

FIPPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, June 5, 2022

10:00 am

395 Ocean Walk

Directors Present: Alan Brodherson, Gary Clinton, Greg Henniger, Jay Pagano, Nathan Pinsley, Henry Robin, Russell Saray, Eric Sawyer, Ed Schulhafer, Matt Tague, Jim Vandernoth.

Directors on the phone: Allan Baum, Chris Mai, Charles Montorio-Archer.

Directors Absent: Leland Rechis

Also Present: Doug Harris (Honoring Trailblazers Task Force Co-Chair), Karen McCutcheon (Community Manager), Joe Micheels (Facilities Manager), Dennis Murphy (Harbor Manager), Claudia Tropp (Nominations Chairperson)

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2022 meeting.

Motion was unanimously approved.

It was noted that the minutes of the May 21, 2022, Spring Membership Meeting will be posted.

FIPPOA TOPICS

Fall 2022 FIPPOA Election

- Henry Robin introduced Claudia Tropp, who will chair the Nominations process. Claudia and her partner have owned a Pines home for two years. Claudia's expertise in technology was instrumental to the Verizon Task Force last year. She is a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley.
- All Executive Committee positions are up this year, as are four Director slots, currently held by Alan Brodherson, Greg Henniger, Henry Robin, and Jim Vandernoth.
- Claudia was asked to provide a list of candidates in time for the Board meeting on July 9. Henry noted that we are moving the nomination process earlier than is usual in order to provide more opportunity for outreach to the community.

Board Size

- Given that periodic questions arise about the possibility of increasing the size of the Board, Henry feels a discussion is in order.
- Greg Henniger noted that in 2015, following extensive discussion among the Board and with outside legal counsel, the Board proposed to the Membership amendments to the FIPPOA By-Laws which over time decreased the size of the Board from 20 to 15, and which revised the process by which the Board size might be increased or decreased in future years without requiring a vote of the Membership. These amendments were approved by the Membership in September 2015.
- Alan Brodherson, Greg Henniger and Jay Pagano, who were all involved in the 2015 amendment process, concur in this analysis.
- Extensive discussion of the merits of increasing the size of the Board or leaving it at the current size of 15 took place. A

particular concern is the belief that many potential candidates are reluctant to run against incumbents.

- It was noted that instituting terms limits would ensure that Board positions open periodically.
- The Board agreed to return to this topic in the near future.

Candidates Forum and The Election Process

- Gary Clinton and Henry proposed the idea of FIPPOA holding a Candidates Forum at which the candidates for elections would speak to the Membership and answer questions. We will look for a date in early- to mid-August. A moderator will manage the event. This forum will be available via live and/or recorded broadcast in a form yet to be determined. The Board was in agreement with the concept.
- Gary noted that the eligibility to vote, the clarity of the ballot, the due date of mailed ballots, and the check-in process at the Fall Membership Meeting are items to be attended to in the weeks ahead to ensure the integrity of the election.
- Henry asked that Gary, Chris Mai, Matt Tague and Karen McCutcheon meet to address these items.

PINES FOUNDATION TOPICS

Trailblazers Park

- Gary Clinton and Doug Harris presented a report on the status of Trailblazers Park, noting that it is on-track for a July 16 Dedication and Reception.
- They noted that there was a sizeable increase in the cost of the project, based in part on increased materials costs, in part on the fact that an initial sketch rather than detailed architectural

rendering was the basis of the accepted bid from CKP (the chosen contractor), in part on the evolution of the surrounding landscaping, and in part on a refinement of the Reception.

- Motion was made and seconded to increase the Trailblazers Park budget to \$150,000, which includes a 15% contingency. Voting in favor were Baum, Clinton, Henniger, Mai, Montorio-Archer, Pagano, Pinsley, Robin, Saray, Sawyer, Schulhafer, Tague, Vandernoth. Abstaining: Brodherson.
- Discussion followed concerning the media plan to encourage press attention to Trailblazers Park. Doug Harris described the ongoing volunteer efforts to alert the media.
- A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$25,000 to engage a professional public relations company to manage this aspect of the project. Voting in favor were Baum, Clinton, Henniger, Mai, Montorio-Archer, Pagano, Pinsley, Robin, Saray, Sawyer, Schulhafer, Tague, Vandernoth. Abstaining: Brodherson.

