

NESEA Board Meeting Conference Call - Minutes September 11, 2016

Participating

Michael Bruss
Saheel Chandrani
Caitriona Cooke
Martine Dion
Paul Eldrenkamp
Jenna Ide
Phil Kaplan
Jennifer Marrapese
Rob Meyers
Rick Renner
John Skipper

Not Participating

Fortunat Mueller
Ben Southworth
Lisa Tallet

The Board Conference Call convened at 1:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Vote: To approve the minutes from the May 14, June 9, July 7, and August 11, 2016 meetings. Caitriona made the motion, and Phil seconded it. With new Board members Saheel Chandrani and Jenna Ide abstaining, the motion was approved by the balance of the attending Board members.

Executive Director Report - Jennifer Marrapese

Yesterday's BuildingEnergy Bottom Lines Business Summit was successful, with 90 people attending. The net profit was the same as last year, or close. The meeting focused on the "People" leg of the triple bottom line

Currently, financial indicators are headed in the right direction. The BuildingEnergy NYC sponsorship goal has been met, and there are some additional possibilities. There are 13 booths left to sell. Registrations are coming in at a faster pace than last year.

Miriam's maternity leave ends this Monday. She is easing her way back in by starting at 80%, not yet full-time. Now, others, who had assumed some of her responsibilities, will be able to focus more completely on their own responsibilities.

Finance - Paul Eldrenkamp

The numbers in the financial report are disconcerting. But the loss is a useful inspiration for the organization to head in the right direction.

Caitriona does not have the information that Paul presented yesterday at the Annual Meeting. This will be available in the Annual Report that goes out to all members. Jennifer will send the Board a link to this.

Nominating – Martine Dion

Over the past few months, the Committee has worked on the upcoming election. Rob, Fortunat, Ben, and John will be running again, and there is a fifth candidate, Lauren Brust Moss, whose bio was included in the Board packet. Jennifer said that the election will begin in the first or second week in October and will stay open for a couple of weeks. The top three candidates will be elected; the Board will then appoint an additional candidate, either from this pool or elsewhere during the November 2 meeting.

Development – Phil Kaplan

The Committee has not met recently. Phil is waiting for October, when students are back and established in schools, to focus on BE The Future, which will be handled a little differently this year. The Committee is assembling a list of potential students, and then the Committee will assign sponsors. The details are described on page 21 of the Board Packet. Jennifer said that last year and for this year, the program is limited to BuildingEnergy Boston. The Kate Fund scholarships have been expanded to include BENYC. Caitriona suggested that we get all the students and sponsors together again in Boston after the keynote address, as we did last year. This will help get the word out. John suggested reaching out to sponsors and booths for possible nominations. Jennifer said this has been done, but it has not taken off. Caitriona suggested that we find out where NY sponsors get their interns. Phil mentioned making an appeal at BEBL meeting(s); Phil will coordinate with Jennifer re meeting locations and individuals.

Governance - Rick Renner

Rick said that after a close review of the *Bylaws* and the *Governance Policies*, he believes that the former should contain a clear statement of the importance of the principles of governance, and the latter should be edited and streamlined. Perhaps each should reference the other in some mutually supportive way. These are topics he will discuss with the rest of the Committee. This will require that the Committee work with NESEA's legal counsel, and in this year of a tight overall budget, Rick is concerned about incurring any additional costs. Michael suggested that after some preliminary work, the Committee could determine a scope and get a proposal from NESEA's counsel. Jennifer said that this work is not pressing, and we need to manage the cost.

Strategic Planning Groups

Advocacy - Jenna said that the working group is researching what other organizations do. They hope to have a summary in October for the Board call.

Membership/Audience – Jennifer said they are looking at emerging professionals as one audience to target. They are cognizant that this is not the only group, and they will continue to look for other opportunities. They are hoping to have something to share at the October Board meeting.

Commercial and Residential – Rick said that the working group has a conference call scheduled for September 23 to discuss summary notes from the meeting in Greenfield. The immediate focus will probably be on private educational institutions.

Geographic Reach - Lisa not in the meeting.

Program Diversification – Saheel said the working group has a call scheduled for early next week. One focus is on bringing more variety to the website.

Other

Michael invited Committee chairs to reach out to new board members to encourage them to join committees that interest them.

Jennifer reminded the Board of NESEA annual appeal letter re matching donors.

Vote: To adjourn the meeting. Phil made the motion, and Caitriona seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Phone call adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM.

The next Board meeting is a conference call at 9:00 AM on October 13, 2016.

Attachments: None

Notes prepared by Rick Renner