

Morningstar Mystery School

Provisional Board of Directors Zoom Call Minutes

Saturday 12/8/18 10am Pacific

- Facilitator: Ari
- Note-Taker: Ealasaïd
- Present: Ari, Ryan, Ealasaïd, Sandra.

Called to order at 10:12 am Pacific. Laura, Nancy, Jenn are running late.

- Facilitator led everyone in aligning, connecting to Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Approve minutes from previous meeting
 - Ari moves to approve, unanimous.
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting:
 - **Ealasaïd:** Call some insurers for quotes, ask John to handle SC money transfer, ask John to come to December meeting.
 - Talked to John, all good
 - Insurance: Have to fill out a bunch of forms for quotes, in progress.
 - **Sandra:** EIN, 1023 EZ, DOJ
 - Was waiting on bylaws; once bylaws are finalized, can attach them to all that paperwork and send it out.
 - **Ryan:** Talk to insurance broker, get someone from Teaching & Curriculum pillar to be on flyer subcommittee
 - Has called three times, no response. Done trying to contact.

Jenn joined, 10:18 am Pacific

- Asked Pillar for flyer volunteer; hasn't heard anything back. Prodded recently, will try to drum one up.
- **Jenn:** Get description about members/alumni/etc written up and sent to Sandra, get someone from Research & Alumni to be on the flyer subcommittee
 - They met. Got descriptions written. Will forward to Sandra (right now).
 - Didn't discuss Astral Temple access, but since alumni will be able to attend retreats, makes sense for them to be able to visit the temple.

Nancy joined 10:25am Pacific

- Sandra: question about the conflict resolution board – members can override the Board on conflict resolution issues relating to the Board; alumni should probably have voting rights related to the conflict resolution board – alumni are affected by

the board, they should have voting rights related to it.

- Ryan: will this cause issues around meeting quorum? Getting enough people to show up for votes has been an issue in the Maker space he's part of. How active are "active alumni" going to be? If we give them voting rights will they actually show up to vote?
- Jenn: doesn't think it'd be much harder to get them to vote than to get active members to do so (which is really hard).

Laura joined 10:31am Pacific

- Sandra: we have provisions for what to do if we can't get a quorum at the annual meeting, so we can deal with this issue when/if it arises. We can adjust accordingly then; we can't know what people will or won't do right now. We don't have any official alumni.
- Jenn: another benefit to having alumni have a section in the forums, it'll let us know how active they are, and we can go through and ping folks to shift them to inactive.
- **Laura:** Set up PayPal, run flyer subcommittee, talk with John about election, set up Zoom account once PayPal is up
 - PayPal has been waiting on bylaws, so Zoom is on hold.
 - Election also on pause.
 - Hasn't heard from anybody about the flyer committee; not sure what next step is there.
- Upcoming election
 - Sandra: we should include having the membership approve the bylaws. Having them approve the bylaws is important. We could put it off to the next annual meeting, though.
 - Laura: doesn't feel strongly either way, there's nothing bad to adding it to the current election. It'll be easier than holding another election.
 - Nancy: it'd be nice to have folks affirm the bylaws. Visibility and involvement are important; this is a way to have them do some work too, it's not just the board.
 - Ryan: just to be sure, we're only holding this vote with active students, not waiting until we get alumni designated and stuff? Right.
 - Bylaws to be added to the election.
- Pillar and other standing reports
 - Research & Alumni (Jenn)
 - Met. Talked about it above.
 - Will be trying to meet monthly to discuss research projects and posting things on the public website. Want to devise a plan so they can post regularly.
 - Teaching & Curriculum (Ryan)
 - Stuff discussed above. Has also started discussion around visioning and budget. Also, put out a proposal to redefine the teacher selection process for folks teaching externally – wants to loosen the criteria so we get more people teaching. If we can get enough of a following, we can start another online Elements class.
 - Temple & Tech (Laura)
 - Did not meet this month. Will be looking at the site other than the content R&A is doing, need to make sure can make updates, get set up. What content aside from R&A's content do we need? Will look at next month.

