

Minutes of the Clearwater Board of Directors Meeting - July 18, 2018

Attendance:

Board Members

Bob Alpern (phone)	Mitzi Elkes (phone)	Beth Levine	Don Raskopf
Peter Capek	Betsy Garthwaite	Aaron Mair (phone)	Robi Schlaff
Nancy Cincotta	Joan Gaylor	Henry Neale	Donna Stein
Seth Davis	Neil Gordon (phone)	Anne Osborn	Sarah Underhill
Jeffrey Domanski	Ross Gould	Kyle Rabin	Taylor Vogt (phone)
	Allen Gutkin	Jeremy Rainer	

Staff

Amy Bonder (phone)	Erin Macchiaroli	Maija Niemisto
Hal Cohen	(phone)	(phone)

Guests

Roger D'Aquino	Victoria Christof	Amelia Goldberg	Greg Williams
Jeremy Baron	Vincent Ferri	Betty Harkins	
Nancy Jane Blake	Allan Goldhammer	Noel Kropf	

CALL TO ORDER

Betsy called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Peter noted that the meeting is being recorded to help with minutes.

Betsy proposed that approval of past minutes be deferred because of inadequate time to read them prior to this meeting. Approved unanimously.

Bob Alpern (on phone) reported on a successful lobbying trip to Washington with Manna.

Don R – Education committee report: This is the last year for Mystic Whaler, which is for sale. This will mean we are able to service fewer kids in the city, but also less work for the staff.

We had a much better Spring with school trips than anticipated. Did first youth encounters program Sunday night. Still looking for funding for Youth at the Helm later in August. Public sails going very well, \$50,000 this year compared with \$21,000 last season. Don went on Educator Pitch sail (to encourage teachers to take their classes on Clearwater), several public sails. Encouraged the Board to get out on the sloop. Q: Is there a template I could use to send to someone to sell a sail. A: Send me a note (Don).

Peter gave a progress report on the work of the 50/100 celebration committee: Doing quite well. Connected with Margie Rosenkranz to lead concert planning/invitation activity (former Revival Director, still active upstate). Getting good response so far from performers to participating in fund-raising concerts. Thinking in terms of concerts both in NYC and up and down the river, coupled with sloop presence in at least some venues. Continuing to consider/brainstorm an exhibit/art project proposed and led by Gary Sussman, and a gathering

(proposed by Hal Cohen) which would collect water from across the country and symbolically bless and combine it, and a poem set to music (“Oh! Hudson”) by David Gonzalez as part of the agenda. Distributed a draft charter to be shared with musicians and potential partnering organizations. Also exploring the idea of giving nature rights. Too many ideas – more than we can expect to do.

Seth commented that the state of the law (about the rights of nature) is not as bad as Peter suggested. There was a brief discussion about the state of the law in several countries; the bottom line was that Seth encouraged the effort.

Seth moved that the Board ratify the vote taken earlier by e-mail to authorize Amy, as acting ED, to sign the contract with the Catskill Watershed Corporation which formalizes a grant from that corporation to Clearwater. Passed unanimously.

Betsy moved, and Anne seconded, that the Board go into private session to discuss finances and the search for an Executive Director. Passed unanimously. Betsy asked everyone who is not either on the Board or a member of the staff to leave the building.

The Board exited private session at approximately 8:10pm, and those who had been asked to leave were invited to return.

Seth immediately moved that Clearwater hire Greg Williams as Interim Executive Director of the organization, subject to negotiation of a letter of retention satisfactory to the executive committee. The resolution was ultimately approved with the title of “Executive Director.”

Ross summarized the state of Board service for existing members and offered 4 nominees. Ross Gould and Anne Osborn will have served 3 3-year terms, and so are no longer eligible to serve until a year has elapsed. Alan Cutkin, Seth Davis, Mitzi Elkes, and Donna Stein have come to the end of their current term, and all have agreed to run for reelection. Ross then named 4 new candidates proposed by the nominating committee and described why they will be valuable additions to the Board. They are:

Bruce Ginsberg
Arthur Jones

Craig Page
Jason Samel

The Board approved unanimously the 4 candidates proposed.

Betty Harkin showed a display of photographs taken at the Strawberry Festival in Beacon.

Peter brought up an item of new business: to create, and to mention on the Board’s web page, an e-mail address to allow members and the public to contact the Board. Hal summarized the implications of allowing someone to control an e-mail account associated with the Board, which include the ability to appear to be speaking for the Board. After some discussion, the Board informally approved the idea. The address is **BOARD@CLEARWATER.ORG**. (As of the writing of these minutes, the account has been established and published, and two substantive items of e-mail have been received and responded to, neither requiring the involvement of the Board. – PGC)

Vincent Ferri spoke, saying that he would like to regain his status as a festival volunteer, reestablish his good name and resolve the accusations that have been made against him with respect to the 2017 Revival. He also expressed concerns about the increase in volunteer fees which he feels are unjustified and the purging from the volunteer rolls of perhaps 20 volunteers who had supported Vincent. Greg Williams offered to meet with Vincent privately prior to the next Board meeting and formulate an agenda item in response to Vincent’s concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Capek