

Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, October 29 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), Mark Nicholls (Secretary), Deborah Long (Director), Garri Regev (Director), Daniel Horowitz (Director), Nolan Altman (Director), Shipley Munson (Director), Michael Goldstein (Immediate Past President)

Apologies:

Paul Silverstone (Treasurer), Quinton Atkinson (Director)

1. Minutes and Electronic Votes

The minutes of July 26, 2014 and August 1, 2014 Board Meetings were approved and the electronic vote on RPAC Signing Digital Due Process Coalition Letter confirmed.

2. Conference up dates

Jerusalem 2015 – It was reported that the organizers were in the middle of getting things rolling, with conference registration open and proposals being received. There would be an e-mail blast sent out soon. Volunteers were an issue, as it was proving difficult to get native Israeli's to take roles. There had been a few problems with the website but the issues were being resolved. There were two key areas where there were no volunteers, one was fundraising and the other PR. The Ortra contract was on the verge of being signed. Sponsorship had been concluded with various individual sponsors. A proposal to engage a professional fundraiser for the Jerusalem 2015 conference was presented to the Board for consideration. The Board asked various questions and made several points including: what would the funds be used for; VAT should not be included in the price; what range of money could be generated through the contract? Where would the funds raised for the conference go? Concentrating on raising funds for conferences was preferred to start with. It was explained that most funds raised would go to support translation expenses, disability assistance, etc.; also the funds might go to support general IAJGS activity; VAT would be removed from the cost. The fundraiser would be given a statement about IAJGS and details of potential sponsors to approach, as well as going to people the fundraiser knows; any funds raised would not go directly to Ortra but would be added to the budget separately. The Board approved a motion to engage David Maeir-Epstein, Resource Development for Nonprofit, Ltd (IsraelGrants), for 2014/15 to undertake consultation in fundraising from foundations and other sources for the 35th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. This was subject to the agreement being amended in line with the discussion that had taken place.

Seattle 2016 - The President reported that Janette Silverman was onboard as one of the Co-Chairs. It was critical to have someone locally as another Co-Chair. The pros and cons of having a locally-based Co-Chair were discussed. It was felt that whoever took the role would have to have their roles and responsibilities clearly spelled out. The website for Seattle needed to be ready by the end of the 2015 conference.

Salt Lake City 2014 Wrap Up – It was explained that it had not been possible to create a document setting out how the conference had operated. However, there had been many positive comments about the conference. The conference had made money, with another US\$800 coming in from the audio company. It was reported that a penalty had been incurred for hotel room nights, as the level of booking had just fallen short of the minimum number. A substantial amount had been made through Live! The actual figures for the conference would be confirmed and details sent to the Board.

3. Awards Review Response

It was reported that only eight members had responded to the request for comments on the proposed changes to the Awards. The small number of responses might not be helpful and it was up to the Board to decide what to do next. The only common strand was to have an award for newsletters. It was felt that IAJGS should look at how other umbrella organizations dealt with awards. It was stated that, if a change was required, the decision needed to be made soon. In response it was suggested that new awards could be introduced on a phased basis and the awards committee could be appointed now and be given details of the categories later. It was suggested that a proactive approach should be taken to get more nominations.

4. Logo Redesign

The President reported that free resources had been offered by FamilySearch. The creative brief given to FamilySearch was available to the Board. Three concepts would be sent to the membership for comment.

5. Plan for the Year

The President would continue to talk to individual Board members about delivery of activities based on the draft plan sent to all Board members. It was also explained that the Memorial Plaques Indexing Challenge was ready to launch and would be the main feature of Genealogy Month.

6. The Brand Idea

Board members were asked to give their views on the Brand Idea book. It was thought that the ideas on working more deeply and in partnership with other organizations were interesting and should be pursued; and people needed to be motivated to participate and be engaged with the ideas. It was suggested that brand ambassadors needed to be created, both horizontally and vertically. It was also suggested that IAJGS should concentrate on its brand, which was engagement in and education about Jewish genealogy.

7. Bylaws and Annual Meeting Reviews

It was reported that the bylaws group would meet in early November. The ad hoc group on the Annual Meeting had met and a report had been produced. The main issues in the report were that technology should be working properly; materials for the meeting should be sent out earlier than at present; delegates should sign in when they arrive to remove the need for an oral roll call; the nominations process should be reviewed to give members reasonable time to consider all nominees; proxies and the process of operating them needed reviewing; and election rules needed to be looked at as well. Several of the issues would need to be considered by the bylaws review group. In response it was felt that using remote voting techniques was a problem and there needed to be clarity on proxies to avoid the process being used unfairly

8. Other Business

It was asked if speakers at the Salt Lake City conference had been sent copies of their talks and in what format. It was explained that they had been made available for free to speakers in August through the audio recording company and in MP3 format. Live! was also all uploaded to the 'cloud'. The meeting room had been booked for Salt Lake City in February 2015. It was agreed that the Secretary would organize the IAJGS booth at RootsTech. It was suggested that there might be a problem for Board Members attending the Friday Board meeting at the 2015 conference due to conference committee commitments.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting would be on December 10, 2014 at 12 noon EST.

Mark Nicholls
Secretary IAJGS