

Friends of Bass Lake
Board of Directors Meeting, Melrose Center
January 13, 2020, 5 pm
Minutes

Directors Present: Don Weirens, Scott Carpenter, Frank Steck, Diane Garetz,
Susan Sackrison, John Snyder
Joelyn Malone, arrived at the end of the meeting (we had to vacate
room at 6 pm)

Guests Present: Stu Webb, Nancy Rose, Chris Holden

1. **Call to Order:** 5:07 pm
2. **Election of Officers:**
 - a. Slate of Candidates: President: Don Weirans, Treasurer: John Snyder,
Secretary: Susan Sackrison
 - b. All candidates elected unanimously
 - c. Thank you Scott! Scott's leadership for the past 4 years was complimented,
appreciated and applauded. **Frank** typed up a list of accomplishments under
Scott's tenure. **See Appendix**
3. **Approval of Minutes from December, 2019.**
 - a. Correction was made to the motion regarding membership: Motion should read:
**"A committee of the Board will review, and make recommendations to the
Board updating membership bylaws; definition, privileges and
Responsibilities."**
Committee members will be: John, Joelyn, Nancy and **Don**
 - b. Regarding the motion to investigate the use of a free/ lower cost website and
other social media to promote FOBL:
Scott is not interested in being on this committee. Don stated that the present
website (that Scott put so much time into), will still be used. Scott stated that the
website is being used and donations have been made through the website.
There was no further discussion.
 - c. Minutes approved
4. **Report of Officers**
 - a. **Scott** gave his last report : **Operating principles/community agreements**
 - b. **Treasurer report:** **John** reported that there is presently \$1854.11 in our budget.

8. New Business: (We skipped parts of the agenda)

- c. **Bylaws review: We need to enhance bylaws to increase FOBL membership**
- d. **Nancy** shared her ideas for bylaws update:
 - i. Regarding membership issues: communication to members need to include the idea that members can recommend people for the Board of Directors, at an annual meeting, and also elect the directors for the board (this would be a revision to the bylaws)
 - ii. Nancy's other proposals:
 - 1. Copy the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden organization model
 - 2. We need a historian for FOBL
 - 3. We should stay a Lakes Organization
 - 4. Two ground projects: The Garden, and general buckthorn removal
 - 5. FOBL should use a 12 month calendar
 - 6. Two administrative committees needed
- e. The committee to work on the bylaws includes: Don, Nancy, John and Joelyn

9. **Diane** has made phone calls to prospective members with some success - this is the first effort to actually call volunteers/members to invite them to be an active member or board director of FOBL.

She used the various lists we have to make the phone calls.

Diane, Susan and Nancy will meet to work on updating the list: the goal is to hold an annual membership meeting AFTER MEMBERSHIP BYLAWS ARE UPDATED!

Diane asked Scott to give any names of people who have donated money (through the website, or other ways) to Susan

10. **Nancy** is considering becoming the Membership Chair

11. **Chris Holden**, guest, Chris lives in the Minnekahda Vista neighborhood and frequent user of the George Haun Trail, stated his interest in joining the board.

12. **Stu Webb**, guest, urged us to honor Bass Lake: stating "violence prevention applies to the lake"

13. A question arose about voting electronically on bylaws committee review, no discussion, consensus.

14. **Frank** reported the number of members/directors who quit the board due to "unproductive chaos." **See appendix.**

15. Frank nominated Chris and Nancy to be Directors of FOBL. The board voted, and approved unanimously. Welcome!

16. **Don and John** will be the new signatories for signing checks and bank business.

17. **Joelyn** passed out “Revisions to Proposed Budget” she has been working on. She volunteered to do this at the December Board Meeting. Unfortunately, we had to vacate our meeting room at 6 pm, when Joelyn arrived. So she passed out her document but there was no time to discuss it.

APPENDIX

Motion by Frank Steck on 1-13-2020

Friends of Bass Lake

List of Accomplishments 2016-2019

Promotional/Educational 2016 Website launched 2017 Annual Report
2018 Article in the Sun Sailor by Seth Rowe that was positive and effective
2018 & 2019 Coffee in the Woods

Volunteer Efforts Buckthorn removal opening new views of the wetland
and open water areas Tools available for volunteers to help with the trail and
removing buckthorn Deer enclosure with gate Wood chip trail

Governance Adoption of bylaws
Adoption of Robert’s Rules of Order

Educational Signage Weatherproof information kiosk with informational handouts
Signage at the north and south ends of the wood chip trail and for the deer enclosure

Coordinated with the City of St. Louis Park 2.5 acre Bass Lake Nature Area
created and kept from becoming a stormwater pond New Outlet Structure Support of
the Carpenter Park Project after earlier opposition Moving from an adversarial
relationship with the city, to more of a partnership Park bench near the outlet
structure

Motion by Frank Steck on 1-13-2020

I move to correct or clarify the language of the minutes that states:

'A committee of the Board will review and revise the FOBL By Laws pertaining to membership definition, privileges and responsibilities.'

Committee members will be John, Joelyn, and Nancy, if John accepts).

Note: The Board has authority to change the By Laws, not a committee made up of Joelyn and a non-board member. This is a violation of our Community Agreements and the rules of parliamentary procedure.

Correct or clarify the minutes with:

'A committee of the Board will review and make recommendations to the board regarding the FOBL By Laws pertaining to membership definition, privileges and responsibilities.'

Committee members may be Joelyn, Nancy, Don, and John (if he accepts). of 2 3

Statement on Productivity

In an effort to work more productively, it would be helpful for all board members to show each other respect, even when they disagree with each other. We are an all volunteer organization and members are here to make important contributions.

There has been a level of what I call "Unproductive Chaos" that has been hurting our organization. It emanates from some board members and others who are not on the board. Often they have been recruited by those who resist and they create their own unproductive chaos.

My concern is that this compromises our ability to function at a high level. It compromises our efforts with board recruitment and retention. Many have been scared away which is unfortunate.

Members who have left (typically related to chaos)

Paul Adelman Mark Berg, Master Water Steward

Kari Haeger, Melrose Center Amiee Horstman Olson

Janice Reuland Emily Balogh Jen Kader, Freshwater

Society Dierdre Coleman, Freshwater Society

Let's see if we all can lead by example and put an end to the unproductive chaos that has plagued our group. FOBL and members will ultimately be better served.

