

PLATO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2017

Lussier Family Heritage Center
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison, WI

Present Scott Kolar (President), Sybil Better, Kathy Brown, Janet Cabot, Ed Cothroll, Kevin Gould, Patricia Herrling, Hedy Lukas, Tim Otis, Frank Power, Therese Stevens
DCS: Louise Fowler
Others: Michael Stevens

I. CALL TO ORDER – Kolar called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by T. Stevens and a second by Cothroll, **the minutes of the March 17, 2017 Board meeting were approved.**

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Subcommittee – In response to a question, Otis reported that this year’s anticipated deficit is a result of expenditures for strategic planning and shortfalls in trip funding. PLATO’s reserves are sufficient to cover these deficits.

B. Fund Development – In response to a question about “sponsoring our own educational support initiatives”, Otis suggested that PLATO might want to give direct support to high school seniors rather than working through other organizations. A discussion of PLATO’s charitable role was initiated, but then deferred by Kolar until later in the meeting and to the strategic planning session later that day.

IV. OLD BUSINESS – None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Diversity Committee** – Power reported that a proposal to change the status of the Diversity Committee from an ad hoc to a special committee will be offered at the next Board meeting.

B. **Budget Preparation** – Otis will be soliciting input on 2017-18 budget initiatives for Finance Committee consideration in May and Board approval in June. Third-quarter financial reports will be distributed as soon as they become available.

C. **30th Anniversary Matching Fund** – Otis reported on a Fund Development Committee proposal to set a fundraising goal of at least \$30,000 from members and then match that amount, up to \$30,000 from the PLATO Fund which now has approximately \$140,000. The intent of this proposal is to expand giving and do special projects such as sponsoring our own educational support initiatives. A motion seeking Board approval of this proposal was offered by Otis and seconded by Power. The subsequent extended discussion dealt with the specific proposal and the PLATO fund in general including the purpose of the charitable arm, its inclusion in PLATO’s mission, whether this proposal represents mission creep, whether fundraising should be used instead to pay for new initiatives directly benefitting PLATO members and/or reducing budget shortfalls, how the decision to get into charitable giving was made and the extent of member support for the PLATO Fund. On a motion by Brown with a second by Better, **the Board tabled the motion for the 30th Anniversary Matching Fund with one member in opposition.**

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no Board meeting in May. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16.

Board elections are underway and so far approximately 10% of PLATO members have voted. Reminders to vote will be sent out.

May 5 is the deadline to register for the annual meeting.

A reception for adult student scholarship recipients will be held on April 25th. A reception for Odyssey graduates will be held on May 3. Board members were encouraged to attend.

Committees are starting to use the new logo.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Better, Secretary

Approved by the PLATO Board on June 16, 2017.