

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

**August 20, 2022
Conducted via Zoom**

Call to Order

Rebecca Aguilar, President of the Society of Professional Journalists, called the meeting to order via Zoom at 1:01pm ET.

Roll Call

Claire Regan, President-Elect, took the roll. Attending the meeting were:

Rebecca Aguilar, President
Claire Regan, President-Elect
Ivette Davila-Richards, Secretary-Treasurer
J. Israel Balderas, At-Large Director
Emily Bloch, At-Large Director
Daniela Ibarra, At-Large Director
Danielle McLean, At-Large Director
Rafael Olmeda, At-Large Director
Cheryl Smith, At-Large Director

President's remarks

President Aguilar expressed appreciation for the work and contributions of John Shertzer, Executive Director, who announced his decision to step down from the role prior to this meeting. Aguilar said that the process for negotiating a possible candidate for the Interim Executive Director was ongoing and hoped to name that person soon.

The SPJ and Foundation boards will follow the bylaws and form a Search Committee, composed of two appointed members by Aguilar and two appointed members by the Foundation, to hire a search firm to help with the search for the next Executive Director. The top 2 names will be given to the Board and Foundation Board. The board will seek the input of the SPJ Foundation president during the search, and keep him informed during the process. Aguilar encouraged those listening to have confidence that SPJ leadership will get the job done.

Public comment period

Jennifer Everett-Ellis raised concerns about transparency regarding SPJ board meetings and lack of notice to members of the board meeting in executive session – particularly to discuss Shertzer’s resignation. She said no response was given to emails sent to President Aguilar and President-Elect Regan confirming the executive session meetings.

Everett-Ellis also expressed concerns regarding a lack of transparency from national committees and around the recommendations of the Delegate Task Force, and encouraged the Board to work in the most transparent way possible moving forward.

In response, President Aguilar defended current practices, saying the Board and Committees are transparent, and said while it was unfortunate Everett-Ellis had that perspective, her opinion was valued and her feedback would be taken into consideration. Israel Balderas, the parliamentarian, read Article 7, Section 7 of the bylaws that discussed what meetings were not open to the public.

Bylaws Committee Report

Alex Tarquinio, chair of the Bylaws Committee, discussed the creation of the Delegate Task Force and their meetings, as well as Board response and public town halls. The Committee said they have been working on updates to the bylaws to ensure standards remained current. The Board can vote on amending anything in the report that was posted online on Aug. 17. Board discussed the report and addendums regarding the Delegate Analysis Task Force report and associated amendments by the Bylaws Committee – and whether or not to send them to members for a vote at the convention.

Motions to send the discussed addendums from the Task Force and Bylaws Committee and to send recommendations from Tarquinio from her presentations during the meeting to the membership for a vote at the convention passed with 8 Yes votes. Balderas abstained due to his role as parliamentarian. A final motion for the Bylaws Committee to clean up language in the bylaws was made by Bloch and seconded by Smith, and passed with 8 Yes votes. Balderas abstained due to his role as parliamentarian.

Executive Session

The board went into executive session at 3:31pm ET to discuss awards and exited executive session at 3:42pm ET.

Adjournment

Davila-Richards made a motion to adjourn at 3:43pm ET, seconded by Olmeda. A unanimous voice vote to adjourn followed immediately after.