



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Monday, January 25, 2021
By Teleconference**

4:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Chair Diana Pelletier, Steve Bacon, Frank Gifford, Prabhas KC, Betsy Paterson, and Sean Vasington

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Chair Diana Pelletier called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of November 23, 2020 Minutes

Frank Gifford moved to approve the November 23, 2020 minutes. Prabhas KC seconded that motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Appointment of Amanda Hanzlik to Celebrate Mansfield Festival Committee and Ryan Aylesworth to Finance and Growth Committee

Mr. KC made a motion to appoint Amanda Hanzlik to the Celebrate Mansfield Festival Committee. Mr. Gifford seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. KC made a motion to appoint Ryan Aylesworth to the Finance and Growth Committee. Steve Bacon seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5. Review of Board Engagement/Activity Grid

The Committee reviewed the Board Engagement/Activity Grid.

Ms. Pelletier noted that the main comment from Board assessments was the lack of diversity on the Board.

6. Discussion of New Board members

The Board discussed some potential new Board members but agreed to hold off on heavy recruitment until the Partnership strategic plan is completed, which may inform how to move forward. Mr. Gifford and Sean Vasington also suggested that the strategic planning process, by bringing in new voices, may produce some good Board candidates.

Ms. Pelletier encouraged Committee members to keep providing names for the pipeline of potential Board members.

Mr. KC suggested a one-page overview of Board expectations and the Partnership. Mr. Gifford noted that there is a one-page Board expectations document but perhaps it could be made into a more attractive piece. Ms. van Zelm will review the current pieces to see what type of updates can be made.

7. Update on Board Assessment Responses

In addition to the Board diversity comments, Ms. Pelletier said Board members liked the orientation process pre-COVID-19, there were some concerns about Board succession, and Board members felt there was a strong amount of trust among Board members.

With respect to what Board members would like to see more of at meetings, responses included guided discussion on solving problems, attendance by property and business owners at Partnership Board meetings, and continue further requests for calls to action.

Ms. Pelletier said she received seven responses.

Mr. KC suggested the Board and Downtown Storrs' businesses work with SCORE which provides mentoring services for businesses. Cynthia van Zelm said SCORE had representatives at both the Windham Chamber of Commerce and Tolland Chamber of Commerce offices but that has been limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. Ms. van Zelm will follow-up with the Chambers.

8. New Registered Agent

Ms. van Zelm said a new registered agent for the Partnership will need to be filed with the State once Ms. Pelletier goes off the Board. She will follow-up with proposed incoming Board President Kyle Muncy and Partnership Board attorney John Zaccaro.

9. Adjourn

Mr. KC made a motion to adjourn. Betsy Paterson seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Minutes prepared by Cynthia van Zelm