



IAJGS Board of Directors Meeting
Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers
Boston, MA
Thoreau Room
Friday, August 9, 2013

Summary Minutes

Present:

Marlis Humphrey (President); Jan Meisels Allen (Vice President); Mark Nicholls (Secretary); Paul Silverstone (Treasurer)

Nolan Altman (Director); Daniel Horowitz (Director); Kahlile Mehr (Director); Jackye Sullins (Director)

Michael Goldstein (Immediate Past President)

Absent:

Jay Sage (Director)

Minutes of August 3 2013 Meeting

The minutes of August 3 meeting were not yet available for approval.

Annual Meeting Follow-up

The issue of the bylaw proposal for placing time limits on notifying motions for the Annual Meeting was discussed. The questions from the membership that had to be addressed were the time factor and how to handle matters of urgency. It was agreed that the proxy vote holders needed to ensure that they knew which way the JGS they were representing wanted to vote on each issue. The issue of whether funds considered restricted by IAJGS could be spent on non-restricted activities needed to be clarified. It was agreed that the President would have discussions with the Immediate Past President about the procedural issues.

Membership Development Committee Items

The Sample Bylaws and What About Bylaws documents were approved unanimously and would be posted on the IAJGS website. The revised Create a JGS Manual was approved unanimously and the webmaster would pass on any enquiries about the manual to the Vice President to deal with. The virtual JGS (vJGS) proposal was

discussed extensively. It was agreed that three Board members and two JGS Presidents would identify key the issues and problems trying to be solved; who for; solutions and impacts; and come back with an update. Board liaison responsibilities were discussed and existing and new groups re-allocated following Board changes. A new liaison list would be issued as soon as possible and would be posted on the IAJGS website against the relevant JGS. Board liaisons should contact their JGS to tell them about the Annual Meeting each year and check if they were attending and get their proxy if needed.

Forward Look for the Board 2013-14

Feedback on the new proposed way of working was welcomed. The Board would be taking a customer/member focused approach. The President would contact as many JGS presidents as possible over the next month to discuss issues with them. The Board members were asked to provide one important strategic thing that IAJGS needed to deal with. It was felt that there was commonality in the issues and traction on engagement was needed. It agreed that a group of technologically-able people would be set up to develop use of technology.

Board Calendar of Activities

Board members were asked to list items that needed to be done on a regular basis and at specific times. There would be one Skype call a month to deal with ongoing issues but if strategic planning was needed the Board would meet in person. The Board agreed to the Dues form being on website for payment on line. The President would organize nominations for the various Committee Chairs and Committee Members.

Meeting Arrangements and Operating Methods

Meeting dates should be set up in Google calendar

Review of Boston 2013 Conference

There would be official surveys sent out to volunteers, customers, speakers, etc. The Board was asked to submit their views as well. It was noted that a disabled delegate had offered to help with planning for ADA compliance. Two Board members would develop a template for counting attendees at future conferences to ensure consistency in comparing each attendance levels. The presentations from JGS Management and Records Access sessions would be posted on the IAJGS website.

Filling Vacant Board Positions

The Board discussed the desired skill sets for Board Members and many issues and ideas were considered. Overall it was felt the aim was to create the next generation of leaders for succession planning.

Conference Website Template

It was suggested that we needed to reproduce the same website each year, same menus, very similar layouts but with changes as needed to improve experience create

template. It was agreed that the IAJGS webmaster would talk to the current provider about utilizing the Boston layout as the basis for the SLC website but only after reviewing it to identify any necessary improvements.

International Jewish Genealogy Month

The poster and a message about branding events with the IJGM needed to be sent out as soon as possible. It was suggested that there should be a brainstorming session about what can be done in future for IJGM and a report from two years ago on IJGM should be reviewed. It was agreed that JewishGen should be asked about putting the month on the header of the discussion list digest.

IAJGS Site of Sites

The purpose and content of the IAJGS Site of Sites was discussed and it was agreed that the scope and definition of the proposed section on the IAJGS website should be defined.

Any Other Business

Merchant account

The Treasurer was asked to find a suitable merchant account for future conferences.

Israel Conference – It was asked if it was possible to do a mailshot to Boston and Washington DC conference attendees to promote travel to Israel for early planning. The Jerusalem conference organizers were considering encouraging people to organize family reunions in Israel at the time of the conference. The policy and legal situation on distributing attendee names to other organizations and it was agreed that an opt-out facility be created for conference delegates not to have their details being passed on to the organizers of the next conferences.

Stern Grant

The spending of Stern Grant awards was discussed and it was agreed that the guidelines for the Stern Grant would be revised and that new categories for IAJGS Awards should be developed.

Archives –

It was agreed to create a link on the IAJGS website to the website of the company holding copies of recordings to increase uptake of recordings.