

Board of Governors Meeting – May 21, 2018

Present – Alison Kodjak, Andrea Edny, Ferdous Al-Faruque, Andy Fisher, Ed Barks, Bill McCarren, Pat Host, Barbara Cochran, Kimberly Adams, Michael Freedman

On Phone – Erik Meltzer, Molly McCluskey, Lindsay Murphy

Kodjak called the meeting to order.

On Julie's Passing

McCarren spoke about Julie Schoo and her contributions to the club. He said all the staff and many members had a personal connection to her.

Cochran commended McCarren for taking care of everything related to Julie's passing including taking care of her family when they came to the club and ensuring the club continued to operate smoothly in Julie's absence.

Edney also spoke about how Julie impacted the lives of everyone at the club including hers on both a professional and personal level.

Freedman noted Julie had been his partner in helping run the Kalb Report over the past six years.

Kodjak noted how Julie always had a calm demeanor and managed to light up any room.

Cochran said Julie's family would have a small family only interment at Christchurch in Georgetown on Friday. They have tentatively set a June 21 date for a more public service. The National Press Club Journalism Institute has also talked about doing something separate at the Club. Most likely an evening event. The event would focus on Julie's contribution to the club. McCarren recommended the event be held July 10 at the club.

Cochran also said the NPCJI talked about memorializing Julie at the NPC. One idea that was well-received was naming the annual book fair after her. Another possibility would be to name a scholarship.

Cochran said Doug Harbrecht will be interim director of the NPCJI while the institute board searches for a permanent director. She also noted Kathy Kiely is still functioning as the Press Freedom Fellow but someone else will take over that position this summer. She also said Emilio Gutierrez has gotten a new hearing.

Cochran said the NPCJI Board golf tournament has been postponed. She has spoken with the auditor and the institute's audit will be presented in the next board meeting.

McCluskey asked how the board can support the institute moving forward.

Cochran asked the board to be conscious of the activities the institute is doing. She also said helping generate ticket sales for the golf tournament and attending it would be helpful.

Adams asked if the club is offering staff counseling and McCarren said the club does offer counseling.

Approving Previous Meeting's Minutes

Al-Faruque moved to approve the previous board meeting minutes. Edney and Adams seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Freedman gave the treasurer's report. He noted April represented the best month for profit and revenue. It exceeded budget by just \$12,000. He said three weddings and media services added significant revenue. The April budget was an aggressive projection and the club has had a rough quarter.

However, Freedman said the club is expecting May to be 3rd profitable month to bring us back to projected budget. He said the Audit Committee met with auditors the previous Friday, and the auditors' report will be shared by Wallbank after the board meeting and will be presented in the June board meeting.

Adams commended McCarren and his team for good work drawing revenue despite bad weather.

Fisher raised concern about the broadcast center and what can be done to improve the broadcast business. McCarren said there's been talks for a couple of years to get a show to bring consistent revenue and there's optimism that will eventually pan out.

Membership Secretary's List For Approval

Host called a motion to accept the membership list. McCluskey seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Edney asked about a member who was denied because he was a lobbyist and requested the membership team to reach out to the person and see if they could provide additional info. Host said they did and they tabled the application noting it had not been rejected but at the time there was limited information.

President's Report

Edney gave the president's report. She noted Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross had a luncheon the previous week and the event made significant news. She said the club has hired Betsy Fischer-Martin part-time to help in the convener role. She's doing great job splitting responsibilities and noted for the Ross event she put together an excellent list of guests including the Ambassador of Mexico and VP for policy for Amazon among other notable guests.

Edney said the club has scheduled three Congressmen to speak and an executive from Univision is also coming to attend a luncheon for former Mexican President Vicente Fox. Bret Baier and John Meacham are also scheduled to speak about their individual books. Erich Bergen from Madam Secretary is set to speak at the club as well.

Edney thanked Cochran and all involved in helping to manage the institute and the Club after Julie's passing. She noted there is an email address people can send memories of Julie to which will be collated into a book for her children and grandchildren.

Edney said the Awards Committee is convening soon to decide who to pick as the 2018 Fourth Estate Award winner.

Kodjak set the next board meeting for June 18

Kodjak adjourned the meeting.