

Clearwater Board of Directors  
**DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting - January 24, 2019**

Board Members

Bob Alpern (ph)	Joan Gaylord	Henry Neale (ph)	Stephen Smith
Peter Capek	<del>Bruce Ginsberg</del>	Kyle Rabin (ph)	Donna Stein
<del>Nancy Cineotta</del>	Neil Gordon	Jeremy Rainer (ph)	Sarah Underhill
Seth Davis	Allen Gutkin	Don Raskopf (ph)	Taylor Vogt
Jeffrey Domanski	<del>Arthur Jones</del>	Jason Samel	
Mitzi Elkes	Aaron Mair (ph)	<del>Robi Schlaff</del>	

Staff and Members

Jeremy Baron	Ken Hays	Eli Schloss	Greg Williams
Susan Berliner	Noel Kropf	Tinya Seeger	
Amanda Burdine	Erin Macchiaroli	Alan Thomas	
Betty Harkins	(ph)	Rosemary Thomas	

**Call to Order:** Stephen Smith called the meeting to order at 6:35 and Sarah Underhill sang.

Clearwater's new bookkeeper, Anita Vargas, was introduced to the Board and said a few words about her background and work plans. In response to a question from Taylor about the work she'd be doing, Anita explained that she'd be depositing checks, paying bills, allocating expenses and credit card transactions to their proper budget categories, and keeping records for the annual audit. She said that she'd work from home, but would be in the office at least one day a week. Anita added that she was a strong proponent of scanning documents and keeping them electronically, not on paper. Anita also described a few aspects of a recent and successful Worker's Compensation audit which she had participated in on behalf of Clearwater. Greg praised Anita, who's only been with Clearwater for about 6 weeks, on how quickly she has come up to speed and how effectively she worked with the auditor, including challenging the auditor successfully on some subtle points. She was applauded by the Board.

Stephen welcomed the guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Members of the Board also introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:** There were no minutes to approve, because none had been distributed with adequate time to read and review them.

Allan Gutkin's return from his brief absence was welcomed.

**Department Reports:** The department reports were distributed prior to the meeting, and none of them was presented at the meeting. However, Eli Schloss gave a report about his program within the Education Department which is called the Tideline Program. It is an education program which focuses on life in the river and on its shore. The program has been given to children in all grades K-12, and in various places on the Hudson and in New York City. The program has been running at about 60% of its capacity; the goal is to get it to about 85%. There are both classroom and field programs, including assembly programs. The program is largely provided by experienced "on demand" staff who are available and paid when needed. Unlike the programs on the sloop, the Tideline program can be made accessible.

**Executive Director's Report:** Greg reported that the financial situation is much improved since the report at the last meeting. We have since then met several payrolls, and payment for several grants has come in, spent a lot less. Stephen added that the "Bucks for the Boat" program was modestly successful, but will be closed for new purchases after today, January 24.

Taylor Vogt summarized the pledge program he is working on with Jason Samel, Bruce Ginsberg, Jeremy Rainer and Don Raskopf. It is a fund-raising effort in which musicians who are friends of Clearwater are asked to donate media such as their CDs, signed by them, or signed instruments, or events such as performances in homes or on the sloop to Clearwater, which then auctions these items on the web and benefits from the proceeds. It had been planned to run the program on the web site pledgemusic.com, but there have been public mentions of problems at that site, so Taylor and others have scheduled a phone call for January 25 with the management of the site and may decide to have the auction take place elsewhere. (Added later: It was decided to have the auction at indiegogo.com instead of pledgemusic.) It is planned to open the auction on March 1.

At this point Ken Hays was introduced by Greg and asked to describe his background. Ken was interviewed as a prospective festival director (along with 3 others) in October. Ken decided following the interview that he couldn't be a candidate because of other commitments, but offered to be an unpaid consultant and advisor to our efforts, and he has been participating as a member of the Festival committee. Ken had produced the "Gathering of the Vibes" event in Bridgeport for several years, but shut it down after 2014. He was invited to attend the meeting by Peter to provide an external opinion on the festival proposal, should there be any need for that.

Greg introduced the topic of the 2019 Women's March. He observed that the first march in 2017 was widely perceived as a march in support of women's rights, though that may not be what the founders had intended, and suggested that the 2018 was more about women exercising those rights. For 2019, there was interest in having Clearwater participate, but planning started late. He mentioned the goal of having Clearwater more able to take action without lack of funds being a constant inhibitor, and also to take public positions where there might be some controversy, and withstand public relations issues which might arise as a result. And so he chose to align Clearwater with the somewhat controversial march in Washington, DC (where there is a concentration of Clearwater members), rather than the march in New York. There were a few communications from members critical of this decision, but far more in support of it. The DC march had a 12 point statement of principles, one of which is support of environmental justice. There was a small contingent which went to DC, distributed some flyers explaining Clearwater, and the group met Nadine Bloch, an activist and former Clearwater Board member.

Stephen spoke next about the committee structure, and enumerated some problems relating to committees with no leader, inadequate membership, and others. He described an organizational structure which makes some committees overseen by others, with the goal of providing better oversight, and asked for volunteers to serve on some committees. An updated chart reflecting these changes is attached to these minutes.

Neil spoke about the Ambassadors Program. The idea of this is to encourage all of our volunteers, and especially festival volunteers, to solicit their friends to support them in the volunteering, and thus to benefit Clearwater. The basic idea is adapted from programs such as the Susan Koman Breast Cancer Walk, where people commit to walk some number of miles and ask their friends to support their walk by contributing, say, a dollar a mile. Our donor database service, DonorPerfect, has support for this kind of effort, and Neil has supporting materials. Neil will work with Donna and return with more specifics.

Stephen introduced the topic of the proposal to hold a Clearwater Festival in 2019 at Croton Point Park. The proposal produced by the committee had been distributed prior to the meeting, so that everyone had

had a chance to read it and to ask questions. Stephen asked if there were any remaining questions or discussion about the Festival and there were none. Seth proposed the resolution:

I move that the Board accept the RC19 subcommittee's recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to hire a festival director to produce the Great Hudson River Revival on June 15 and 16, 2019 at Croton Point Park. The event will be completely self-financed, and the festival director will submit a budget for approval. The Board thanks the subcommittee and its leader, Peter Capek, for their outstanding work.

and Donna seconded the motion. The motion passed 17-0-1. Jason Samel abstained.

Seth moved that the Board move into private session to discuss a personnel matter; there was no second. Greg said that we were going to celebrate Alan Gutkin's return from his health adventure, and there was a 15 minute hiatus in the meeting to distribute cake. The telephone connection was terminated, and Board members were asked to call in again for a private session.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Capek

**The next Board meeting is on Thursday, February 28.**

# Clearwater Board of Directors

