



MINUTES
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DATE: JUNE 26, 2021
TIME: 12 P.M. EDT

Meeting Called to Order

SPJ National President Matthew T. Hall called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. EDT.

Roll Call

Secretary-treasurer Ivette Davila-Richards called roll. Those present were:

Hall
Davila-Richards
Rebecca Aguilar
Lauren Bartlett
Jerry McCormick
Claire Regan
Bey-Ling Sha
Yvette Walker

Approval of Minutes

Bartlett made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2021, meeting. Walker seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment Period

There were no comments from the public.

Treasurer's Report

Davila-Richards said the Finance Committee met and things look good and she asked Executive Director John Shertzer and Controller Jake Koenig to give the report. Koenig said the first quarter of the year was very good for SPJ and referred to the memo in the board packet. He said the first quarter helps carry SPJ through later quarters where there is not as much revenue coming in. SPJ also applied for and received a payroll protection grant through the small business association. Because of the pandemic, travel expenses were down, membership

revenue was up and there was one conference sponsorship that already came in, which also helped make it a good quarter.

Bartlett commended Shertzer and Koenig for their good work on SPJ's finances. Hall reiterated that and said after a couple of difficult years, Shertzer and Koenig and others at HQ along with members have done a lot to help right the ship. Davila-Richards agreed, saying they made the committee's work easy.

Proposed New SPJ Communities

Three new communities were proposed: Campus Life; Free Press; and New Technology. A lengthy discussion was had regarding what has made some SPJ communities successful and others not. There were also concerns about whether creating new communities would take away from chapters and perhaps efforts should be made to create and grow chapters.

Action on three new SPJ communities was tabled for further discussion and input.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

After discussion about whether the board should vote on moving bylaws changes to delegates for vote at convention, Bartlett made a motion to approve the four proposed bylaws amendments. Sha seconded. A roll call vote was 4 yes, 4 no. Motion failed. Votes were:

- Aguilar – no
- Bartlett – yes
- Davila-Richards – no
- Hall – yes
- McCormick – no
- Regan – no
- Sha – yes
- Walker – yes

*Olmeda was absent from the meeting.

Bartlett said as a point of order there is another method of getting any matter before delegates: 10 chapters can request it 60 days in advance of the opening business meeting during the SPJ convention, which this year is Sept. 2. So, chapters have until July 4 to notify HQ if they want the amendments to advance.

2022 and 2023 Convention Discussions

Topic was put on hold until next board meeting.

Committee and Community Reports

Brief reports were given by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Journalism Education Committee. Awards Committee and Nominations Committee members referred to their reports in the board packet.

Executive Session

Bartlett moved to enter executive session, Aguilar seconded, for the purpose of discussion about awards and the 2022 SPJ/CMA/ACP Convention Memorandum of Understanding. The board entered executive session at 2:24 p.m. and exited executive session at 3:37 p.m. Walker moved to approve the memorandum of understanding for the 2022 convention with CMA and ACP. Aguilar seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Aguilar moved to adjourn. Sha seconded. Board adjourned at 3:38 p.m. EDT.