

Minutes of the Meetings of the Open and Executive Sessions, WILPF US Board of Directors

July 21, 2015

Held via teleconferencing

Board members present:

President: Mary Hanson Harrison

Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee: Millee Livingston

Secretary: Candace Perry

Chair of the Membership Development Committee: LaShawndra Vernon

Chair of the Nominating Committee: Barbara Nielsen

Chair of the Personnel Committee: Nicole Scott

Chair of the Program Committee: Odile Hugonot Haber

Chair of the Program Committee: Maureen Ngozi Eke

At-large Board Member: Ann Fleischli

At-large Board Member: Marybeth Gardam

US Section Member of the International Board, Melissa Torres

Board members not present:

Chair of the Development Committee: Fran Foulkrod

WILPF members, non-Board present: Sandy Silver, Regina Birchem, Regina Sneed, Darien De Lu, Pearl Leto

Also present:

Ellen Schwartz, Dashboard facilitator

Paula Herrington, Interim Director

The Board convened in Open session, via teleconference call, at 8:30 pm (EST). Mary Hanson Harrison facilitated. She welcomed our new board members, Maureen Ngozi Eke and Marybeth Gardam.

Due to illness, the June board meeting was not held. The corrected minutes from May 19 were not approved. Barbara Nielsen did not find them to correctly reveal her block.

Millee Livingston presented the treasurer's report. The WILPF-US balance sheet ending May 31, 2015 shows cash in bank was \$76,337, and the balance sheet ending June 30, 2015 shows cash in bank was \$56,263. Bequest savings contain \$32,175, and other savings contain \$50,436, for a total of \$138,874 in banks. We also have an operating reserve account of \$97,000.

As part of her Interim Director's report, Paula Herrington noted there is a restricted donor pledge of \$60,000 for this year and an additional \$60,000 for next year to specifically fund the new managing director staff position. Paula noted the audit is coming up and may require an extension.

Nicole Scott reported from the Nominating Committee that interviews for the Managing Director are on schedule. Paula will be leaving as Interim Director no later than Sept. 29.

Odile Hugonot Haber, joining the call from France after 2 am her time, reported that the program retreat is set for October 2 - 4.

LaShawndra Vernon discussed new branches. She outlined the process and the variety of types of branches in response to Maureen's question re starting a new branch. Millee requested something in writing, a "getting a branch started" packet and LaShawndra agreed this could be done.

Marybeth Gardam gave the Growing WILPF! (GW) report as Robin Lloyd, the other co-chair, was not able to be on the call. Marybeth noted that GW spent less than projected and received less than projected. She noted that an important strategy for the future will be asking members directly for significant donations, based on the importance of WILPF in the lives of members. She hopes GW will be able to put together a training to help members "make the ask."

Other board reports included Barbara Nielsen reporting from Nominating, welcoming our two new board members. The committee is gearing up and will put out a call by the end of August for new members to prepare for 2016 board term elections. She hopes to hold elections in the fall so that transition can occur and new board would be seated for the Jan. 2016 meeting. Barbara noted that job descriptions are what exist in the by-laws, not clear if these need changing.

Ann Fleischli noted that she and others are hoping to revitalize the Chicago branch. The new database is helping to contact former members. Ann will write a report on this project.

Questions were open from non-board members. Darien De Lu was surprised to hear that the nominating process will be ready by the end of August; as a committee member she was not informed. Barbara Nielsen did not wish to discuss committee business in a board meeting.

Millee asked for clarification of meeting dates. Mary noted that monthly meetings are difficult, especially in the summer, so there will be no board meeting in August. Next meeting will be Sept. 15.

There was discussion and clarification of the Wing Farm gathering which will be held in Vermont. Millee noted that members can gather, discuss issues and make recommendations, but these gatherings make no "official" policies or decisions.

Meeting of the Open Session adjourned at 10:06 pm and non-board members left the call.

The meeting of the Executive session followed. Due to computer difficulties, some had to leave the call and return. After some discussion of what is meant by accountability, strategies for policy and procedures, and the role of

membership, it was decided that this topic warrants an in depth conversation. Mary will arrange to have a doodle poll conducted to set another meeting time, hopefully in two weeks.

The meeting of the Executive Session was adjourned at 10:29 pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Perry, Secretary