



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
Monday, August 24, 2020  
By Teleconference**

**4:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

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

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Diana Pelletier called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Approval of May 18, 2020 Minutes**

Prabhas KC moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Pelletier seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**4. New Board members**

Ms. Pelletier reported that Board member Jessie Shea has moved to Maine so will no longer be serving on the Board.

The Committee discussed potential other Board members and Steve Bacon will follow-up with one prospect. Ms. van Zelm will talk to Committee member Betsy Paterson about two other prospects and she will follow-up with Board member Mario Conjura on other ideas for Board members who are business owners.

Ms. van Zelm will re-send the Board pipeline list to the Governance Committee.

**5. President Succession**

The Committee discussed succession of the President position as Ms. Pelletier is term limited for her position on the Board (June 30, 2021).



Ms. Pelletier will bring the discussion of a new Board President to the Board meeting on September 3.

The Committee conducted an impromptu exit interview with Mr. Bacon who served on the Board for 19 years.

## **6. Bylaws and Appointment of Committee members**

The Committee discussed the fact that the Bylaws are silent on how committee members are appointed. Mr. Bacon suggested they be revised to indicate that the Governance Committee will appoint committee members as it does with committee chairs.

Ms. van Zelm will also discuss with Partnership attorney John Zaccaro any other changes that should be made related to unforeseen circumstances such as COVID-19.

## **7. Committee and Task Forces**

Ms. van Zelm said there has been some discussion about business or public spaces' committees or task forces. Given the focus that businesses have on their business, the Committee suggested holding off until November on further discussion of additional committees or task forces. Ms. Pelletier suggested that business outreach could include asking businesses if they want to serve on a business committee.

Ms. van Zelm said she will follow-up with Mr. Bacon and Sean Vasington on the Nature's Medicines' donation for work in Downtown Storrs and other public spaces ideas.

## **8. Review of Board Assessment**

Ms. Pelletier said she had received the Board assessments from Mr. Bacon and can prepare a summary. She said there were not many comments.

The Committee agreed to send out a new assessment form in January so new Board members can participate.

Ms. Pelletier suggested that there might be some COVID-10 related questions that make sense. A draft of a revised assessment form will be on a future Committee agenda.

## **9. Adjourn**

Mr. Vasington made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gifford seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.

*Minutes prepared by Cynthia van Zelm*