

Folk Alliance Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Kansas City, Mo – February 18, 2015

Present:

David Hirshland, President
Michelle Conceison, Vice-President
Joan Kornblith, Secretary
Donald Davidoff, Treasurer
Mary Sue Twohy, At Large
Renee Bodie
Doug Cox
Michael Kornfeld
Dan Navarro
Lisa Schwartz
Anya Siglin
Matt Smith
Jean Spivey
Ralph Jaccodine joined at 11:35
Tim McFadden joined at 11:35
Erika Wollam-Nichols joined at 11:35

Observing: (newly elected members)

Jenni Finlay
Amy Reitnouer
Ellen Stanley
Keli O'Neill Wenzel

Absent:

Chris Frayer

Call to order 9am Central.

MINUTES APPROVAL Joan MOTION to approve Jan 20, 2015 minutes. Matt seconds. No discussion. Passes unanimously.

Louis delivered Special Projects Report. Overview of events occurring during the weekend.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Aengus thanked Louis for his help, and ExCom for support. Looking forward to staff needs, big picture of operations and office space post conference. Everything on pace with past year. Discussion included use of "Planet Folk" branding, volunteers, future coordination of streaming broadcasts btw special project and conference, timing of Folk DJ reception, successful outreach to international delegation, increased registrations, history of camp and other special projects, openness to feedback and observing how traffic flows between conference, camp and fair.

Mary Sue suggested Think Tank post conference about relationship of camp/special projects/conference.

MEETING GROUND RULES, POINT OF ORDER David reviewed board conduct, expectations for members, how meetings are run. Dan (as a Past President) discusses past practices and how the Board operates.

FINANCIALS (Donald and Aengus)

Reviewed projections of conference P & L. Registrations up this year (significantly), room nights not. Receivables up due to updated collection processes. Board request for financial breakout of Folk Store and Camp at May meeting. Discussion included current and future grant writing approach, management of cash on hand, exhibit halls, update from Keli (local board member) about Kansas City and state of arts and culture, update from Donald regarding future discussion of store (and what it means to organization and city), staffing, office, streetcar construction impacting sales.

Aengus shared intention to add staff. Update on legal status of corporation and merger, should be resolved by summer.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEES, WORKING SESSIONS

Reviewed committees, chairs and work process, discussion of committee reshuffle. Working sessions provided directors opportunity to survey possible committee selections. Each committee reported back from sessions within their scheduled committee reports.

LOCATION FOR 2019 CONFERENCE (CANADA)

Discussion of possible locations with input from many board members. Consensus agreement to form a site selection committee – for 2019, and also to start thinking about 2020-24.

MOTION Dan “To authorize the Executive Director to investigate the Canadian conference possibilities in Vancouver Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, and other cities as deemed appropriate, and to work with a board site selection committee to make a recommendation to the board regarding a location for the 2019 conference. Lisa second. Passed unanimously.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (Donald)

MOTION Donald “To form an election reform subcommittee within the governance committee. It shall be chaired by Jean Spivey, with members Michael Kornfeld and Dan Navarro. Committee is charged to come back to the board for the May board meeting with recommendations to deal with any conflicts arising from the election process as currently outlined in our bylaws.” Dan second. Passed unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (Joan)

Discussion of NomComm composition. Amy would like to join committee. Joan led discussion regarding appointment of Dan Navarro. Dan explains he would like to continue to serve on the Board to see us fully through the transition period.

MOTION Donald moves “To appointment Dan Navarro to a 2 year term ending in 2017.” Tim seconds. Passed by acclamation.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT (Mary Sue)

Mary Sue reviewed committee structure. Michael suggests upcoming FCC ruling on Net Neutrality for possible future topic – will be considered for future think tank.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE REPORT (Anya)

Committee will meet after conference for a recap of 2015 and discussion of what what role it should take for 2016. The primary job this year was showcase submission review. Committee aims to support ED’s needs.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT, TRANSITION, PLANNING COMMITTEES (Erika, Donald, Michelle)

Discussion of Board communication and assessment procedures, ACG to facilitate ED transition follow up, staff/board roles review at in person meeting in May 29-31. Cost included in ED Search budget/services already approved.

Discussion of when to meet to update the strategic plan. Possibly next February meeting, as not enough board members available in August/September as originally discussed.

MOTION Michelle moves “To authorize spending up to \$3500 (plus facilitator travel expenses) to engage Liz Allen Fey for a 1 day follow up session during a future in-person meeting.” Matt seconds. Passed by acclamation.

REGIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (Renee)

Renee updated board regarding status of deal memo with regions. Discussion regarding membership fees request. Board expressed openness to an arrangement that would benefit both the regions and the organization, but concern about the request as posed. Renee and committee to follow up.

