

PLATO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2020

9:30 a.m. via Google Meet

Present: Kathy Brown, President, Alan Capelle, Sue Dentinger, Patricia Herrling, Scott Kolar, Hedy Lukas, Rod McKenzie, Michael Stevens, Therese Stevens, Meg Taylor, Paul Thompson

Also present: Christine Bartlett

Approval of August 2020 Board Minutes -- Approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Kollath end-of-fiscal-year report—Scott Kolar reviewed the Treasurer's report. The major expense is to DCS, which is the same as last year even though there are no membership dues for this year. We are in good shape fiscally and have cash reserves for at least a year.

Annual PLATO Education Fund Appeal Has Started

Rod McKenzie reported that the fund appeal mailing is going out later this month. The fund appeal has been in the weekly PLATO email news. The PLATO website has been updated to direct folks to the fund site for donations.

Thanking PLATO's "First Responders" – Making Online Courses/Events Possible

- Special Updates from:
 - **Curriculum** – Paul Thompson and Therese Stevens
Therese reported that every coordinator has their own Google Meet account if so desired. Support is being offered for Google Meet for those who need help for their online courses. If coordinators use a different program they may do so, but technical support is not available by PLATO. There are 36 courses and they are going well. Most are using Google Meet. PLATO does offer Zoom webinars and others are using alternate programs such as WebeX and Blackboard. Some advantages to virtual courses are no parking issues, wider accessibility for PLATO members and the ability to bring in outside speakers because of the virtual platform. Paul Thompson spoke of some of the negatives, which include the challenge of supporting attendees using a wide variety of devices, such as laptops, iPhones, tablets and desktop computers. There are also a wide variety of browsers with different capabilities that need supporting. Google Meet makes the presentation mode problematic. But the overall reaction is positive.
 - **Special Events** – Sue Dentinger
Sue mentioned the loss of Suzy Griffiths, which was a big blow for SEC. There has been some loss of other leaders as well, mainly due to health issues rather than the virtual obstacles. Remaining leaders are enthusiastic and there have been new additions to SEC as well. The theatre team has been very busy with their virtual webpage. Field trips

have been active, with cycling guides provided by Bob Shaw and online walks like Tenney/Lapham. Virtual lectures and senior events have been held. Sue provides virtual links each week. Sue has also worked with the Social hour, providing a theme for each meeting. Bob Green and Scott Kolar have provided appreciated help and support for all of these efforts.

- **Technology** – Scott Kolar

The 2010 strategic plan identified the need for the PLATO website to serve as a major source of communication for PLATO. The planning and administration of the website on the Cloud meant that all administrative procedures were available and PLATO had the structure to support virtual programs when the Coronavirus pandemic happened. We also have a PLATO YouTube page. We were well placed for the virtual programming that became necessary.

- **PLATO Reopening Criteria Workgroup Updates** – Meg Taylor

Her workgroup met again on 9/30 and established that their original recommendations remain as stated that “unrestricted activities, in-person gatherings of any sort should not be sanctioned by the organization”. Meg stated the importance of everyone recommitting to “strict use of masks, social distancing, handwashing, and staying home”. Her workgroup added one new recommendation: “please get your influenza vaccination”.

Michael thanked Meg for initially agreeing to create the workgroup; everyone appreciates the workgroup’s expertise and assistance

Others:

Agora Entries

Thanks to Agora team for their weekly Tuesday email entries. This has been their first step into digital entries

Questions/Answers

Other Business – Kathy’s weekly conversations with Christine

Christine had 4 weeks to work with Edie and Louise

Kathy and Christine have had weekly conversations for the past 5 weeks since Edie retired

During those conversations they identified PLATO priorities, resources, Q/A time

Use info@platomadison.org as email to contact Christine

Typical PLATO work hours are M – F 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 10:55 a.m.

Next Board meeting: December 11, 2020