



MEETING MINUTES
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: JUNE 4, 2022
TIME: 11 A.M. EDT

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

SPJ National President Rebecca Aguilar called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. EDT.

ROLL CALL

Secretary-Treasurer Ivette Davila-Richards called roll. Those present were Aguilar; Claire Regan, president-elect; Davila-Richards; Rafael Olmeda; Israel Balderas; Emily Bloch; Danielle McLean; Daniela Ibarra; Cheryl Smith. Also in attendance was John Shertzer, SPJ executive director. Balderas acted as parliamentarian.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Aguilar outlined the purpose of the meeting, to discuss and vote on the recommendations made by the Delegate Task Force.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members in attendance discussed possible problems with the proposed changes, including chapters having less opportunity to introduce bylaws amendments, giving the board too much power, less member engagement and less of a pipeline to leadership roles.

Members also discussed positives that could come from the proposed changes, including increasing engagement across the membership and following the same system as other journalism associations.

Colin DeVries, Deadline Club president, said that the New York State Legislature is weighing a gun violence package that include limiting the purchase of body armor to anyone who is not in an "eligible profession." The Deadline club is drafting a letter to the governor and looking for more support.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

The public was not given 72 hours notice of the added proposal so it could not be presented during this meeting.

DELEGATE ANALYSIS TASK FORCE REPORT AND PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Adam Sennott, the head of the Delegate Analysis task force, outlined the five proposed changes.

BOARD DISCUSSION

The board discussed the pros and cons of adopting the proposed changes. McLean noted this could affect how changes to the Code of Ethics are made, however Sennott said that is done by a different process. Discussion about each recommendation happened following the motion for each recommendation. They also discussed what number a majority vote should be, for example if that should be 2/3 of the voting membership.

Recommendation 1: Emily Bloch motioned, second by Daniela Ibarra. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. Recommendation 1 moves on to the Bylaws Committee for consideration of language to be brought back to the board in July.

Recommendation 2: Rafael Olmeda motioned, second by Danielle McLean. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. Recommendation 2 moves on to the Bylaws Committee for consideration of language to be brought back to the board in July.

Recommendation 3: Daniela Ibarra motioned, second by Claire Regan. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. Recommendation 3 moves on to the Bylaws Committee for consideration of language to be brought back to the board in July.

Recommendation 4: Danielle McLean motioned, second by Cheryl Smith. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Recommendation 5: Claire Regan motioned, second by Cheryl Smith. Claire Regan, Israel Balderas, Daniela Ibarra, Cheryl Smith, Ivette Davila-Richards, Rebecca Aguilar voted yes. Emily Bloch, Danielle McLean, Rafael Olmeda voted no. Recommendation 5 carries and moves on to the Bylaws Committee for consideration of language to be brought back to the board in July.

Emily Bloch motioned to vote on **Motion 4** from the task force requiring a 2/3 super majority, seconded by Danielle McLean. A friendly amendment was made to the language of Motion 4, it was accepted by a unanimous voice vote. Motion 4 now reads: The board disagrees with the recommendation of the task force and moves to vote to

require a 2/3 super majority vote cast to adopt bylaws amendments. Danielle McLean motions, second by Emily Bloch. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. This now moves on to the Bylaws Committee for consideration of language to be brought back to the board in July.

Bill Blyer made a suggestion during a town hall that Rebecca Aguilar would like to recommend to the Bylaws Committee. The recommendation is: We would replace the task force language to allow members to bypass the board and Bylaws Committee by putting forward a petition signed by at least 250 members in good standing from at least 10 chapters or communities. The petition would have to be presented to headquarters at least 60 days before the convention. The board should make time at the first business meeting to discuss and debate the bylaws amendments without making changes.

Danielle McLean plans to propose language for changes to the Code of Ethics.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Israel Balderas made a motion to adjourn, second by Emily Bloch. Unanimous voice vote to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m. EDT.