




Minutes

March Board Meeting

 Thu March 10th, 2022

 9:00am - 12:00pm EST

In Attendance

Jack Acosta, Colin Benedict, Fiona Conway, Ellen Crooke, Christen DeBard, Melissa Deis, Scott Diener, Vince Duffy, JJ Green, Lynn Hatter, Sherri Jackson, Alisha McDevitt, Kate McGarrity, 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, Sheryl Worsley

I. Welcome & GTKY Exercise

a. Chair Welcome Remarks

McGinley welcomed everyone and thanked staff for all their work on the First Amendment Awards. She also thanked the board for their continued commitment and engagement.

b. GTKY Exercise

Board members each shared items that they have in their office and what the item means to them and why it is important.

c. Roll Call

II. First Amendment Dinner Update/Feedback

Puckey shared that there were 261 people in attendance, which is up from 2020 numbers. Sales have exceeded budget projections. Tobia mentioned that there might be a good way to honor past recipients and that there is a group photo at the end of the show.

III. Voice of the First Amendment

a. **General Update**

Shelley shared that there were five White House staffers in attendance at the dinner, as well as staffers from Democratic Governors Association and multiple Hill staffers. Rep. Swalwell stopped by to meet the Nishitas.

b. **Barefoot PR**

Shelley thanked Barefoot PR for their continued support and help with moving along a federal piece of legislation, the Right to Record. It is an incredible accomplishment for a group that does not have a lobbyist. He also mentioned in-person visits in California and with state governor offices.

IV. All Things Murrows

a. **2022 Murrow Entry Update**

Puckey updated that the entry period is now closed and that we received record-setting revenue, though entries were down by roughly 100 entries.

b. **Murrow Task Force Update**

The Murrows Task Force met in Indianapolis in February and had great discussion around potential changes to the structure of the Murrow Awards. There were many topics discussed and staff will bring together smaller groups to tackle each in the coming months.

c. **2022 Murrow Announcement Update**

Regional announcements will now take place for nearly the full month of May, announcing each region on their own day. It gives each region more space to shine and gives the brand a lengthier run. Regional Directors will be asked to call the day after the announcement to extend congratulations and reiterate next steps already relayed from staff. The national announcement will be similar to the virtual gala of 2020 and gives us the "Oscar moment," as well as an additional opportunity for revenue. That way, there's still a bigger moment for the brand and excitement more than just a page on a website.

V. All Things Conference

a. **RTDNA22 Overview**

DeBard reminded everyone that RTDNA22 will take place at the Indianapolis Marriott downtown Sept. 14-16. The conference pillars have been identified as Trust and Teams.

b. **RTDNA22 Programming Committee Update**

The Programming Committee has worked through topics around trust and teams and is narrowing down the list to excellent training topics. Staff will continue to work with the group to identify specific trainers and put together the programming over the next few months.

c. **RTDNA23 Early Planning**

RTDNA is currently exploring four locations for RTDNA23: Anaheim, Orlando, Charleston and Charlotte. The conference is traditionally hosted in September, but we are also exploring June dates.

VI. **Trust Efforts: Trust Working Group**

Crooke reviewed the Trust Working Group presentation and shared that the group has been meeting weekly since January. The goal is to figure out how we improve trust in journalism and will be achieved through a listening tour, training and - the biggest piece - research. Magid was selected as the research firm and the group asked for \$10k to fund the research.

Decision: Tobia moved that we allocate \$10k to fund the research efforts of the Trust Working Group and was seconded by Worsley. No opposed votes, motion passes.

VII. **Recruiting the Future Board**

a. **Our Voices & What's Missing**

Puckey shared a board matrix example as a tool the group can use in evaluating the gaps of the board and how to bring in additional voices.

b. **Open Positions for 2022-2023**

Stahlman shared the open positions and the desire to have robust elections. She will work with the Nominating Committee in the coming months to start recruitment.

VIII. **RTDNA Reporting**

a. **Chair Report**

McGinley thanked Shelley for issuing a joint statement about Ukraine journalists, as well as hedge funds taking over several print operations. She really wants to make sure that the leadership is working to turn passive members into passionate members and encourages other board members to help do so.

b. **Executive Director Report**

1. **Executive Session: Legal Matter**

Decision: Tobia moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter and was seconded by Worsley. None opposed and the group entered closed session.

Decision: Worsley moved to exit Executive Session and was seconded by Duffy. There was no opposition and the group returned to open session.

c. **Treasurer Report**

Tobia shared that PNC has continued to do a good job managing our money. Investments are down a bit with market changes, but we continue to do well.

IX. **Foundation Meeting**

Decision: Walker moved to adjourn as the Association and convene as the Foundation and was seconded by Silverman. No opposition, motion passes.

a. **Chair Report**

Stahlman shared that the White/Hogan awards are upcoming and that the list of recipients will be shared with the full board for approval.

1. **Assignment of Minutes**

2. **Board Giving Update**

Stahlman encouraged board members to continue giving to the Association or Foundation and that monthly giving is a great option to make sure you don't forget, and also continue to support the organization.

b. **Treasurer Report**

Walker shared that she is also happy with the continued efforts of PNC in managing our money and that there has been some loss due to market performance.

c. **New Business**

d. **Old Business**

Decision: Walker moved to adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association, and was seconded by Duffy. There was no opposition.

X. **New Business**

McGinley reported that she has been in talks with the National Press Foundation about the possibility of a training effort around criminal justice reporting. Staff is working with their team on the possibility and potential.

XI. **Old Business**

Stahlman and McGinley thanked Shepherd for his leadership of RTDNF in 2021, a difficult year.

XII. **Consent Items**

a. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **December 16, 2021**

Decision: Worsley made a motion to approve the December 16 minutes and was seconded by Conway. There was no opposition.

XIII. **Adjournment**

Decision: Shepherd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Worsley was seconded and all approved.