

Clearwater Board of Directors
Minutes of the Regular Meeting – October 25, 2018

Board Members

Bob Alpern	Mitzi Elkes	Arthur Jones	Jason Samel (ph)
Peter Capek	Betsy Carthwaite	Aaron Mair	Robi Schlaff
Nancy Cineotta	Jean Caylor	Henry Neale	Donna Stein
Seth Davis	Bruce Ginsberg	Kyle Rabin	Sarah Underhill
Jeffrey Domanski (ph)	Neil Gordon	Jeremy Rainer	Taylor Vogt (ph)
	Allen Gutkin	Don Raskopf	

Staff and Members

Greg Williams	Manna Jo Greene	Tinya Seeger
Amy Bonder (ph)	Allan Goldhammer	Roy Volpe
Erin Macchiaroli (ph)	Betty Harkins	

Call to Order:

Betsy was ill, and Robi previously committed elsewhere, so Seth Davis presided over the meeting. Sarah Underhill opened with a song, “Turn, turn.”

Approval of Minutes:

Kyle Rabin made the motion: “I move we accept the minutes of the September 29th meeting as distributed.” Dan Raskopf seconded the motion. Seth requested a minor correction, and Peter pointed out a minor correction that had been made at Henry’s request since the distributed copy. The motion passed unanimously.

Seth discussed the idea of appointing Stephen Smith of Albany to the seat vacated by the resignation of Craig Page. Don Raskopf so moved, and Kyle seconded. After some brief discussion, Peter said he would distribute Stephen’s biography to the Board, and the motion was passed unanimously. Stephen thus assumes a 3-year term.

President’s Report

Betsy sent a report which was read by Seth:

The Development Committee met on Tuesday. Greg circulated notes from that meeting. The Exec. Comm. has been having weekly conference calls. One of the things that came out of this week’s meeting was the absolute necessity for minutes to be taken at committee meetings and circulated, so everyone that took part in a discussion is on the same page afterwards. Remember that the most important work we do is at the committee level.

Cash flow continues to be a pressing issue for our organization. So please remember that we need to make short, medium and long-term plans for raising fund above and beyond what is included in Michelle’s current cash flow projection. That being said, congratulations are in order to the Chef’s Committee and Clearwater staff for an enormously successful event.

Finally, I am interested in suggestions for board email communications, so that the quantity of emails can be streamlined.

Seth suggested that the committee roster be printed and distributed.

Executive Director's Report

Greg said that since the retreat, he had noticed a huge increase in board and committee activity, resulting in lots of email, more than he was able to keep up with in a timely fashion. He went on to say that most communication should be among the members of committees, and not circulated more broadly in most cases.

He said that he has been connecting with the sloop clubs, and specifically mentioned Walkabout. He and Don attended a concert ("Ethical Brew") at the Ethical Society of New Jersey in Teaneck, where half the proceeds had been kindly donated to Clearwater. He also mentioned the gathering to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the laying of the keel of Clearwater. Lastly, Greg showed the Board some 3D panoramic photos of the sloop (deck and interior) that had been made by a friend. At some point we will be able to use these on our web site, but for now they are only for viewing within Clearwater. Greg will distribute a link, which should not be forwarded outside Clearwater.

Greg said he'd gotten some support for using the clearwaterfestival.org web site to communicate to the public about our festival and 50/100 plans.

Taylor and Jason are working together on using a crowd-funding web site (gofundme.com) and a related one called pledgemusic.com, which they will talk about more at the next Board meeting. Taylor also said he would provide information about blogs which allowed 2-way communication between CW and our members and the public. Don suggested that any fund-raising efforts through these web sites be done to raise money for Clearwater in general, rather than for Revival, or for 50/100.

Greg said he would have more to say in private session later in the meeting.

Staff Reports

Don gave a brief summary of Education Department activity. The sloop season is ending in about a week, in Kingston on October 30 with 100+ year-old cider press. He thanked those Board members who had booked sail. We will not have the Mystic Whaler next Spring, so we anticipate a very full season on the sloop. Seth reported that he had had his 50th high school reunion on board, but that the 68 year-olds in attendance did an impressive job raising the mainsail.

Manna Jo Greene gave the highlights of the written Environmental Action report:

- Mentioned the importance of the IPCC (Inter-governmental panel on climate change) report, which warned that consequential action had to be taken by 2030 to stem the effect of climate change.
- Also mentioned the importance of cover-cropping and regenerative agriculture.
- This past weekend there was an extended seminar given by Paul Hawken and others at the Omega Institute based on his book ("Drawdown") about taking climate solution action. The Friday night talk by Hawken is available for viewing.
(<https://www.omega.org/online-workshops/2018-drawdown-learn-live-stream>)

Mitzi mentioned a plan to establish a climate-change museum in Manhattan. Manna agreed to explore possible collaboration with them, with Mitzi making an initial contact.

Alan Goldhammer mentioned the need to spur communications among members and suggested that CW should find a way to encourage that.

Henry commented that we need to modify our approach to advocacy, and look for projects which may not have cosmic significance, but on which we can make visible progress and have successes in order to strengthen our position for the bigger issues. He offered the barge anchorages as an example of something where we clearly had been successful. Greg commented that we can and should be more effective at mobilizing our members, including organizing them to be involved in actions including participating in public events. Neil observed that we can get real support when we help people win on local issues that are important to them. Manna observed that she has accomplished this effect by “deputizing” people to take action, and will provide more information in the next Board report, and that we should be providing information about climate solutions.

