

Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2014
11 a.m. MDT, 1p.m. EDT, 5.00 p.m. GMT, 7.00 p.m. Jerusalem Time

Minutes - 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), Shipley Munson (Director), Quinton Atkinson (Director), Michael Goldstein (Immediate Past President)

1. Minutes of October 29, 2014 Board Meeting

The Board approved the minutes of October 29, 2014 Board meeting.

2. IAJGS Awards Review

It was reported that the National Genealogical Society had been approached about how their awards system worked. NGS responded that the questions put to them raised issues for them about their system. NGS does not tend to ask all its members for nominations. It was suggested that the Board needed to lead on the awards to recognize the achievement of IAJGS members. It was agreed a small group would be set up to look at the awards again to finalize the 2015 awards.

3. Eastern Europe International Conference 2018

The President reported that it was felt that there was a very good prospect for running a conference in Warsaw. There were now many good contacts there and receptivity from the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews to the idea. There were other potential partners in Poland that would be interested. Hotel rooms would have to be at hotels away from the main venue.

4. Seattle 2016 Co-Chairs Selection and Responsibilities

The President noted that the Board had already approved Janette Silverman as a Conference Co-Chair. Janette was probably the most suitable person to be the lead Co-Chair. The Board asked questions about the experience and knowledge of the nominated Co-Chairs and in particular about experience of running an IAJGS conference. It was explained that all three had proven experience in delivering projects in their working lives. The details of the roles of each Co-Chair would be resolved after their appointment. The Board approved the motion that Chuck Weinstein and Phyllis Grossman be appointed as Co-Chairs for the 2016 IAJGS International Conference in Seattle, WA. A second motion was made that the Board approves Janette Silverman as the lead Co-Chair for the 2016 IAJGS International Conference in Seattle, WA. The motion was approved. An agreement between

IAJGS and JGS of Washington State would be drawn up based on the agreements for the 2013 and 2014 conferences.

5. Jerusalem 2015

There was an update on progress with the conference. It was still not clear if the Middle east situation would affect overseas registrations; fundraising was necessary to ensure the conference was financially viable; over 500 proposals for talks had been received, not including SIGs and IAJGS management sessions; the conference family finder was being worked on in conjunction with JewishGen; it was being proposed that 25% of the profits on registrations that Israeli JGSs brought in would be given to them for specific projects; there were some small issues with ORTRA that needed to be resolved. The speaker's registration discount was only 50% of cost at the moment. The Board discussed issues such as where would money received in US Dollars or Israeli Shekels be paid in; the handing of revenues; taxation and the status of the contract with ORTRA. Flight insurance should be looked into, including group insurances; and the budget for the conference needed to be finalized before the ORTRA contract could be signed. It was agreed that there should be a single topic Board meeting about the Jerusalem conference convened as soon as possible.

6. SLC 2014 Follow-up

The details of the follow up to the 2014 conference were presented. It was explained that about 18% of attendees responded. One of the main issues for the conference had been the hotel lead in costs. The performance of the meeting planners was discussed and it was noted that there were varying opinions about how well they did on various anticipated and unanticipated issues. It was agreed that the information from the surveys would be used to look at high-level issues and recommendations for future conferences.

7. Review Board Plan on Deliverables

The President reported that she had spoken to the Board members about their activities and would be revising and recirculating the deliverables chart to the Board. It was asked if any of the Board members had any budgetary needs to support their activities.

8. Memorial Plaques Indexing Challenge Report

An update on progress with the Memorial Plaques Indexing Challenge was given. Take up had been slow during International Jewish Genealogy Month due to the late announcement of the Challenge. The project was being extended beyond IJGM. It was reported that the location of plaques from former synagogues in New York was being investigated.

9. Lecture Library Progress Report

It was reported that the people who delivered lectures over Live! had been asked about making their recorded session available in the IAJGS lecture library. There had been 16 responses of which 4 said no and 8 said yes. The lecture library was

being set up. The library would be open to IAJGS leaders to use and there would be a usage policy. It was agreed that speakers should be asked to provide details of talks that they could deliver in person to IAJGS members.

10. Partnerships Report

It was reported that talks were starting with the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America (JCCA). A draft PowerPoint presentation for a meeting with JCCA was in the shared files and Board members were asked to comment on it.

11. Logo/Branding

It was reported that there had been slippage with getting the draft logos to the Board but they would be sent out soon. The Board had been provided with the background to the design process. It was suggested that it was crucial to have a signature with the IAJGS details added to e-mails sent by Board members. The IAJGS website had been reviewed by staff from Ancestry and they had some concerns about how the Home Page in particular was presented.

12. Liaison List Proposal

The proposed system for Board liaison with IAJGS members was outlined. The system included having a liaison support person to assist the Board member with tasks and also as a back-up in the event the Board member was not available.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

13. The next scheduled Board meeting would be on February 15 and 16 in Salt Lake City, UT.

Mark Nicholls
Secretary IAJGS