



RTDNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Friday, Dec. 15, 2023

ZOOM

In Attendance

Tim Scheld, Allison McGinley, Sheryl Worsley, Alex Silverman, Kathy Walker, Robert Thomas, Monika Diaz, Misty Montano, Vince Duffy, Melissa Luck, Colin Benedict, Jennifer Seelig, JJ Green, Ellen Crooke, Terence Shepherd, Jam Sardar, Galean Stewart, Dan Shelley, Tara Puckey, Michael Sanserino, Kate McGarrity, Kelby Dolan

Welcome

Sheld calls the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Eastern. He thanked board members for attending during a time when everyone is busy and the holidays are approaching.

Budget

Sheld spoke briefly about the budget process, sharing that it moves through multiple meetings to bring understanding to board members and officers. Puckey explained elements of the budget, including both revenue and expenses, and shared that there are key changes of note:

- Adding two new staff positions: communications/marketing support and part-time logistics coordinator
- Includes 2 major grants: from Arnold Ventures for crime coverage summits, and anticipated grant for newsroom training initiatives
- Revenue increased due to grants; expenses increased due to new positions and program costs

Shepherd motions for approval of budget with Silverman seconding the motion. All in favor, none opposed, budget approved.

Governance Modernization

Puckey summarized governance modernization work and shared three policy proposals for review and approval:

- Board Members as Committee Liaisons, which moves board members to a liaison role within committees instead of serving as a member of committees
- Governance Committee Charge, which tasks the committee with conducting ongoing assessments and recommending improvements to the Board related to the governance structure and volunteer experience of RTDNA
- Formation of Advocacy Advisory Council, which forms a council to help find and surface advocacy issues the association should engage around

Shepherd motions for approval of all three policy proposals with Duffy seconding the motion. All in favor, none opposed, the three policies were approved.

Murrow Task Force Feedback

Puckey explained that the task force has been exploring changes to structure and process and is now focused on the evaluation of first round winners and what those possibilities could look like. Sanserino explained more of the process thus far to share where the groups have aligned and then Puckey sent board members to breakout rooms to have small discussions with the goal of providing feedback for staff.

Advocacy Update

Shelley discussed the New York Times Dealbook Summit that he attended and noted that 2024 is seeing quite a bit of intentional harassment of journalists and the organization is keeping a close eye on safety issues. He also shared multiple issues that the organization has engaged with over access issues, open records, radio encryption, to name a few.

He shared information about wins with the Florida Supreme Court and a fight to get cameras in the court win in Idaho.

Programs & Services Update

Puckey encouraged board members to attend and share information about all the upcoming events, which are more than the organization has had in recent years. She shared information about the upcoming Crime Coverage Summits, First Amendment Awards, Leadership Labs and Skills Summits, Leaders of Tomorrow and the RTDNA24 conference in Milwaukee.

She also shared staff updates, noting that Christen DeBard is returning from maternity leave on January 2, 2024 and that the office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day. She also shared that Sanserino was awarded the Association Professional of the Year at the Indiana Society of Association Executives.

Officer Reporting

Scheld shared that the reviews for both Puckey and Shelley will be conducted via an online platform and that those will be happening soon. Worsley updated the group that programming efforts for the conference were well underway and that safety is still a key priority.

Duffy reported that the organization is in a good financial position. The organization has good liquidity and will likely be making the decision to roll over the CD once it matures.

Foundation Meeting

Duffy motions to move from the Association meeting to the Foundation meeting, with Worsley seconding the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

McGinley shared that scholarship application reviews are starting soon in January to make sure that students can attend the June conference. She also shared an idea that Scheld has been sharing around mentorship of the scholarship and fellowship students, which could potentially be possible in 2025.

Walker reminded the board that she, Duffy, Shelley and Puckey meet with the PNC Investment Advisors each month and keep a close eye on the Foundation finances. She feels like we have a good strategy when it comes to the investment policy and that the board can always weigh in on what that policy looks like, underscoring that the board has a fiduciary responsibility to the organization, and encouraged everyone on the board to donate.

Worsley motions to move from the Foundation meeting back to the Association meeting, with Luck seconding the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Minutes Approval

Duffy motions to approve the June 2023, September 2023 (2) meeting minutes, with Montano seconding the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Adjournment

Worsley motions to adjourn, with Silverman seconding the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m. Eastern.