

FIPPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, September 10, 2022

10:00 am

Whyte Hall

Directors Present: Allan Baum, Alan Brodherson, Gary Clinton, Greg Henniger, Chris Mai, Charles Montorio-Archer, Nate Pinsley, Henry Robin, Russell Saray, Eric Sawyer, Ed Schulhafer, Jim Vandernoth.

Directors on the phone: Jay Pagano, Leland Rechis, Matt Tague

Directors Absent: none

Also Present: Karen McCutcheon (Community Manager), Douglas Harris (Trailblazers Park Task Force co-chair)

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 am

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2022 meeting.

Motion was unanimously approved.

FIPPOA TOPICS

Henry Robin thanked Gary Clinton for his service as Secretary during the past year.

PINES FOUNDATION TOPICS

Pines Party

Although a final accounting has yet to be made, Allan Baum provided detailed preliminary results for the 2022 Pines Party.

- Overall revenue is up approximately \$50,000 over 2021, despite the need to limit ticket sales due to the smaller beach.
- Increased revenue was seen in tent sales, program sales, corporate sponsorships, and the auction.
- Expenses also rose, with notable increases in staffing, housing, insurance, and overall production costs.
- Preliminary indications show net revenues of approximately \$1,280,000 and net expenses of \$975,000, indicating a profit of \$305,000.

Allan proposed that \$10,000 be transferred to the Seashore Defense Fund, and that \$70,000 be donated to the Stonewall Community Foundation.

- Board discussion ensued covering both suggested donations.
- It was noted that Stonewall grants tend to be focused on relatively small LGBTQIA+ organizations, particularly those serving People of Color and Trans people.
- It was further noted that the Stonewall Community Foundation has long been the recipient of Pines Party proceeds, enabling FIPPOA to make grants within our intended philanthropy without having to establish our own grant-making protocols.

- Mention was made that the one direct grant FIPPOA makes to Pines organization is to the Pines Conservation Society for its tree-removal program, which we would need to pursue on our own if PCS did not manage the process.
- Motion was made and seconded to transfer \$10,000 to the Seashore Defense Fund. Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion was made and seconded to give \$70,000 to the Stonewall Community Foundation. Motion was passed unanimously.

Trailblazers Park Task Force

Doug Harris presented a near-final report of Trailblazers Park expenses, noting the following:

- The itemized expense to date total \$169,200.
- Gay Gardens will maintain the landscaping through October at an additional expense of approximately \$500,
- Proper winterization of the Trailblazers Park fountain was discussed.

Joint FIPPOA /Pines Foundation Topics

The Pines 70th Anniversary

Nate Pinsley, chairing the planning group, reported that:

- Vinnie Petrarca will co-chair.
- The committee is being formed and interested Board members should contact Nate. The committee is intended to be representative of the Pines.

- The committee will bring major decision points to the Board.
- This is not intended to be a fundraising event, but a celebration of our community including owners, renters, and visitors.
- The celebration may be developed as a series of events.
- Decisions on date, funding, and marketing will be brought to the Board to be approved.

Fall Community Meeting and Elections (September 17)

Henry outlined the agenda for the September 17 Fall Community Meeting, including:

- Brief presentations from the new Task Forces
- A CoBE presentation highlighting Trailblazers Park and the panel discussion on Trans rights.
- A discussion of how FIPPOA is doing “more with more” focused on projects supported by the budget.

Speaking of the election, Gary noted that votes that are received by the due date of Friday, September 16 will be tabulated in advance of the September 17 meeting. Each member attending the meeting will check in at the meeting and be told whether their vote has been received. If their vote has NOT been received, they will be given a new ballot (color coded for that day) to be cast at the meeting.

Production Filming in the Pines

- Henry reported that the FX series “American Horror Story” is filming in the Pines for approximately two weeks, primarily using private homes but also using the Pines Harbor for some scenes.

- They are paying fees to FIPPOA, and they are not renting Whyte Hall as previously discussed. We anticipate revenue of approximately \$60,000 from them. Community Manager Karen McCutcheon is our point-person with them.
- The upcoming President's Letter will inform the community of the filming.
- Henry also reported that an independent production company has been filming in the Pines this summer. Its focus is on Trailblazers Park and on the Pines Party and is expected to be a celebration of the Pines.
- Pines homeowner and Trailblazers Park Task Force member Joe Conforti is involved as a producer.
- They will be filming a limited portion of the community meeting, not the election speeches or the open mic section. Attendees will be informed.

Pines Historic Preservation Society

- At its August meeting, the Board voted to accept the Pines Historic Preservation Society's donation of the recreated Home Guardian "We Believe" sign, which was removed from the wall outside the Post Office three years ago due to deterioration.
- The new sign has been rehung and will formally dedicated today at 4:00 pm.
- There have been some expressions of concern by people who find the language to be demeaning to the LGBTQ community.
- FIPPOA will work with a professional historian to create an explanatory sign that will be hung next to the "We Believe" sign, seeking to put it in context

Political Action Committee Topics

- Chris and Teresa Lovito and FIPPOA will host a fundraiser for Brookhaven Councilman Neil Foley on Saturday, September 17, from 4 to 6 pm at the Lovitos' home. Henry spoke warmly about Neil's commitment and service to the Pines.
- Henry spoke of the significance of the FIPPOA Political Action Committee (PAC) and its important role in supporting Federal and local candidates who are supportive of the Pines and of Fire Island.
- Motion was made and seconded to transfer \$5,000 to the PAC, Motion passed unanimously.

Other Topics

- Henry thanked Jim Vandernoth for his sixteen years on the FIPPOA Board, this being Jim's last meeting. He noted that Jim has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Pines. He particularly thanked Jim for his work as Chair of the Harbor Committee, a role in which he demonstrated respect and affection for those who use our Harbor as boaters whether seasonal slip renters or visitors.
- Henry thanked Jim for his continuing service in that role in the years ahead, and the Board gave him a standing ovation.
- The Closing Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 22.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.