Manna ended by summarizing the situation at Danskammer near Newburgh, where there is a plan to build a substantial gas-fired power plant in a flood plain near the river. The site is subject to flooding and the plant (which would replace a “peaker” plant which had been on the site) must be stopped. She encouraged the Board to write and to comment on the plan, and will distribute further information. Henry commented that environmental issues are ultimately decided on economic grounds (who will pay, who will benefit) and that we need to pay attention to that. Manna commented that her department is very lightly staffed at the moment, so there are limits to what they can accomplish. There was a brief discussion on increasing the use and involvement of students, including interns, particularly on the climate change issue. Bob Alpern commented that the dialog had already begun, involving the Education Department. Taylor mentioned the idea of a junior Board involving students, but Neil cautioned about the difficulties of doing this over such a wide geographic area as we serve.

Don encouraged every Board member to get on board the sloop to observe an Education Sail, mentioning that the organization may have its challenges, but the sloop and crew never do! He also congratulated Neil on having recently completed his 13th week sailing aboard the sloop as a volunteer crew member.

Neil said the financial details were unimportant: the only thing that matters at this point is cash flow, and reminded the Board once again to take an active role. He also encouraged anyone who is working on CW events of any sort to start selling tickets at the earliest possible moment, as soon as date and time are settled.

Mitzi reported that Chefs had been very successful, with a net profit of \$100,000, as was projected and the goal. Everyone’s support was so appreciated.

Greg reported on the discussion at the development committee meeting which had been organized by Betsy on Tuesday. There is an e-mail giving the details, and members, including Board members, are encouraged to take ownership of the various ideas and move forward on making them happen.

Henry asked whether there was any provision in place for Clearwater to connect to various “alumni” including former Board members, who might be in a position to help or to contribute. Greg said that he would love to have more formal arrangements to keep in touch with members, volunteers, former crew, etc.

Don described a conversation with Greg in which the realization to view the 50/100 idea as the observation that the students visiting the sloop this year, in 50 years will be as old as Don is now, and referenced a comment by Pete Seeger that in 500 years the sloop will be sailing, all the wood having been replaced more than once, but still overall the same shape and the same ship. Don credited Paul Hawken speaking in the “Drawdown” introduction mentioned earlier that it is important to have “really big

goals”, even if they seem unachievable and disruptive, because that’s the only way to accomplish really big things.

Betty Harkins said that the Beacon Sloop Club would host 3 events next summer, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Bruce Ginsberg described some of his history and his involvement with the Big Apple Circus and arranging sponsorships for it, and how there are some similarities with Clearwater. He thought that some of our activities (Women at the Helm as one example) are eminently sponsorable, but some others are less so, and offered to lead the effort, based on his experience. There ensued a discussion about finding sponsors who are a good fit for Clearwater and for which the expectations on both sides are appropriate. Greg suggested that the sloop could be an excellent venue for certain kinds of corporate “retreat” and team-building exercises.

Mitzi discussed sponsorships for Chefs, and some changes which are planned for next year’s event. Don observed that the ROI for Chefs is excellent.

The nominating committee (Don and Sarah) stated that Ann Mellor, Noel Kropf and Alan Thomas would participate as non-Board members on the committee.

Peter described briefly that he was leading an effort to reevaluate the budget and parameters of a festival at Croton Point in an effort to make it, if held, more profitable and more reliably profitable than it has been in the past. Don described using Google Maps how a festival might be held in Beacon, using the parks near the river and several other venues. This outline of a plan has been discussed with the mayor of Beacon and was met with enthusiasm. Both the Croton Point and Beacon efforts are each continuing to develop a proposal, to be presented at the next Board meeting.

The following discussion included mention of the allocation of various peripheral revenues (such as Patron Fish) to an event or to more general development was discussed, but with no conclusion.

Resolutions

A motion was made to adopt a resolution authorizing Greg Williams to received funds for the restoration of the sloop Clearwater from the NY State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. It was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made to amend Clearwater’s Policy I, paragraph II.4 to read as follows: Discriminate in any way or permit discrimination by any staff member against an employee on the basis of age, sex, race, religious affiliations, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability or veteran status.

After brief discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made to publish, in DRAFT form, the unapproved minutes of Board meetings on our web site, and to replace them with corrected and approved minutes when available, generally following the subsequent Board meeting. A second part of the proposal is to publish, again on the web site, the agenda for upcoming Board meetings at around the same time as that agenda is distributed to the Board. The justification, described by Peter, was to improve communication with the staff and membership, and to allow members to determine if a Board agenda included topics of interest. The justification for publishing the minutes is to avoid the long delay before the results of Board meetings are made known to the membership.

Neil suggested softening the deadlines in the original proposal and also a review by other Board members (such as the Executive Committee) as part of the process of publication.

After some discussion, the motion was passed unanimously, as modified.

Greg described a proposal to give Board members an e-mail address @clearwater.org. There would be advantages in terms of segregating Clearwater mail and other, personal mail in the case of a discovery order. All agreed that further discussion was needed.

A motion was made to enter private session to discuss financial and other matters.

Following exit from the private session, the meeting was adjourned shortly after 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Capek

The next Board meeting is on Tuesday, November 20, the week of Thanksgiving.