

Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, February 15, 2015
8.30 a.m. MST
Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT

Minutes Day 1 - Summary

Present:

Marlis Humphrey (President), Ken Bravo (Vice President), Paul Silverstone (Treasurer), Mark Nicholls (Secretary), Deborah Long (Director), Garri Regev (Director), Daniel Horowitz (Director), Nolan Altman (Director) (via GoToMeeting), Shipley Munson (Director) (Item 5 onwards), Quinton Atkinson (Director), Michael Goldstein (Immediate Past President)

Guests:

Janette Silverman (Seattle Conference item), Phyllis Grossman (Seattle Conference item), Chuck Weinstein (Seattle Conference item) all via GoToMeeting

1. Conference Updates

Jerusalem 2015

It was reported that registration was underway and the level of registrations were now good, with 150 to 175 registered so far. The prize drawings had been effective in encouraging registrations. The decisions about the program were being made and speakers would be notified soon. Volunteers were still needed for some positions, including PR. The Board discussed the contract with Ortra and it was explained that the issue of insurance to cover event cancellation was still being looked at. The issue of speaker discount was raised and it was suggested that there should be a standard policy for all conferences of 100% registration discount. It was explained that there had always been local flexibility on speaker discounts. The Board approved a motion that the speaker discount arrangements for Jerusalem 2015 conference as presented.

Seattle 2016

Janette Silverman, Chuck Weinstein and Phyllis Grossman joined the meeting via GoToMeeting. It was reported that: the budget was being revised again; a number of committee chairing positions had been filled, with only 3 being vacant; the registration company and meeting planners had been spoken to; the hotel contract was being looked at to understand the meeting room allocations; there was interaction with local people on the committee; an attempt was being made to get the Seattle Jewish Film festival to run a mini-festival during the conference; there was a design proposal for the conference logo; and sponsorship and commercial support were being looked into. The locus of the conference was being considered, with Sephardic Jews or Jews in the West being possible themes. There was discussion about needing to renegotiate the hotel contract. It was agreed that the meeting planners' contract should be given a final legal review.

It was reported that an alternate provider to eShow had been considered but the provider didn't have the right systems to do the job. The Board discussed aspects of the eShow contract and agreed that more effort should be made to get them to make necessary changes to the system, including the family finder being in the system. The Board agreed that the proposal from eShow be approved subject to legal counsel review. It was confirmed that advertising of the conference would start once the branding design had been done and eShow had started work.

2. PRAMC Report

It was noted that IAJGS was gaining a lot of good publicity and a positive reputation through the work of PRAMC. They were doing a lot of things very well. It was suggested that PRAMC should be recognized through the IAJGS Salute. A motion was passed that the Board nominates the PRAMC for an IAJGS Salute. The Board agreed that when the PRAMC chairperson sought agreement for proceeding with Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) deliverables, the chairperson would ask IAJGS president and to the IAJGS Secretary for approval, and they would then inform the board of such action. The Board discussed the issue of automatic subscription to the IAJGS lists and it was suggested that an option be added to membership application and renewal forms for opting out of membership of the lists.

3. Membership Development Committee Report

It was reported that there were some positive developments with the starting of two new JGSs, one in Minneapolis and the other in New Mexico. Neither organization had yet decided whether to join IAJGS. An application for membership had been made by the Brooklyn Jewish Historical Initiative but it was being reviewed by the Membership Committee to decide whether it could be a full or associate member. There had been enquires from Youngstown, Ohio and Deltona, FL. The Board again discussed the issue of JewishGen membership of IAJGS and it was felt there were alternative models for working with JewishGen. The Membership Development Committee was congratulated for the job it was doing.

4. IAJGS at Jerusalem 2015

The Board discussed the issue of how the Family Finder would operate for the Jerusalem and future conferences. The main issue was consistency in the names of ancestral towns. After discussion the Board approved a motion that conference registrants' Family Finder information will be their JewishGen Family Finder information, subject to a written agreement with JewishGen to use their town extracting programming code.

5. Board Activities at Jerusalem Conference

It was recommended that, due to the low attendance of management sessions at conferences and probable lower attendance still at Jerusalem, the management sessions should be replaced by webinars during the rest of the year. The Board agreed that there would still be a Presidents Reception and a breakfast for non-affiliated attendees if there were a lot of Eastern European attendees. The 21ster and Tech sessions could be combined and possibly as a reception. It was agreed

that there would not be an official Webmaster BOF or Newsletter BOF session. There would be an IAJGS table, promoting the Seattle conference and that other IAJGS Members would be asked to assist in staffing the table. There would be a table in the exhibition space for organizations to place promotional material. The Board considered what partnership meetings might be possible during the conference, including JewishGen and Yad Vashem.

6. Board Deliverables Update

It was reported that other people were being involved in technology activity, such as a new IAJGS Webmaster and a couple of people working on webinars, and a report had been prepared on digital storage. The speaker content on the website needed to be sorted out, along with the sharing of videos from conference. It was suggested that there should also be a speaker bureau set up with details of people willing to give talks to IAJGS Members.

