

Notes of the Board Meeting of February 17, 20206

Attendance: Steven O'Connor, Peter Gaback, Ren Lee, Paul Stewart, Ron Gardner, David Hochfelder, Leon Walker

Staff: Maryliz Stewart

The order of the meeting was a bit irregular as a quorum did not attend and so some announcements were made that would have been at the end of the meeting. They were offered on order to allow time for members to reach the meeting to allow for the quorum to be present.

1. Call to order
2. Discussion on Capital Campaign
 - Peter discussed a phone call which he and Maryliz made with the staff of Over the Edge regarding changing the date of our proposed event (to April of 2027). It was decided that there would be an event at the Central Rock Gym for April 24th of this year. Peter talked about the gym splitting the “gate” with us. More details would be discussed in the fund Development Committee Meeting.
 - Peter shared screen and discussed the capital campaign cabinet. Peter discussed how to reach out to potential cabinet members. Peter shared a screen list of potential members. Peter is looking for additional names.
3. The notes of the previous meeting were reviewed for comment or correction. The notes were minutes but could not be approved because we did not have a quorum at this meeting.
4. Finance Report – Paul reviewed a balance sheet and profit and loss statement for the past month. It was just covering January. Paul pointed out that we had spent more in that month than we had brought in but that was not unusual and we were fine financially in the long run. Paul pointed out that on the balance sheet an account was identified that contained the funds raised in the fall for the Interpretive Center (at the “Arias” event). Paul also pointed out the two “Fidelity” accounts and explained that the additional one was opened because additional money had been donated and PK Investments (the manager of the account) did not want to put it in the first account because that account was set aside as collateral for the loan we look out last January for Architectural expenses. After discussion Peter recommended, we confer with our Accountants regarding if we should pass a resolution regarding opening the second account. Paul said he would follow up on it. Ren asked about the \$80,000 loan from individual noted on the balance sheet. Paul explained that he and Maryliz had loaned the project \$80,000 at one point, initially for the purchase of the Barn Timer Frame (an expense that was 50% paid for

by a loan from Pioneer Bank, and 50% paid for by a loan from Paul and MaryLiz). Ren asked about Sarah Stewart starting to do consulting work in programming for UREC. Ren asked if she was an employee or a contractor. Paul explained that she was being taken on as an outside contractor for specific services in outreach. This role is in large part a replacement of Amelia Paul, rather than filling that vacancy. In January this has been discussed at the board meeting and Nancy Delain, an attorney, offered to provide an opinion regarding it. Since Nancy was absent from this meeting the opinion was not available. Sarah has a contract and submits invoices on hours of work provided and deliverables.

5. Executive Director's Report – Mary Liz had provided a written report. She pointed out that the recently developed exhibit on “Black mariners” was on display at the Pine Hills Library. Carmen Bivens developed the exhibit. She is working with a SUNY intern on further exhibits. We have initiated a kiosk advertisement at the Colonie Center advertising UREC and the Myers Residence. Maryliz noted a program organized by Aaron Joshua Moore called “We sing, we speak, we rise” to raise money for UREC. The program is February 27, 28 and March 1. Andrea Hyari is helping work on an IMLS grant. Mary Liz needs the circulated conflict of interest forms back.
6. Committee Reports – Ren spoke on the Governance Committee's deliberations. She offered a number of issues that needed clarification by Paul and Mary Liz. Further discussion of issues such as board attendance, absences and excuses. Other Committees did not have reports. Strategic planning was once again mentioned but no action was taken at this meeting.
7. The Interpretive Center Progress – Steps have been taken to consolidate the properties. We are almost in a position to ask the city for a building permit.
8. Announcements: On May 13 and 14 there will be archaeology done at the Florence Farming and Lumber Association site near Camden, NY. Also on May 15 there will be a trip to the John Brown farm for a program there “John Brown Day”.

The meeting ended.

Notes by Paul Stewart