

Board of Governors Meeting Minutes – Aug. 20, 2018

Present: Derek Wallbank, Pat Host, Lisa Matthews, Ferdous Al-Faruque, Michael Freedman, Jen Judson, Ed Barks, Erik Meltzer, Kimberly Adams

Phone: Andrea Edney, Peter Urban

Meeting Minutes

Al-Faruque called to approve previous meeting minutes. Adams seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Liaison Reports

Al-Faruque presented the liaison report.

Membership Report

Host presented the list of new member candidates.

Barks asked all documents for board consideration be presented at least the Wednesday before the Monday meeting to give members sufficient time to review documents.

Wallbank moved to approve the list. Freedman seconded the motion which was then passed unanimously.

Wallbank said he's concerned that while we're focusing on increasing membership we're not putting enough focus on membership retention. He said board members should consider reaching out to members who are about to drop off the rolls to see if there's anything we can do to help.

Matthews noted when she was on board of PRSA they reached out to members who dropped off the roles and it meant a lot to them generally because they felt the board cared.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Freedman presented the treasurer's report. He noted the club had a loss as anticipated but it was lower than anticipated. July 2018 revenues however was best revenue for a July in the past five years. For year-to-date we are also ahead of budget. While the club anticipates the biggest loss in August, it is still expected to make its budget target he added.

Freedman handed out the draft budget assumption. The budget committee will vote in their committee on the final version in September and then will ask the board to vote in the September meeting as well. He also noted McCarren's executive report has details on the budget as well.

Executive Session

Wallbank asked to go into executive session. Matthews seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Wallbank stepped out of executive session. Matthews seconded. It was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Edney gave the president's report. She noted Emilio and Oscar Gutierrez are out of detention and the club had a significant effect on that outcome. Emilio's lawyers are going to try moving the case to Michigan where he has a fellowship at the amazing University of Michigan.

Edney said NPC and Reporters Without Borders had an event for missing journalist Austin Tice. FBI announced earlier this year it set up a million dollar reward for anyone with information on Tice's whereabouts. She noted McCarren also came up with idea to have a night where we would give half of the restaurant profits to the FBI fund called "A Night Out for Austin" and are hoping to get other local restaurants on board with the plan. She also said the club has made Tice's parents honorary members.

Edney said the Shawn Spicer event in the Holeman lounge was full and got good reception. Ron Nessen, former Gerald Ford press secretary, was at the event and took a photo with Spicer.

Edney listed a number of upcoming events in the coming month including one with Elizabeth Warren and an event where the editor of the Baltimore Sun is set to speak. She also noted the Capital Gazette will send staffers to the Aug. 30 press club awards dinner and there is a scheduled golf outing at Woodmore Resort on Sept 4. to raise money for NPCJI.

Edney also stated Emily's List president is set to speak Sept. 18 at the club, The Spelling Bee is scheduled for Sept. 27.

Old Business

Wallbank presented the proposed changes to the house rules and explained the process to come up with a draft.

As part of the rule changes, Urban noted there was no real policy before specifically on sexual harassment beyond a simple statement against it. He said the recommendation proposed was based on the DC mayor's office's definition of sexual harassment and got input from the president and executive director. Other big issue was developing a firearms policy and a clarification on how to behave in the 14th floor working space.

The board discussed solutions to allow usage of the work space for cell phones while also reducing sound to allow people to work.

The board entered committee of the whole.

The board voted to ban audio recording other members and their guests without their consent, only the president or Board of Governors can allow that. It passed unanimously.

The board voted on when the president, executive director or their designee could remove/suspend a member pending a full investigation for inappropriate behavior. Matthews moved to approve the language. Adams seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Al-Faruque recommended and asked for a motion to remove the line about setting phones to vibrate or silent in all parts of club. Matthews seconded. Eight to two, the motion passed.

Matthews asked for a motion to charge \$50 when members bounce three checks. Wallbank seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Host recommended reducing the Cosgrove Lounge reservation fee minimum to \$175. Wallbank seconded. The motion failed 7-3.

Wallbank moved to officially change the Games Room to the Cosgrove Lounge. It passed unanimously.

Judson moved to include language that the Cosgrove Lounge and McClendon room may be reserved by members. It passed unanimously.

Freedman moved for a language change stating that the club "shall" charge 15 percent service fee when a member leaves without paying their tab. It passed unanimously.

Wallbank motioned to approve draft as amended. It was passed unanimously.

The board exited the committee of the whole.

Wallbank moved to approve the draft as amended. It was approved unanimously.

Matthews moved to adjourn. Freedman seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.