

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
724 Wolcott Ave.
Beacon, NY 12508
May 30, 2017**

Board Members Present.

1. Betsy Garthwaite
2. Bill Flank
3. Anne Osborn
4. Stephen Smith
5. Mitzi Elkes
6. Ross Gould
7. Jeffrey Domanski
8. Don Raskopf
9. Sarah Underhill
10. Neil Gordon
11. Donna Stein
12. Sharon Rowe
13. Allen Gutkin
14. Seth Davis
15. Taylor Vogt
16. Robi Schlaff

Board Members Present by Telephone

None

Board Members Absent.

17. Bob Alpern

Staff Members Present.

1. Wren Longno
2. Dave Conover
3. Manna Jo Greene
4. Michelle Acosta

Guests.

1. Joshua Kogan
2. Allan Goldhammer

The May 30, 2017 meeting of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. was called to order at 6:35 PM by president Betsy Garthwaite. A quorum was determined to be present. Stephen Smith led the attendees in singing "If I Had a Hammer", by Pete Seeger, as the traditional mission song selection. Due to the presence of guests, all present briefly introduced themselves to the group.

The Secretary called for a **MOTION:** To approve the previously circulated minutes of the April 27, 2017 meeting. The **MOTION** was **APPROVED**, Seth Davis abstaining.

A **MOTION** to Appoint Taylor Vogt to a vacant seat on the Board for a term to end in September, so that he may stand for election to a full term at that time, was offered by Robi, Schlaff, Seconded by Donna Stein and **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Bill Flank pointed out that we do have a timeline to follow and nominees must be approved at the next Board meeting.

Environmental Action Report – Manna-jo Greene

The Environmental Action Report was submitted in written form and discussed at the meeting. The written report is appended to these minutes. Manna acknowledged the support of Board Member Bob Alpern who made a significant financial contribution to the Decommissioning Effort.

Development Report – Wren Longno

Wren noted that we are experiencing a 13% Increase in donations from last year. The DC sail has come a long way in a short period of time, raising about \$35k, so far; this being accomplished with 132 donations and an average gift of \$152. Wren has been interested in hearing Clearwater member

experiences and stories and is developing ways to fundraise around those narratives. We have no numbers as yet on the Town Crier event. The remaining Development Report is to be incorporated by reference upon submission.

Finance Report – Michelle Acosta

The 990 IRS form is about to be submitted. We are ok financially at the moment, despite our being fragile in that so many things can change the status of our position. Budget-wise we are on point, showing a positive \$14k over budget, although without large donation secured by Anne Osborn, we would still be foundering.

Festival Report – Dave Conover

Financially, we are on point with the festival. We won't know the actual numbers until the week of the event. Pray for good weather. (Actual festival debt is only 400K, a correction from that reported in last month's minutes). Dave: Amazing that we are about where we should be compared to last year and that was one of the best festivals to date. Steve is cautiously optimistic. (General discussion of festival ensued)

Steve Lurie Benefit Concert – Betsy Garthwaite

Steve Lurie is interested in producing a benefit concert for Clearwater. This would be held at Symphony Space in NYC with Judy Collins or Peter-Paul & Mary or a similar level artist. Up-front cost could be as much as \$38k and the event could net us \$20k to \$30k. Steve would like a green light to move forward. Last year's concert in Tarrytown was very successful. Late October-November likely. Michelle: we are missing the Gala from this fiscal year so anything that would fill that gap would be appreciated.

Education Report – Dave Conover

The Clearwater and Mystic Whaler crews are doing amazing work and in all kinds of weather—they're out there. Both boats are going full bore, doing quite well and we can feel good about that. Maija is education director and is doing a great job, but is also helping immensely on a number of other fronts. This is crunch time for the staff, given that we hadn't had a festival last year. People are stepping up and doing amazing work. Taylor suggests reaching out to local recreation departments in order to market sails.

D.C. Mission Report – Dave Conover

We've raised some money for the DC Mission. Although the boat's been to Washington D.C. several times in the past, there is a sense of urgency this year. Our main focus will be to carry messages from the Hudson Valley to express our concern that environmental interests are under threat. The Hudson Valley played a strong role in creating the regulations that protect the environment. Our signature event will be a Clean Water Forum to be held on June 29th. We are still working on getting a room in the Congress Building. The Cannon Caucus Room is being renovated. It's hard to get a room reserved. We still haven't done it, but we want in in Congress in order to get the congressional staffers there. We'll have all the information sent out once it's confirmed. (Secretary's note: Additional trip details omitted due to the transit to Washington being subsequently cancelled.)

Social Media Discussion: In order to help our information to go viral, Taylor suggests that we reach out to groups that already have massive reach, enlisting them as co-sponsors. DAVE--Need one person doing this. Right now, staff each does a little in their own area, but with no coordination.

Executive Director's Report – Dave Conover

This may be my last meeting as Interim ED. There is a search process going on. Planning on being here through Festival and the DC trip.

Robin: No better advocate for Clearwater than you.

Donna: Wonderful speech at the Pete Seeger Memorial Concert, wish we had a copy of it.

Chef's Event – Mitzi Elkes

Chefs is moving along. We're set for September 17th at 4 to 8 pm and this is the 2nd annual event. We had great success last year. 80% of the money raised was our net and we are trying to do as well this year. I am providing board members with a sponsor packet. Please distribute this to anyone that might support the event. The chefs are all lined up (see list). Of course, not everyone can donate thousands of dollars, but here is a way to help by selling ads in the journal (ad kit provided). We have someone working pro-bono to do graphics for project. Last year there was a thank you sail for all the supporters and volunteers. We had a wonderful on-board potluck, beer, wine, sandwiches, salad. People had a great time.

Nominating Committee – Robin Schlaff

This year five Board member terms are expiring: Robin, Stephen, Sharon, Bill, and Don. Sharon is leaving, Don will run again, Stephen and Bill must rotate off for a year. Robin is staying.

We have a list of 7 people possibly interested in joining the board. All have been vetted by me in conversation and by others on the nominating committee.

Executive Director Search Report – Betsy Garthwaite

The position has been posted and we expect to begin interviewing in July. The offering has been posted in the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

General Discussions

Donna: Board members are invited to be a part of a ten thousand person-plus event on the 11th, which will be a tabling opportunity at the Green Festival Expo at the Javits Center. Board volunteers are needed.

Donna announced that she can get wine or vodka gift baskets for use as auction gifts at fundraisers.

Alan Goldhammer requested a discussion of a bylaws change and/or clarification regarding member petitions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM by unanimous consent.

END OF MINUTES