

Clearwater Board of Directors
Minutes of the Regular Meeting – March 28, 2019

Board Members

Bob Alpern	Joan Gaylord	Henry Neale	Stephen Smith
Peter Capek	Bruce Ginsberg	Kyle Rabin	Donna Stein
Nancy Cincotta	Neil Gordon	Jeremy Rainer	Sarah Underhill
Seth Davis	Allen Gutkin	Don Raskopf	Taylor Vogt
Jeffrey Domanski	Arthur Jones	Robi Schlaf	
Mitzi Elkes	Aaron Mair		

Staff and Members

Jeremy Baron	Manna Jo Greene	Erin Macchiaroli	Greg Williams (ED)
Judy Chaleff	Betty Harkins	(ph)	
Sue Gamache	Ben Kaminsky	Jason Samel	
	Amali Knoblock	Roy Volpe	

Stephen called the meeting to order at 6:35 and the group sang, led by Stephen playing guitar.

The minutes of the meetings of November 20, November 29, December 13, January 24, and February 28, as amended, were each passed unanimously by voice vote.

Stephen made some announcements: There will be a concert on April 7 at the Linda in Albany. This is an annual concert organized by North River Friends of Clearwater, and will be a 50/100 event. There'll be a showing of "The Power of Song" at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville on May 1, followed by a live performance of Pete Seeger's music and a reception. This year's Chefs event is scheduled for September 14.

Mitzi described a grant application to build a dock in Ossining which would be capable of hosting Clearwater. Greg recently signed and submitted a letter of support for the grant. The new dock would be next to the Haverstraw Ferry dock, and allow the sloop to dock parallel to the current.

The proposed payment arrangement we submitted to Channel 13 for royalties on the sale of DVDs for the Seeger 90th Birthday concert was accepted. We offered to provide in lieu of payment a sponsorship position for Festival by Channel 13, but have not yet received a response to this offer.

The Festival budget, which had earlier been approved by the EC was accepted unanimously by the Board.

Greg presented a sequence of slides touching on a number of issues. He began by saying that ticket sales for Festival to date were almost equal (\$ value) with last year's, despite that our late start has resulted in them being on sale for a much shorter period. Plans are being made for a clearer and "louder" environmental message this year. And nearly all coordinator vacancies have been filled. The event is, so far, cash-flow positive and expected to remain so. Our bank balances are good, with CW operating account in 6 digits, and the Festival account in 5. He showed a chart showing the many processes which are in place to manage incoming funds from several difference sources of credit card transactions, and the two banks between which our accounts are, partly for historical reasons, spread.

Mitzi asked about the state of our ability to write and submit grant applications in light of Diane Oktay's planned departure from CW. Greg said that he has interviewed 6 candidates so far, and was optimistic that we'd find a good replacement.

Taylor Vogt updated the Board on the campaign on Indiegogo.com (originally planned for Pledgemusic.com) and encouraged Board members (and others present!) to link to the campaign from their Facebook feeds. He said the campaign had the potential to net \$13-15K for Clearwater.

Erin described training which had been provided to employees with the goal of helping them "be better" in the work environment. There is a state-required sexual harassment training which will be offered to the Board at an upcoming Board meeting, and has been given to the staff. Greg mentioned that it emphasized early reporting of discomfort by anyone who is the object of such harassment, with the goal of stopping the activity as quickly as possible, and before it became legally actionable.

Stephen asked for concurrence from the Board on participating in the sexual harassment training, and there was general agreement to proceed with it. Roy raised the issue of providing similar training for the PRC, and following brief discussion, Stephen moved to ask Greg to explore sexual harassment for the RPC, but no vote was taken on the motion.

Greg introduced Amali Knoblock, a new Education Coordinator, and also said that the new Education Director, Erik Fyfe, will start work on April 2.

Manna give a report on Environmental Action. Unfortunately, the supervisor of Cortlandt (in which Indian Point is situated), Linda Puglisi, chose the model of a Community Advisory Panel (rather than a Citizens Oversight Board, which Clearwater and others have been advocating) to provide public input related to the I.P. decommissioning). The COB would have provided for a wider range of inputs from industry and other experts. Separately, the Article 78 filing in the suit related to the NY PSC's adoption of a program to subsidize some nuclear power plants at the expense of electric customers was submitted. Clearwater is the lead plaintiff. The Army Corps of Engineers is hosting public meetings on the storm surge barrier proposals and Manna encouraged Board members to attend. She said there is a "huge coalition" of environmental organizations that has formed in opposition to the proposals.

Manna has also been working with an intern to go through old issues of the Navigator and material in the archives at Marist College for information to support a planned proclamation by the NY Legislature relating to our 50/100 anniversaries.

Mitzi mentioned that she became aware that Big House Productions in Ossining has video of an interview of Pete by Debra Winger which was done in preparation for the 90th birthday concert. Most of the footage was not used but is available to Clearwater. (I have obtained it. -- PGC)

Committee Reports -

Seth said that is committee on Governance had nothing requiring action today.

Stephen moved to dissolve the 50/100 committee and hand the work off to the staff. He recommended that Board members on the committee move the Beaconfest effort. No vote was taken on the motion.

For Beaconfest, proposed for the Sept 20-21 weekend, the City of Beacon has agreed to allow some streets to be closed on Sunday to support the event. Bruce appealed for help and involvement in this effort. Taylor and Jeremy volunteered immediately.

Stephen proposed that we consider offering an award named in honor of Pete Seeger and to be given for environmentally responsible, socially aware, music which also promotes social justice. There was enthusiastic support.

Neil and Donna reported on the Ambassador campaign, but said that creating a page to support one's effort is not enough: one must actively let one's friends know about the campaign, and encourage donations.

The Communications Committee is actively writing announcements for use on WBAL.

Henry mentioned that there was interest in inviting Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to speak at Revival. Westchester County has OK'd this. The committee has made contact with her office, but she is unable to make a commitment more than 2 weeks before the intended appearance. Invitations to other environmental leaders are being explored. Roy reminded the Board about past policy not to be involved in politics and warned of a "slippery slope". Revival has had a long history of not presenting politicians. Mitzi observed that we need to keep in mind our emphasis on environmental issues.

Bruce moved to adjourn, Mitzi seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Capek

The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21