

FOLK ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TELEPHONE MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2015

PRESENT:

Michelle Conceison, President  
Mary Sue Twohy, Vice President  
Donald Davidoff, Treasurer  
Matt Smith, Member-at-Large (left at 1:02 pm CDT)  
Aengus Finnan, Executive Director

Renee Bodie (left meeting at 12:30pm CDT)	Doug Cox
Jenni Finlay	Michael Kornfeld
Joan Kornblith	Tim McFadden
Dan Navarro (acting secretary)	Amy Reitnauer
Anya Siglin	Jean Spivey (left at 12:45 pm CDT)
Ellen Stanley	Erika Wollam-Nichols
Kelli Wenzel (joined at 11:10am CDT, left at 1:02pm CDT)	

ABSENT:

Lisa Schwartz, Secretary	Ralph Jaccodine
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President Michelle Consceison called the meeting to order at 11:04 CDT.

The Board **approved** the minutes of the spring Board of Directors meetings of May 29-31, 2015 **unanimously**.

President Conceison welcomed Executive Director Aengus Finnan, who delivered his Executive Director Report. He reported that he has hired a Business Development Manager, Alex Mallet, previously with MIDEM. Aengus indicated he has reviewed staff and their roles, upgraded systems, and website login for members. He also reported that the Kansas City reception was positive.

Aengus requested a clarification of Folk Alliance policy with regard to letters of support written for non-Folk Alliance members to secure international visas, looking for guidance toward a policy.

It was **MOVED** by Donald Davidoff and **seconded** by Michael Kornfeld that the Board amend FAI policy such that writing letters of support for O and P visas will be written for members only. The foregoing policy specifically does not preclude staff from continuing to support member presenters who have artists encountering a visa issue. The vote was **CARRIED unanimously** with no abstentions.

The Executive Director delivered a Pricing Report in which he cited rates and dates, along with membership data, and sales and sponsorships, with exact figures and greater detail in the Board packet.

Aengus invited a discussion regarding the Awards Show, which will be in a new “Best Of” format. He cited significant discussion internally regarding album criteria, and whether to charge for the event. President Conceison suggested we organize a Think Tank on this subject; however it was ultimately decided that Aengus should consult the Programming Committee.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the ED review, with the Executive Director excused. The Board discussed the review in detail. At the conclusion of the discussion, Donald Davidoff **MOVED**, and David Hirshland **seconded**, that the Board accept the Personnel Committee’s recommendation to award Aengus his full annual bonus, and a \$100/month raise in salary. The vote was **CARRIED unanimously** without abstentions.

The Board left Executive Session and Aengus was invited back into the Boardroom at 12:27pm CDT.

Donald Davidoff delivered the Financial Committee report, while Aengus reported that our financial health is secure, with about \$48,000 in the black to date this year.

In a schedule edit, Tim McFadden and the Programming Committee requested that the Board start thinking of input regarding special guests and submit to Aengus.

The Finance Committee resumed its report.

Mary Sue Twohy gave the Advocacy Committee Report. She noted that the AFM instrument travel piece in our Board packet mentioned Folk Alliance.

Donald Davidoff delivered a Governance Committee report, focusing on issues he and Lisa Schwartz are beginning to identify, and initiating conversations on term limits and multiple simultaneous Board service. A further conversation ensued regarding petition signature requirements (presently 10) and whether they should be indexed to membership size.

Joan Kornblith delivered the Nominating Committee report. Amy Reitnouer was added to the Nominating Committee. Several Board potential candidates were mentioned by name.

President Conceison entertained a motion to adjourn, which was made by Tim McFadden at 1:04pm CDT.