

Date: March 8, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom by Esther Wing, Interim Vice President
And Corresponding Secretary

President Alan Bunker welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 6:06.



Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

1. Review/approval of February Board meeting minutes – Mary Heimert made a motion to approve, seconded by Tricia Lynn, and all voted in favor.

2. Review/approval of Treasurer's report – Tricia explained that neither IIN or NSP funds had been released yet; Alan said that he had been told they would be delivered in stages rather than (as previously) all at once. Mary Heimert made a motion to approve the report, which was seconded by Christian Rahe and passed unanimously.

3. Reports of Committees:

A. Membership – Jan Hirlinger reported that all was in order and that new membership development efforts await the ability to invite prospective members to an event.

B. Information & Technology – Victoria Pershick explained that she had designed an electronic ballot for use in next month's Board elections. Members will check off their preferred candidates up to the number of open Board seats. The ballot will be sent via Wild Apricot to all active members. A question was raised about whether this mechanism will allow Household members more than one vote, i.e., allow a couple to vote individually rather than as a unit. Victoria will investigate, and do a dry run of the ballot process with selected members. At present, there are 12 open seats and 12 candidates to fill them. However, the DRC constitution requires that members be offered the opportunity to be nominated as candidates during the annual election, which translates to an opportunity to add write-in candidates in a virtual setting. This has never happened, but we need to be prepared.

C. Social – Mary Heimert plans to reserve a date for the December holiday party in hopes that it will be possible to gather by then. She looks forward to holding an outdoor social event as soon as weather permits. Mary then asked if we might go ahead with printing brochures, which are helpful to her, in advance of receiving our IIN/NSP funds. Since activities such as printing are allowable under those grants, that is where they are customarily charged; however, there is no reason we could not pay for printing out of existing DRC funds. Mary Jacobs moved that we spend the dollars necessary for an initial print run of brochures. Mary Heimert seconded the motion, and all approved.

D. **Outreach** – Mary Jacobs reported that schools are still adjusting to getting students back in the classroom. ABC is trying to get its after-school programs re-established. Much is in flux, so we will wait to hear from ABC about needs they may have when all settles down.

E. **Clean, Green & Safe** - Alan had previously emailed his report on this topic; there were no questions.

F. **New Members** – As Jan noted, Hank Davis and Christian are just waiting for events to invite people to. They would like to schedule a gathering at Rebel Mettle now that bars and restaurants are opening up. They asked other Board members for referrals of young people who might be interested in getting involved with DRC.

G. **Speakers** – Cate Douglas reported that the speaker at the next night's membership meeting would be Cody Parsons from FC Cincinnati. Looking forward, she would like to get speakers from museums, particularly the Taft and the Fire Museum.

H. **Mural** – Jackie Bryson expressed her gratitude to those who have contacted her to volunteer to take part in painting the mural planned by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for 3rd Street. Work is scheduled to begin the week of March 22. Volunteer participation is slated for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Jackie will let people know how to sign up for specific time slots.

4. **New Business:**

A. **Board elections:** Jackie explained that there are three newly open Board seats (those held by Jan Hirlinger, Mary Jacobs, Tim Nolan). Seats vacated in 2019 and 2020 respectively by Barbara Smurda and John Stringer were not filled, bringing the open seat total to five. In addition, 8 current board members (Jackie herself, Mary Heimert, Tricia Lynn, David Ostrander, Victoria Pershick, Christian Rahe, Lisa Sprague, and Esther Wing) will be running for new two-year terms. Jackie proposed that Kurt Grossman be appointed to serve the additional year in Mary Jacob's term. All Board members agreed to accept this suggestion. There are four new candidates (Andrew Naab, Lorry Hartley, Heidi Shenk, and Joan Meyer) to fill the remaining four seats. The Board will be restored to its full complement of 17 members.

A tangential discussion about storage of materials such as by-laws, procedures, and minutes on Wild Apricot was tabled by Alan for discussion at a future date.

B. **Proposal to change DRC constitution:** Tim Nolan walked the group through the proposed new language he had prepared to address issues that arose with the transition from three-year to two-year Board terms. Section VI B formerly allowed members to vote for a maximum of 6 Board candidates; this is amended to permit voting for as many candidates as there are seats to be filled, as the two-year terms generate more frequent turnover. Section VII B is restated to allow Board members elected to three-year terms prior to 2019

to serve two additional two-year terms and for Board members appointed to fill an unexpired term to serve three full two-year terms when that appointment has expired. The Board voted unanimously to approve these changes. The new language will be sent to DRC members, who will have a 30-day review period before voting on the proposed changes at the April membership meeting, in advance of the elections which occur at that same meeting.

- C. **La Soupe Donation Proposal:** The Board discussed a proposal submitted by former Board member John Stringer that DRC make a donation to La Soupe's Community Kitchen program. John explained that La Soupe has spent almost \$850,000 with local restaurant businesses, of which just over \$600,000 was spent with restaurant businesses that serve the downtown and OTR Neighborhoods. Mary Jacobs made a motion, seconded by Mary Heimert, that DRC make a donation in the amount of \$1,000. All approved. Tricia recommended that the Board consider establishing donation parameters in future years, including a total that the Board would be willing to spend, rather than responding ad hoc to requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m. (Location TBA)