BRAND COMMITTEE REPORT (Lisa)

Discussion included SWOT analysis assignment, committee compiling responses, the charge of the committee, board role versus staff role, potential stakeholder analysis. Board agreed if we hire a research company, there should be a multi-sourced consideration process. Keli joined the committee.

FUNDRAISING/DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (Jean)

Committee to revive the Advisory Council. Implementing annual fund appeal in Spring. Reviewing local funding and grants – Keli Wenzel offered to review. Cultivation events – can happen during May meetings.

EXCOM ELECTION

The 2016 FAI Executive Committee is:
President – Michelle Conceison
Vice President – Mary Sue Twohy
Secretary – Lisa Schwartz
Treasurer – Donald Davidoff
At Large – Matt Smith

Meeting adjourned at 5:23pm CDT.

Folk Alliance Annual General Membership Meeting Kansas City, Mo – February 19, 2015

Call to order 9:04am Central by outgoing President, David Hirshland.

Welcome and introduction of new Executive Committee: Michelle Conceison, President; Mary Sue Twohy, Vice President; Donald Davidoff, Treasurer; Lisa Schwartz, Secretary; Matt Smith, At Large

New President Michelle Conceison thanked FAI staff, Jerrod Rivers, Jennifer Roe, Louis Jay Meyers, and all the volunteers for their hard work. Spoke to core values of FAI and celebrated new initiatives including the expanded Music Camp and Music Fair, along with publication of two trade papers (“Understanding Copyright, Royalties and Practical Applications in Folk Music” and “Travel Tips for Musicians”).

Next, committee work was briefly discussed, and Conceison invited membership to send feedback and ideas to her. She talked about hiring our new Executive Director, Aengus Finnan, spoke to the transition plan, and thanked Louis Jay Meyers for his help and contributions.

Aengus Finnan welcomed the AGM attendees and compliments FAI Board, Louis Jay Meyers, and staff. Emphasized increased conference attendance this year, the expanded offering in the Music Camp, and said that FAI is invested in “...quality over quantity at heart.” Finnan also stressed expanding connections to the local community, building bridges into the cultural and music communities at large. To provide support and service we need to develop capacity and reinforce the foundation that FAI was built on – that has started with a “small but mighty four person staff.” New initiatives include revamping the data and CRM communications, information movement and access, engaging in advocacy and support, and first ever Regional Leaders Retreat in April. All designed to build bridges and strengthen communication.

Finnan thanked Louis Jay Meyers along with staff Jerrod Rivers, Membership Manager, and Jennifer Roe, Operations Manager. He invited comments and feedback.

Donald Davidoff, Treasurer, delivered Financial Report – stating we are in a strong financial position with \$473,000 in liquid assets, debt-free for 78 months, and most recent audit was unqualified, meaning there are no issues. Spoke to the move to Missouri and need to be registered as a Missouri corporation to be eligible for state grants. Membership approved the move and the dissolution of the Tennessee corporation, so this legal work is almost complete.

Member Gilles Girand from Folkestone as an official member of FAI

Member Brad Paul asked if we have thought of having the conference in a warmer climate, like Mexico or the Caribbean.

Conceison responded that we will be in Canada for 2019, but after that, who knows, we are exploring possibilities.

Gilles Girand formally acknowledged the Call to Order for the record.

President Conceison thanked membership for their attendance and invited them to attend Board of Directors reception at 6pm that evening.

MOTION to adjourn by Member Vern Crawford. Second by Director Joan Kornblith. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 9:35am Central.

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Ellen Stanley

Call to order 2:08pm Central.

Extensive discussion around the reconstitution of committees. Conceison invited open dialogue with referent to preliminary assignments based on director wishlists submitted on paper at the end of session the day before. Nearly everyone requested Brand committee, which speaks to how important the entire Board considers the subject.

At conclusion of discussion, Conceison read aloud the new committees, chairs and members (see attached).

MOTION David Hirshland "To accept the new committee assignments as discussed." Dan Navarro seconds. No further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

Spirited discussion about branding, specifically this year's conference's Planet Folk logo and how it came to pass. Dan Navarro suggested we make decisions about what is committee purview and what belongs to staff.

Conceison stated the May meeting agenda will include a facilitated discussion around both the ED Transition, board/staff roles and review of the conference. Donald Davidoff added ACG will be there to provide guidance.

New Business – Mary Sue Twohy will meet with Cathy Fink about a possible mentorship program within FAI, and will report back.

MOTION to adjourn by Donald Davidoff. Michael Kornfeld second. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 3:16pm Central.