Phase 1 of Society in a Box had been completed. Phase 2 would be discussed with the President. It was suggested that the first step from Conference in a Box could be used; running a conference and then moving into starting a JGS. It was explained that templates for various activities were needed. It was further suggested that the material could be organized into a simple numbered step set up, that is 1, 2, 3 and 4. It was agreed that the current material would be advertised to the leadership and feedback requested on it.

The results of the ad hoc Committee on by-law changes and the ad hoc Committee on Annual Meeting arrangements were presented. The changes to the By Laws were outlined and some initial points were made and discussed at length. These included timing of additional Board nominations; the voting threshold and system for elections; the level of fees for non-voting members; revision of wording to make it clearer that other organizations could be IAJGS members; the Treasurer's role should be enlarged to be that of a fiscal officer; conflict of interest as part of the By-laws; etc. The Board discussed the issue of defining the terms non-profit and not-for-profit and that the wording needed to reflect the different types of non- and not-for-profit organizations and also to reflect the fact that some members might not have to be officially recognized in their country to be non-profits or charities. It was agreed that, once the ad hoc Committee had considered the Board's input, there should be a webinar delivered to the members to get feedback from them. The President thanked the Vice President and the ad hoc Committees for the work that they had done on getting the by-law and Annual Meeting reviews done.

The Board discussed IAJGS booth at RootsTech and it was noted that the addition of more brochures made the table more interesting and more Members should be encouraged to provide material. It was also felt that there must be the ability to demonstrate Jewish genealogy websites to visitors. The Board considered other places where IAJGS might have a table, including the Southern California Jamboree and the A J Jacobs global family reunion in New York.

The President referred to her report to the Board about the meeting with the Jewish Community Centres Association of North America. The Board approved a motion to move forward with JCCA as proposed by the President.

There was discussion about the cost of keeping recorded lectures secure in the lecture library for use by Member organizations, with some speakers having expressed concern about their material being downloaded and used by others.

The proposed membership of the Awards and Nominations Committees were approved.

The new awards system was explained including how the Awards Matrix clarified the rules and procedures for the awards. It was felt that there should be a monthly IAJGS Salute nomination. The Board approved a motion that the Board approves the proposed Awards Matrix. It was agreed that the Board liaisons should stimulate interest in the IAJGS Salutes amongst the membership. The new Awards system and processes needed to be announced on the Leadership Forum, JewishGen and elsewhere and the information on the website updated.

The income and expenditure report was presented. The accountant's bill was \$5,000 due to a charge of \$3,000 for sorting out the Boston accounts. There was a need to get more consistent categories for income and expenditure. It was asked that there should be more clarity about what each item in the accounts covered. It was also suggested that the budget and accounts categories needed to be more consistent with each other.

It was reported that the contract with the local JGS for Seattle 2016 would be prepared soon. The Board offered ideas for what the local agreement needed to take account of, such as how agreements would be managed, what tasks the local group could do and what would fall to IAJGS. The agreements needed to take account of the function and roles played with hotels, volunteers, etc. It was noted that the NGS had a paid team that ran their conferences and this could be a model for taking some of the load off the IAJGS Board and local society(ies). NGS also had a conference committee run with the Chairs of previous conferences on it. It was suggested that IAJGS might consider engaging a staff member to run conferences, with funding coming from the conference profits.

Conference in a Box would be premiered at the 2015 conference. The revised logo design with the shofar was discussed. It was agreed to go back to get some alternative designs.

The Meeting was adjourned for the evening.

The Board reconvened - Monday, February 16, 2015, 8.00 a.m. MST, Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT

Present:

Marlis Humphrey (President), Ken Bravo (Vice President), Paul Silverstone (Treasurer), Mark Nicholls (Secretary), Garri Regev (Director), Daniel Horowitz (Director), Nolan Altman (Director) (via GoToMeeting), Quinton Atkinson (Director), Michael Goldstein (Immediate Past President)

Apologies:

Deborah Long (Director), Shipley Munson (Director)

Guest:

Mark Halpern (Eastern Europe Conference Item) via GoToMeeting

7. Eastern Europe Conference

Mark Halpern joined the meeting via GoToMeeting. He explained that he was recommending pursuing the joint partnership with the POLIN museum for the 2018 conference. The museum was interested and they had done a feasibility study and also looked at working with a travel group. If the Board was interested in this option, he would work with the POLIN Board to get agreement for the project. The POLIN museum might want to have more than genealogy, as the conference would coincide with the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Polish Republic in 1918. The travel company could arrange shtetl tours without IAJGS support. It was suggested that there should also be a partnership with the March of the Living and Yad Vashem. It was explained that the current relationship with the POLIN museum was at management and not Board level. JRI Poland was developing a relationship with the museum as well. Some of the people from the museum were coming to the Jerusalem conference, including giving talks. The Board approved the motion that the Board authorized Mark Halpern and a Board member to pursue discussion with the POLIN museum with the goal of achieving partnership for the 2018 IAJGS conference in Warsaw; with the goal of making an announcement at the Jerusalem 2015 conference.

The Board moved on to strategic issues discussions in breakout groups. The strategic discussions were not minuted.

Mark Nicholls
Secretary IAJGS