

PLATO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2017

E.D. Locke Public Library
5920 Milwaukee St., McFarland, WI

Present Scott Kolar (President), Sybil Better, Kathy Brown, Janet Cabot, Ed Cothroll, Carla DiIorio, Mike DiIorio, Tim Otis, Frank Power, Michael Stevens
DCS: Louise Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER – Kolar called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by Stevens and a second by M. DiIorio, **the minutes of the November 18, 2016 Board meeting were approved with a correction to indicate that Otis was present at the meeting with the DCS Assistant Dean Hope Simons.**

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. .AGRORA – In response to a question, Otis reported on conversations with Pat Becker about the availability of funds for the next issue. He believes that there is currently sufficient funding.

B. Special Events – C. DiIorio requested a policy change relating to trip assistants and free trip registration. On a motion by Otis and a second by Stevens, **the Board approved the following policy: the bus trip organizer will receive a free trip registration for organizing the trip and leading the tour. The bus trip assistant will also receive a free trip registration. If there is a second (or third) bus involved in the trip, the two additional bus trip assistants will each receive a free trip registration.** C. DiIorio reported that the cost of additional free trip registrations is built into the trip cost structure. The breakeven point on trips is approximately 38 seats. The set-aside for trip reimbursements has been established. The trips account is currently running a deficit.

C. Diversity – Power reported that the group's meetings are attended by 12-14 members. The group wants to help members learn about diversity in the greater Madison area and make PLATO more diverse. A subcommittee of the group will make recommendations on books dealing with injustice and the website will highlight courses and events addressing diversity.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Financial Reports** – Otis reported that tax returns and the form 990s have been completed and filed. The state reports are due at the end of the month.

B. **Strategic Planning Update** – Kolar briefly reviewed the survey results. Our consultants will lead a facilitated discussion with the Board on April 21. One week later, Russell Consulting will lead a facilitated discussion with the Board and other organization leaders. The focus of these meetings will be growth and how to handle it.

C. **Nominations Committee Update** – Power reported that, for the first time, the public call for nominees resulted in several members expressing interest in leadership positions. The official slate for officers is Kolar (president), Stevens (VP), Gould (treasurer), Herrling (secretary) and Power (past president). Five individuals will be running for three at-large board slots: a one-year term, a two-year term, and a three-year term with the seats allocated on the basis of number of votes received by candidate (e.g., the one with the most votes gets a three year term). However, since at-large board members having a term of less than three years can run for re-election, it is possible that the members given one and two year terms could serve more than 3 years. PLATO

will again conduct elections digitally with voting to take place during the latter part of April and early May. The Nominations Committee will revisit the nominations process following the election. The need for a good orientation for new board members was stressed.

D. Website Update – Kolar reported that a “Get Involved” tab has been added with links to information on volunteering and donating. He then reviewed Google Analytics for February which showed significant usage of our website.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Development Committee Fundraising Proposal – Otis presented a recommendation from the Committee to expand giving in 2017. On a motion by Otis and a second by Power, **the Board approved an increase in giving with \$10,500 going to the Returning Adult Student Program, \$5,000 going to the Odyssey Project and at least \$6,000 going to community agencies offering educational opportunities for youth. The Development Committee will solicit nominations from the membership about potential community organization recipients.** Otis also reported that the operating fund has been reimbursed for previous fund development expenditures.

B. Merger of Membership and Communications Committees – A draft charge for the merged committee was presented. In response to a question, Kolar assured that volunteer recruitment activities would be continued although they are not identified in this charge. On a motion by Otis and a second by M. DiIorio, **the revised charge for a Membership and Communication Committee was approved.**

C. Approval of Chair of Membership and Communication Committee – On a motion by Cabot and a second by Brown, **the Board approved Hedy Lukas as committee chair.**

D. Approval of Curriculum Committee Co-Chair – Brown reported that Barb Friberg has stepped down as committee co-chair although she will remain on the committee. On a motion by Brown and a second by Power, **the Board approved Therese Stevens as committee co-chair.**

E. Service Awards – Otis commented on the extensive long-term involvement of Mary Boyd and Pat Becker. On a motion by Cabot and a second by C. DiIorio, **the awarding of service awards to Boyd and Becker in May was approved.**

VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. Donation of PLATO Membership to WHA-TV Auction. PLATO has previously donated 6 memberships to the auction. On a motion by Stevens and a second by Otis, **the Board approved again donating six memberships to the WHA auction.**

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am. The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 21, 2017 from 9:30 – 11 am at the Lussier Family Heritage Center. A strategic planning facilitated discussion with Russell Consulting will follow immediately from 11 am – 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Better, Secretary