Pines Party

- Allan Baum reported to-date ticket sales of \$620,000, two-thirds of goal, and exceeding the pre-pandemic comparable (2019) by 37%.
- Overall revenue is up approximately 140%, with strong corporate sponsorships, and cabanas sold out. Additionally, Journal ad revenue is significantly ahead.
- We continue to work with the New York State Liquor Control Authority on licensing, and with the Department of Environmental Conservation on permitting a location at either end of the beach
- Allan thanked Raf Kuhn and Jon Tilley for their assistance with obtaining sponsorship from Deutsche Bank for the Invasion.

Juneteenth Weekend

Charles Montorio-Archer reported that Juneteenth weekend will include several events:

- June Teas each evening of the weekend.
- A co-sponsorship by FIPPOA and CoBE on Saturday, June 18 “How To: You: A Musical Guide to Black Boyhood,” with a discussion with Jorjah Kwame (writer and composer) and Kimille Howard (director).
- On Sunday, June 19, a salon-style conversation at Whyte Hall, focused on issues of race, access, and equity in the Pines.

AIDS Memorial

- Jay Pagano reviewed the history of the AIDS Memorial project, noting that the Task Force’s strong desire to place it within sight of the ocean, where many people’s ashes have been spread over the years; the opposition of some neighbors to its placement on National Park Service-owned property near homes; the initial efforts to attempt to receive Federal approval through the US Congress; and the subsequent possibility of approval at an NPS level of the Memorial on FINS land, provided the Memorial meets various standards related to significance, material, archaeology, impact, and design review.
- Jay pointed out that due to the impact of a design competition and design review on scheduling, the Task Force moved forward with a design concept proposed by architect Charles Renfro.

- Charles' design places the Memorial in an existing shallow bowl of sand behind the front dune, at the beach entrance ramp to the west of the Carrington House. It is wheelchair accessible, and designed to accommodate a small number of people at a time.
- Fire Island National Seashore Superintendent Alexcy Romero has envisioned a boardwalk through the Meat Rack, connecting Cherry Grove and the Pines, terminating at the Carrington houses. The smaller of the Carrington building (the Coast Guard Cottage) would provide space for a display of LGBTQIA+ history.
- Alexcy thinks that the AIDS Memorial that the Task Force has envisioned could be located well behind the dune in the Meat Rack, as one of a series of displays on the path,
- Jay and Board members noted that this interior location is not conducive to the contemplative nature that the Memorial the Task Force envisions, that it would not be as reflective of ocean sounds as the current plan, and that an interior location would not provide the sight of the ocean nor the ocean breeze for visitors sitting in contemplation. It would be a hot and uncomfortable place on sunny days.

Tag Sale

- Nate Pinsley reported that the June 4 Tag Sale at the Harbor was a success, attracting hundreds of visitors, a wide array of items for sale, and really good cookies.
- A final accounting of money raised will be made and reported at the next Board meeting.

JOINT FIPPOA / PINES FOUNDATION TOPICS

Office Staffing

- Henry reported that we have contracted with The A Team to manage FIPPOA's accounting and payroll function, while the search for a permanent Finance Director is ongoing,
- Patrick Forrett is assisting as needed and Ken Pollard is assisting with the audit as needed.
- The search for office assistance continues.

Roncalli Litigation

- The judge having denied Roncalli's appeal for further delay, the hearing on what is owed FIPPOA on its counterclaim has been scheduled for late July.

Long-term Community Planning Task Forces

- Henry reviewed the names of those who will serve on the three Task Forces and noted his intention to provide an update on the Task Forces in his forthcoming Newsletter.
- The Board discussed the selection process, the need for attention to varying points of view and recommendations, and the importance of inclusion and expansion if needed.

Other Subjects

Length and Scheduling of Board Meetings

- After noting that many of its meetings run longer than their allotted 90 minutes, Henry polled the Board as to whether we might want to

expand the length to 2 hours. There was agreement that a longer meeting would provide for greater depth of reporting and discussion, and that a 10:00 am start to a scheduled noon finish is warranted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.