoff on Veteran's Day in a conversation with him at the club on November 11th.

President Belkind recapped Joel Saltzman's event Washington journalism as portrayed in television and film along with other events.

President Belkind also spoke about the second international cultural event featuring Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool

President Belkind had one action item. The board unanimously approved honorary membership for satirist Mark Russell.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR NPC MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR NON-CLUB MEETINGS

President Belkind presented his statement he will read out to the general membership at the club's January 16th, 2015 meeting.

President Belkind further presented for approval the following media guidelines:

“The National Press Club is the world's leading professional organization for journalists and is committed to the ideals of a free and vibrant press and open access to information. It hosts hundreds of events each year and all of those that are club-sponsored are open and on-the-record.

In addition to its own events, the National Press Club allows outside individuals and organizations to rent rooms in our facility for events, some of which are private and some of which are open to the public and/or include invited members of the press.

In keeping with our commitment to openness and transparency, the National Press Club believes the decision to have a conversation on background or off-the-record is an individual one, agreed to between a reporter and her/his source.

Should you or your organization wish to have a speaker at a public other than on-the-record, you must notify The National Press Club of your intentions to do so and to provide us with any news advisories explaining the circumstances to the press in a clear and transparent manner. After reviewing your communication, we reserve the right to discuss with you the possibility of offering the speaker on-the-record. We thank you in advance for your willingness to discuss this important matter with us.”

Governor McCluskey asked that the aforementioned policy be placed in the public section of the club's website for easy access by the staff and others. Vice President Hughes reiterated as much with emphasis.

The board voted unanimously passed the above policy after being moved and properly seconded.

Chair Mellgren called for old and new business.

The next board of governors meeting was set for Monday, December 15th at 6:30 pm.

Hearing no further business, Chairman Mellgren asked for and received with unanimous passage a motion to adjourn.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Governor Jeff Ballou, board of governors vice-chair

AFTER THE MEETING AN EMAIL DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE ID POLICY AND A TWEAK WAS MADE FOR LEGAL PROTECTION:

“It is the policy of the National Press Club that no member or guest who is not above the legal age as mandated by the District of Columbia be served alcohol, and that the staff must confirm the age of any person attempting to purchase or obtain an alcohol beverage. Furthermore, no person under the age of 21 shall be allowed to enter the Reliable Source during the hours the bar is open unless accompanied by a National Press Club member who is at least 21 years of age.”

ACTING SECRETARY NOTES.

I listened to the tape recording twice. The minutes of the October meeting were not presented for adoption.