



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6:30pm

Board Members

Sarah Armour

Peter Capek

~~Jeff Domanski~~

Mitzi Elkes

Joan Gaylord

Neil Gordon, Treasurer

~~Scott Greathead~~

Allen Gutkin

Samantha Hicks, Vice-President

Gareth Hougham

Arthur Jones, Executive Committee At Large

~~Aaron Mair~~

Jennifer McMillan

Henry Neale, Executive Committee At Large

Jeremy Rainer

Dan Riesel

Larry Rothbart

~~Gregory Simpson~~

Steve Stanne, President, Chair

Donna Stein

Rosemary Thomas, Secretary

Sarah Underhill, Executive Committee At Large

Greg Williams

Thomasina Winslow

~~(strike through indicates absence)~~

Staff Members

Amali Knobloch

David Toman, Executive Director

Members

Ben Kaminsky

Alan Thomas

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

Mission Song sung by Steve Stanne, "Tide and the River Rising"

Approval of Minutes

The 05/10/22 Board meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Director's Report

David began with an Education update. Eighteen Tideline programs were conducted in May and another 11 are scheduled for June. There were 7 Girls, Inc. programs in May and June. (Girls, Inc. is an organization that serves young girls nationwide through programming in partnership with schools.)

The Sloop's Coast Guard inspection has been moved from today to next week, allowing several small items to be addressed prior to inspection. The delay impacts programming with six Education sails being rebooked to land based programs and potentially up to 16 Education sails and 3 public sails cancelled.

Regarding the EA area, David highlighted that a task group has been established for forward planning, including dealing with Manna Jo Greene's eventual retirement, and that three interns have joined for the summer – John Masaros (Marist College), Lucy Hunter (University of St. Andrew, UK), and John Schwartz (Binghamton University).

David noted that Steve is pulling together a task group to address Music and Celebration as outlined in the Strategic Plan (“Integrate music in our work in sustainable ways that draw people into the Clearwater community and carry forward both our mission and our heritage.”). David noted these efforts will need to be volunteer driven as we are without designated staff in this area and he looks forward to working with this group.

Administratively, the City of Beacon has begun welcome repairs to the White House and our new part time administrator, Anne Crowley Weight, will start on 6/23. David thanked Gigi Rapetti, our outgoing administrative assistant, for her service since October 2019 and for staying on until a replacement was ready.

A resolution to add Caitlin Zinsley, Administrative Sloop Liaison, as a signer to the Ulster Savings Boat Account was introduced and deferred to later in the meeting.

Fiscal Affairs

David said cash flow hit a critical low this week. While June will have revenue from various sources, the organization does not operate with a sufficient reserve for slow periods and, with revenue now impacted by the delay in Sloop sailing season, we face a challenging period. David thanked everyone who has or is helping to bridge the short term gap. He also said that we really need to address, as a team, how to build back a reserve for the organization.

The change in our QuickBooks chart of accounts, to allow improved financial reporting, is projected to be ready on 6/17.

Neil reminded Board members of their give/get responsibility and said now is a good time to catch up, if needed, as we wait for operating revenues to re-start.

Sam commented that individuals can purchase sail gift certificates from the website and she is using them for end-of-year teacher gifts. The cards come in any amount and do not expire!

Steve followed up on Music and Celebration, where he's recruited a strong committee cutting across many pieces of Clearwater, including David Toman, Thomasina Winslow, Ben Kaminsky, Ron Olesko, Jimmy Buff, Margie Rosenkranz, and Jean Havens. This group will look at Revival and also other musical events.

Development Report

David reported fiscal year to date development revenue is 3% under plan, primarily driven by a slow May for reasons that are understood. May revenue came from memberships, individual donations, and Ambassador giving. Looking ahead, a member survey is in progress, the Patron Fish appeal is ongoing, and a community gathering for late July is being planned. OPRHP reimbursement #3 is due in late July and submission #4 is in progress. Fall events are also in planning.

Steve noted that some items in the budget were predicted to arrive earlier, and that has influenced the cash flow situation. They are expected to arrive shortly and that will be a plus.

Mitzi said the Board year-to-date giving reports, sent to each Director, showed contributions and asked whether the spreadsheet should show which donations are restricted. She would appreciate documentation for that. David said restrictions are captured when donations are made, and Mitzi will follow-up with Meg.

