

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m EDT. Members present: President J. Alex Tarquinio; President-elect Patti Newberry; Secretary-Treasurer Matthew Hall; Vice President of Campus Chapter Affairs Sue Kopen Katcef; directors at-large Lauren Bartlett, Mike Reilley, Michael Savino and Yvette Walker; Region 2 Director Andy Schotz; Region 3 Director Michael Koretzky; Region 10 Director Don Meyers and Region 12 Director Kelly Kissel. Joining later were Campus Advisor At-Large Jeff South, directors at-large Ivette Davila-Richards and Tess Fox and Region 6 Director Joe Radske. Members absent: Director-at-large Victor Hernandez and Region 11 Director Deb Krol. Also present: SPJ communications director Jennifer Royer.

MINUTES

The board approved the minutes of its April 13 meeting, as amended. Motion: Newberry. Second: Bartlett. Vote: unanimous. The board approved the minutes of its May 6 meeting, as amended. Motion: Bartlett. Second: Kopen Katcef. Vote: unanimous.

EIJ2021 VENUE UPDATE

Tarquinio briefed the board on the location, date and planning for the 2021 annual conference. It will be in New Orleans on Sept. 1-5, 2021.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

Tarquinio proposed a seven-member search committee, formulated in consultation with the SPJ Foundation: Tarquinio, Newberry, Hall, SPJ Foundation President Irwin Gratz, SPJ Foundation Vice President Hagit Limor and two foundation appointees, Dr. Battinto L. Batts Jr. and Michael Bolden. Tarquinio said the committee and both boards would work over the summer to craft a job description and survey the boards and staff about what's desired in an executive director. Best-case scenario, someone could be in place by early September to attend the annual convention, but that may be optimistic. Tarquinio said she would keep all SPJ members apprised along the way by email.

Tarquinio invited Limor to chair the committee, noting she had been a part of the last two executive director search committees and chaired the one before last. Several

board members -- including Koretzky, Hall, Kopen Katcef, Bartlett and Kissel -- emphasized that Limor is a great choice for the committee but that it should be chaired by an SPJ board member -- Newberry as incoming president -- as SPJ is in charge of hiring executive directors. Tarquinio said Newberry as incoming president would be too busy. Savino said the committee should have included someone younger than 40.

Bartlett moved that the search committee submit names of three finalists to the SPJ board and that the board do videoconference interviews with all of them, and that Newberry chair the search committee. Kopen Katcef seconded. After discussion, Tarquinio and Newberry said they would discuss committee leadership after the meeting, and the board voted only to require the search committee to bring three finalists to the SPJ board for videoconference interviews. Motion: Bartlett. Second: Kopen Katcef. Motion passed, with Tarquinio and Newberry voting no and Walker abstaining. All three called the step premature and too specific because the board hadn't authorized its next steps yet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board voted at 1:22 p.m. EDT to enter executive session to discuss executive consultancy proposals and a content management system contract. Motion: Walker. Second: Newberry. Vote: unanimous. The board voted at 2:37 p.m. ET to exit executive session. Motion: Bartlett. Second: Kissel. Vote: unanimous.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

The board voted to hire the firm recommended by Tarquinio to conduct the services discussed, contingent upon completion of satisfactory reference checks. Motion: Newberry. Second: Hall. Vote: unanimous

MINUTES

The board voted to amend the May 6 minutes as discussed in closed session. Motion: Hall. Second: Bartlett. Vote: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The board voted to adjourn at 2:47 p.m. EDT. Motion: Walker. Second: Savino. Vote: unanimous.