



**MINUTES**  
**SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS FOUNDATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2021  
TIME: 3 P.M. EST

**Call to order**

SPJ Foundation Board of Directors President Irwin Gratz called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. EST via Zoom.

**Roll Call**

SPJ Foundation BOD Secretary Sonny Albarado called the roll. Those present were: Gratz, Albarado, Hagit Limor, Rebecca Aguilar, Howard Dubin, Israel Balderas, April Bethea, Fred Brown, Ivette Davila-Richards, Jay Evensen, Paul Fletcher, Patti Gallagher-Newberry, Matt Hall, Kelly Hawes, Evelyn Hsu, Alex Jones, Bill Ketter, Jane Kirtley, Frank LoMonte, Sue Porter, Claire Regan, Sonya Ross, Andy Schotz, Cheryl Smith and Alex Tarquinio. Those absent were Battinto Batts, Michael Bolden, Todd Gillman, Jerry McCormick and Russ Pulliam.

**Approval of Minutes**

Albarado made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 3, 2021, meeting. Limor seconded, adding that she needs to be listed as in attendance. Motion passed unanimously.

**Finance Committee Report**

Dubin gave the 2019-20 SPJ Foundation audit report and said the auditors were satisfied with everything and it was essentially a clean audit. The auditors made no recommendations. Executive Director John Shertzer and Controller Jake Koenig presented the 2022 SPJ Foundation budget. LoMonte asked for something that shows actual expenditures and not just budget to budget to get as close to the present

time in the budget as possible. Koenig said he would make a note of that and provide that information. Limor made a motion to approve the budget. Hawes seconded. Motion passed.

## **Development Report**

Shertzer introduced Development Officer Matt Morris as an excellent fundraiser who has expertise in cultivating potential donors. He was an SPJ member at Indiana University as a student, has a journalism background and knows a lot of people in the journalism field. Miller gave the development report, including bolstering the planned giving program and increasing major gifts of \$1,000 or more for the foundation.

## **2022 Organizational Goals**

Shertzer presented some organizational goals for the Foundation, including improving the grant making process and working with the Grants Committee; more aggressively promoting the Foundation and its work; growing the Foundation's network so more grants can be created and become available; increasing planned and major gifts.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

## **New Business**

A new Freelance Fund proposal was discussed. It would support freelancers the way other membership organizations support their freelancers, said Freelance Community Member Hazel Becker. Gratz said a freelance fund under the Foundation would give the ability to raise money through the 501c3 tax advantage. Gratz said it is an intriguing idea and the Foundation could manage the fund like it manages other funds. Gratz said he would recommend approving the fund. After discussion, Hawes made a motion to approve the fund. Albarado seconded. More discussion was had. Gratz said details would need to be worked out. Motion was repeated: To accept a donation for the creation of a freelance fund under the Foundation, contingent upon creating the necessary documentation describing how disbursements from the fund will be made at no fee. Vote was taken and motion passed.

Gallagher-Newberry said a Publications Committee report was a late entry into the packet. The committee would like to float the idea of whether the Society needs another history to be written. The idea grew out of activity a few weeks ago when people were going through the archives at headquarters. The committee wonders if there is an appetite for it. An attempt was made for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary but it didn't not go forward for various reasons. The committee wants feedback on whether there is an appetite for a book, or something besides a book, like an online version of the history. No action was taken. The committee was charged with thinking about expenses of hiring someone to provide direction on the elements, next steps, etc.

## **Executive Session**

Limore moved to go into executive session; Aguilar seconded. A request was made for Shertzer and the real estate agent involved in the sale of headquarters to be present for the first part. Topics were the

building sale update and executive director evaluation. Motion passed. Enter executive session at 4:50 p.m. EST.

### **Exit Executive Session**

The board exited executive session at 6:05 p.m. EST.

Ketter made a motion to give the Executive Director the authority to sell the Headquarters building under terms discussed by the board in executive session and execute all necessary legal documents. Gallagher-Newberry seconded. Motion passed.

### **Adjournment**

LoMonte made a motion to adjourn. Davila-Richards seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. EST.