- New moon schedule for coming year is already set up, will start asking for the next quarter of facilitating.
 - Sticking with monthly meetings.
- Retreat Committee (Laura)
 - Because we don't have PayPal, can't gather money. Wasn't much feedback when put the call out, want to postpone it til Spring.
 - We really need engagement so it's not just the same three people.
 - We need money to pay for the retreat, we need that infrastructure.
 - [Discussion about timing, postponing until Fall.]
 - Laura: will take this info to the teeny retreat committee and follow up next month.
- Tuition and Membership Benefits (aka what are students getting for their dues?)
 - Sandra: hopes we can put together a real budget in the near future. That will let us have a real sense of how much things cost and why we are charging however much we charge. Once we have the budget, though, it'll be important to keep this as a recurring item so we keep it in mind.
- Any new business?
 - Report from Treasurer
 - John joined.
 - Reimbursing people: can do once we have money.
 - Solar Cross: been waiting to get PayPal set up, so hasn't talked to them.
 - Nancy: as soon as bylaws are approved, can ask Solar Cross for a check – we don't really need PayPal.
 - Sandra: Bylaws sent by Docusign; will report to Board and Treasurer once everything is approved.
 - John: when are we going to start collecting dues again?
 - Laura: once we have Paypal set up, we'd make an announcement and start collecting the next month.
 - John: needs list of people who need money, people haven't sent him info. Folks who need reimbursing need to email John.
 - Discussion about a student's scholarship to the last retreat, since she wasn't able to make it. John to contact her about paying it back. The money actually was provided by Solar Cross, so they're who she'd pay.
 - Discussion about dues previously paid to Solar Cross.
 - Discussion around what we'd do with a lump sum of money.
 - John: Will make sure we pay Solar Cross for any services they gave us.
 - Nancy: moves that we cover the expenses we have incurred with SC in the last 19 mo, not to exceed \$1k. Unanimous.
 - Ryan: we've just concluded our first short fiscal year and need to file; there's also a DOJ Oregon thing we need to file; we need to make sure everything gets handled.
 - Laura: let's get that written up and everything we need to do figured out to discuss next time. Ryan will email list.
 - Ryan: we'll need to account for expenses when they were incurred, so that includes everything that needs reimbursing.
 - Communication

- Jenn: requested we talk about this because of Ryan's email about the emergency meeting (which Jenn didn't attend). Wanted to open things up to anybody who's felt they've had tense/uncomfortable discussions at meetings recently so we can address this and make sure it doesn't happen anymore.
- Discussion. Handling the bylaws was contentious and stressful, which Laura noted is really common. We can get mad or frustrated with each other and still work together.
- Nancy: It's a poor board that has to do nice-nice all the time. On the other hand, one of the difficulties of doing this by conference call is that it's not possible to hug each other. Maybe what we need is a way at the end to check in with everyone and do some awareness/healing work and then end, not just signing off with the prayer real quick. If we were in the same physical space, we wouldn't do that. Recommends future Board find a way to acknowledge and connect with each other at the end of meetings.
- Sandra: Wants to make sure we make room in ourselves for taking breaks and acknowledging that it's better for our organization if the leadership knows when they need to step back and have someone else do things. It's not a permanent thing to pause. There are no term limits, don't burn yourself out. Because this is important stuff, we need to take care of ourselves. People can really burn out and harm relationships by not stepping back when they need to. Everybody's got a different place where that needs to happen. It's easy to over-invest and burn out. It's not just being over engaged or quitting. We can take breaks.
- Go over everyone's action items for next time
 - Ealasaid: Insurance stuff
 - Sandra: Paperwork; notify John when bylaws have been approved.
 - Ryan: Get someone from Teaching for the flyer committee. Email list of things we need to do for end of fiscal year to Board and John
 - Jenn: Get someone for flyer committee; look into scholarship stuff
 - Laura: PayPal, zoom; flyer committee; retreat committee.
 - Everyone: Submit your expenses to John, be sure to include the date of the expense.
 - Everyone: Docusign the bylaws; ping Sandra if you didn't get them.
- Checking out. 3 words.
- Confirm next month's call: Jan. 12, 2019, 10am Pacific
- Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close

