



MEETING MINUTES

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

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2022

TIME: 2:30 PM EST

Meeting Called to Order

SPJ National President Rebecca Aguilar called the meeting to order via Zoom at 2:35 p.m. EST.

Roll call

Secretary-treasurer Ivette Davila-Richards called roll. Those present were Aguilar, Davila-Richards, President-elect Claire Regan, and board members Israel Balderas, Emily Bloch, Daniela Ibarra, Danielle McLean, Rafael Olmeda and Cheryl Smith.

Aguilar congratulated Davila-Richards on her new job as deputy press secretary to New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

Approval of Minutes

Olmeda moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 11, 2021, board meeting. Balderas seconded. Ibarra's name needs to be added to the budget vote. Her vote was counted, but name wasn't included. Minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Remarks

Aguilar moved her remarks up a spot on the agenda. She said she is proud of SPJ members and chapters. She said the Nominations Committee would be sharing its roster soon and the Freelance Community had its first open house the Wednesday before and it was a big success. The Membership Committee has been doing college outreach and reaching out to their alma maters and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee has been visiting college media teams across the country for its college media initiative.

Public Comment Period

There was discussion about a multi-media journalist who was struck by a car while broadcasting live and the need to address the issue and advocate for MMJ safety. Aguilar said a chapter could take the lead on producing a webinar on the topic and that she planned to make a statement on behalf of SPJ.

Several board members agreed that SPJ should say/do something about it quickly.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director John Shertzer gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on membership issues. He introduced the board to two new staff members, Amy Monteleone, administrative specialist, and Corbin Rose, web administrator. Shertzer also reported that the headquarters building at 3909 N. Meridian officially sold and he is pleased with the outcome. Proceeds of the sale are being split with the SPJ Foundation. In the meantime, sorting, packing and storing will need to be figured out and staff will have a semi-permanent home in a co-working space called Industrious in downtown Indianapolis. Industrious also has space nationwide that staff could obtain access to when traveling, for example. In the meantime, staff will continue to do hybrid work from home and the coworking site. Shertzer briefly discussed MediaFest22, the upcoming convention with College Media Association and American Collegiate Press in October; Mark of Excellence Awards and open staff positions.

Financial Report

Shertzer and Jake Koenig, SPJ controller, reviewed Q3 2021 financials and answered questions. Balderas asked if it is a guarantee that the \$500,000 that SPJ receives from the sale of the building will go completely into investments and not operational costs. Koenig said he and Shertzer will make that strong recommendation to the board.

2023 Convention Proposed Site Review

Shertzer said the two options for 2023 offer different vibes but either would be a good choice. He brought in Katie Riggs, contractor for events, to present the Arizona Grand in Phoenix and Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas as the two options. All things considered, staff is recommending the Arizona Grand. There was discussion and questions. Regan said the attention focused on location is good, but we need to consider the dates as well. Elections and installations are tied to the conference and having the 2023 conference so late in the year impact the service of terms of the new board elected that year. Riggs said dates are not available as readily in 2022 and 2023 because of compression from so many events being canceled and postponed because of the pandemic in the previous couple of years.

Balderas made a motion to choose the hotel and dates for the 2023 convention today. Bloch seconded. Roll call vote was: Bloch, yes; Smith, yes; Olmeda, yes; McLean, yes; Ibarra, yes; Balderas, yes; Regan, no; Davila-Richards, yes; and Aguilar, yes. Vote was 8-1 in favor of selecting the location today.

Balderas made a motion to select Las Vegas as the site for the 2023 convention. Davila-Richards seconded. Roll call vote was: Smith, yes; McLean, no; Olmeda, no; Ibarra, yes; Bloch, no; Balderas, yes; Regan, yes; Davila-Richards, yes; Aguilar, yes. With a vote of 6-3, Las Vegas will be the location for the 2023 convention.

MediaFest22 Programming Update

Regan gave an update on who is on the committee and said they are working on the first task of submitting ideas for programming and putting out a call for proposals.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Regan made a motion to adjourn. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m. EST.