Greg commented that the more information donors can get, ideally on line, about what they donated for and how the funds are being used, the more confident they will be in donating. It is an opportunity to exceed expectations. Larry and Arthur expressed interested in getting information on donations from people close to them, so they can both thank and continue to encourage the donors.

Adding Caitlin Zinsley to Sloop Account

A RESOLUTION to add Caitlin Zinsley, Administrative Sloop Liaison, to the Ulster Savings Bank Boat Account only was introduced by Steve. The text of the resolution is in Appendix A. Larry moved and Arthur seconded. The resolution PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

Nominating Committee

Arthur said all Board survey results are now in and thanked everyone for their thoughtful responses. Upcoming key dates were identified as 6/8 for the list of key nominees, 8/9 for final nominations due, 9/1 for ballots going out, and 9/7 for Board assessment results presented.

The current list of potential nominees was reviewed and discussed. Arthur said this year's focus is on building / strengthening partnerships with organizations we want to work closely with. We are also trying to branch out beyond people already in the Clearwater community.

Mitzi said we should be competitive in who we have on the slate, and be mindful of how many openings there are and how many end up on the slate. Henry said he cannot imagine any good purpose in contested elections as they turn into a popularity contest based on name identification, without regard to substance, and then the loser, a good person, is driven away. Larry said it is important that members have input. Arthur said the discussion is largely academic until we get further along. Donna echoed Henry's comments and gave an example from several years ago where a longtime, active Clearwater member dropped out after losing in a competitive election.

Sarah A. applauded the Nominating Committee, noting the list looks strategic and is an opportunity to bring in people who have shared values but aren't necessarily already in the fold.

Greg said it would be great to have a 2-3 year horizon, encouraging committee participation beforehand so candidates get to know the organization and the expectations. Steve said there is discussion on bringing some candidates into committees first.

Environmental Action Committee

Steve said the task group looking at EA held a scoping meeting which identified three main issues to be discussed. The first item is what issues should Clearwater engage with and what is the mode of action in engaging with them. The Strategic Plan certainly calls for focusing on issues that pertain directly to the river and that will be discussed. The next issue is the fact that Manna will be retiring. Discussion will center on what that means for Clearwater, how to ensure institutional memory is preserved, and, at the same time, how to create space for a new Environmental Director to carry forth in ways they think is appropriate. The third issue is the functioning of the EA Committee itself, specifically how to make it a truly effective group.

David added this is a good opportunity for us to think about how we've gotten to where we are and how we take it forward, and that we don't just roll forward with the same structure we have today.

Greg asked about funding for overlap between Manna and her successor. David said the group will need to map this out.

Henry said he hopes Manna would continue in a consulting role, particularly on Indian Point decommissioning where Manna is a recognized expert. He said Indian Point is the first of several nuclear plants that will be closed in the next 10 years and that decommissioning takes 40 years and it is essential this work is done well.

New Business:

Amali shared a social media metric. In the month of May we got over a million views on our TikTok channel, with almost 15,000 followers on that channel. That channel is exploding and they are really interested in our environmental education, sloop, and crew content. Amali gave a shout out to the crew and especially Fredi Guevara-Prip, one of our on-board educators. Amali noted that different social media platforms (TikTok, Facebook, Instagram) are geared at different generations.

Sarah A. noted TikTok is a very young app and also a way to continue to tell our story, reaching out beyond just the Hudson Valley and beyond our existing communities. She continued that telling our stories creates a meaningful connection to Clearwater so that by the time they're 18 they want to go on the sloop or become Clearwater members, which makes this important and exciting. Right now we are in the infancy of this.

Thomasina asked if a social media report could be a regular part of the agenda and David will follow-up.

Arthur noted that for years people bemoaned we cannot connect with students once they leave the sloop, and now social media lets us stay engaged the next day and ongoing.

Henry congratulated Steve and David for a well-organized, well-planned meeting and moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary

APPENDIX A

A resolution concerning authorization to add Caitlin Zinsley as a signer to the Ulster Savings Bank Boat Account (X7508) only.

RESOLVED: That Caitlin Zinsley, Administrative Sloop Liaison, be added as a signer to the Ulster Savings Bank Boat Account (X7508) only.