

Minutes of Clearwater Annual Meeting, September 27, 2014

Board members present:

Anne Todd Osborn, Bill Flank, Stephen Smith, David Lebson, Roberta Goldberg, Ross Gould, Scott Berwick and Robi Schlaff who took the minutes. Jim Hanson arrived towards the end of the meeting.

The meeting opened with a wonderful performance by the Clearwater Walkabouts and joined by CW members and Board.

A quorum was determined to be present.

It was announced that new Board members Ali Muhammad, James Malchow, Jeff O'Donnell, Don Raskopf, Sharon Rowe and Marco Spodek were elected and William Flank, Robi Schlaff and Stephen Smith were re-elected.

Dave Lebson moved to close the current Board meeting and to open a new meeting with the full Board as elected. Bill Flank seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Board Business:

Roberta Goldberg **moved** that the Board approve minutes of the July meeting. She was seconded by Stephen Smith. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Bill Flank **moved** to authorize Peter Gross and Roger D'Aquino to sign grant documents with NYS and was seconded by David Lebson. **Motion carried**, with one abstention.

It was announced that Samantha Hicks was appointed to serve out the term of a Board member who stepped down.

It was announced that the amendment to the certificate of incorporation was approved.

Executive Directors Report:

Peter gave the Executive Director's report: CW has two very strong assets – our organization reaches more people regarding stewardship of the Hudson River than any other environmental group. We can get the message out through festival membership, volunteers and online. Our volunteers include thousands of people who devote tens of hours each to CW and our mission. This is a powerful statement regarding our grassroots capability. This is unique and can be leveraged to raise money through grants and donations. Peter complimented Manna's efforts, the unprecedented success of the festival (although the revenue covers only 10% of CW annual operating costs,) Linda's new position as director of music and the reorganization into departments of EA/Green Cities, Festival, Music, Sloop and Support and Infrastructure. New staff was introduced.

Finance Report:

Scott Berwick and Roger D 'Aquino gave the financial report, going through the documents provided. In 2001 CW had a net worth of \$289K and now has a net worth of \$2.5million. We have moved in the last year from a net negative to a net positive. With the boat being out of the water for months last year our receivables were way down; now we have been able to pay down our loans (loan of \$175K down to \$154K, loan of \$100K to \$61K.) We are behind in individual donations but have received more in grants including a big restoration grant which is 75% reimbursement on costs to restore the sloop. Annie asked if there were a minimum to bill and Roger said no.

Development Report:

Matt Soper gave a shout out to Ann Mellor for keeping the department together and her great work during the time without a director. He believes we are in a strong position to increase membership by partnering with not for profits for dual membership benefits, to find big donors through a database service and to cultivate new sources of donors through “affinity based” data mining. He talked about making sure donors are interested in our current mission to avoid mission creep, about asking current donors for more money, corporate sails such as the

one booked by Domino Sugar of Yonkers for their corporate outing, and to look for planned gift giving and “big” gifts for a sloop endowment which he estimates should be \$1million. Questions were asked about student and junior memberships --- Ann said we were successful in getting about 600 new young members and Matt said we should get colleges to sponsor sails. Don suggested WFUV co-membership and whether we could get more refined information about members.

Report on EA Committee:

Manna stated that they are working on the PCB campaign, desalinization, Coeyman’s Creek and Algonquin Pipeline, grant from NYS DOH to work on fish advisories and welcomed Omari as the director of green cities. Indian Point litigation includes follow up on two contentions filed in 2011 regarding waste storage and safety. Peter remarked that the cost of the IP litigation could be \$100K and that we needed to find funding for these efforts.

New Business:

Sandy Saunders talked about Break Neck and Stony Point congratulating CW on the successful efforts to bring people to a clean river; talked about TZB and lack of funding and a monument to Pete at the Beacon Waterfront. He advocated stopping rip rap construction along the shorelines and to create an historic shipyard to maintain boats on the Hudson River.

Bill Flank complimented Peter and Annie as leaders and repeated a fortune cookie line: “Management is doing things right, leadership is doing the right thing.”

Annie handed out sloop charters to the Beacon Sloop Club (who gave a \$1k check to CW,) Brooklyn Sloop Club (no representative present,) New Jersey Friends of Clearwater who just celebrated their 40th anniversary, North River Friends of Clearwater, NYC Friends of Clearwater (who gave a \$500 check to CW,) Riverlovers (who have a \$300 check for CW) and Walkabout who said last year they were able to raise \$4,200 to CW.

Meeting adjourned approximately 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Robi Schlaff, acting secretary