





Minutes

June 2022 Board Meeting

 Thu June 16th, 2022

 2:00pm - 5:00pm EDT

 Zoom Meeting

In Attendance

Colin Benedict, Ellen Crooke, Melissa Deis, Scott Diener, Vince Duffy, JJ Green, Alisha McDevitt, Allison McGinley, Sean McLaughlin, Tara Puckey, Michael Sanserino, Jam Sardar, Tim Scheld, Jennifer Seelig, Dan Shelley, Terence Shepherd, Alex Silverman, Andrea Stahlman, Robert Thomas, Loren Tobia, Kathy Walker

I. **Welcome**

McGinley called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

a. **Chair Welcome Remarks**

b. **Roll Call**

II. **Bylaw Amendment Discussion**

McGinley introduced potential bylaws changes that address the title changes of the Executive Director and Chief Staff Officer, moving the Executive Director to President & CEO and the Chief Staff Officer to Executive Director. The goal is to have one person focused on advocacy and the voice of the organization and another focused on association management.

Stahlman shared that she has strong feelings about the fact that this option works. Tobia asked about whether this impacts salaries (it does not as both current employees are contracted) and if this should be voted on by the full membership. Longterm, he does believe

that we need strong association management as well as a voice that is strong in the advocacy space. Scheld mentioned that he's been really excited at the idea of what this does for the future of the organization and that he feels we need both elements to be successful.

Shepherd asked for additional information about why Barefoot thought that the new title helped to open doors and McGinley explained that many people who are taking meetings on a legislative level have a President title or something else - Executive Director is heavily association-based as opposed to external.

Duffy explained his work with the bylaws changes and the things he attempted to address: To keep them vague enough that there is flexibility for the organization but structured enough that there should always be someone managing the association elements and someone speaking for the organization, and that it is very unlikely they would be the same person.

Decision: Duffy motioned to approve the bylaw amendment and was seconded by Shepherd. A vote was called and the decision passed unanimously.

a. **Resource Item: Feedback**

Up-to-date feedback (as the document was created Saturday morning) can be found [at this link](#).

b. **Resource Item: Questions/Answers**

III. **Committee Action/Updates**

a. **Ethics Committee**

Benedict reported that the committee is working through guidelines for update or removal and should have recommendations ready for the September board meeting.

b. **Trust Working Group Update**

Crooke shared that the group is moving along well with plans for education at RTDNA22 and that the study had really interesting findings, some of which she shared with the group. Others remarked about the great work that was being done and that all are excited to see it in action in a few months.

IV. **New Business**

V. **RTDNA Reporting**

a. **Chair Report**

b. **Chair-Elect Report**

1. **RTDNA22 Update**

Scheld reported that the Programming Committee was working with DeBard to finish up filling any holes in trainers for the topics selected and that he is excited about how all the elements are coming together.

c. Treasurer Report

Tobia reported that the association is in good financial shape despite the markets, which have been in flux as of late.

d. Executive Director Report

1. Advocacy Update

RTDNA has been busy working on issues involving cameras in the courts, including in New York. The organization has spoken out about bills preventing journalists from wearing body armor and several bills in California. Next week, Shelley will meet with Washington and Oregon governors to introduce them to RTDNA and our priorities. The hope is that these meetings will continue around the country.

e. CSO Report

1. RTDNA 2022 Q1 Financial Reports

A request was made to return to sending monthly raw financial data to the board, which Puckey noted. This will begin once the migration from Quickbooks Desktop to Quickbooks Online happens and is de-bugged. Overall, however, the organization is in a good financial position and tracking relatively on par with the aggressive budget set for FY22.

2. RTDNF 2022 Q1 Financial Reports

3. RTDNA22/RTDNA23 Update

Puckey gave a short report on RTDNA22: Planning is coming along nicely, COVID updates: vaccination proof to be required, masks to be recommended as of now. Programming is locking in and we're beginning to see registration and sales come in the door.

4. RTDNA24 June Date & Governance Committee

Puckey explained that we're going to be in the process of sending RFPs out shortly and we want to make sure the Board is supportive of a switch to June dates beginning in 2024. It would require some governance elements to be changed, at least for one year, so staff is recommending that the Governance and Membership Committee tackle that and bring forward a recommendation to the board during the September meeting.

VI. Old Business

VII. Foundation Meeting

a. Adjourn as Association/Convene as Foundation

Decision: Tobia moved to adjourn as the association and convene as the Foundation and was seconded by Stahlman. Motion passes.

b. Chair Report

Stahlman reported that staff is still working on confirming White/Hogan recipients and is waiting on an answer from one potential person before moving forward on other asks. She also reported that the Nominations Committee is working with people who are interested in declaring to fill all the open seats on the board.

c. Treasurer Report

Walker shared Tobia's sentiment that the organization is still in a good financial place but that we're continuing to watch the markets do interesting things. Each year, we do request that the money to fund our scholarships be "protected" so those are not impacted by any potential losses.

d. New Business

e. Old Business

f. Adjourn as Foundation/Convene as Association

Decision: Motion to adjourn as the Foundation was made by Shepherd and seconded by Tobia. Motion passed without objection.

VIII. Consent Items

a. Approval of Minutes

1. March 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Decision: Stahlman motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Walker. Minutes were approved without objection.

b. For the Record (No Action Needed): White/Hogan Vote

The Board voted to approve recommendations for the 2022 Paul White and John F. Hogan Award recipients. The vote was 20 "yes" votes and 0 "no" votes.

IX. **Adjournment**

Decision: Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Duffy.
Motion to adjourn was approved.