

Rotary Club of Portland, Maine

Board of Directors Virtual Zoom Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2021, at 1:00 pm

Board Members in Attendance:

Dave Putnam, Sgt-At-Arms, Howie Herodes, Treasurer, Michelle DiSotto, Secretary, Directors Bob Clark, Roger Fagan, and Alice Alexander, Administrative Coordinator, Ellen Niewoehner, Immediate Past President, Bruce Jones, President Elect

Absent

Bob Martin, President
Nan Heald, 2nd Vice President
Mark Foster
Jennifer Frederick,

Guests: Patty Byers, Lawrence Gross

Business

The regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Portland, Maine was called to order on November 19, 2021, at 1:00 pm by President Elect Bruce Jones and a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 22, 2021, board meeting was approved as is.

1. Club Administrator Comments

Alice shared that she has been working with Patti on Rotary Foundation and Appeal items and has no additional information to report.

2. Treasurer Comments

Howie has no information to report currently. He will have information about budgets and financials at the next board meeting.

- ### **3. Meeting in Person:**
- Roger Fagan and President Bob reviewed the proposal from The Italian Heritage Center that would provide a buffet lunch and meeting space in the DaVinci room for \$20. per person. We would have unlimited use of the space, except when the IHC has a wedding that requires the room to be prepared early on a Friday. On those occasions, we would move to the Cantina. While the fee is higher than the past, it reflects additional costs related to food and labor. Most board members don't feel comfortable with a full year commitment not knowing how attendance will be.

Motion: To accept the proposal from the Italian Heritage Center until June 30, 2022 at a cost of \$20 per attendee. Ellen moved; Howie second – motion unanimously approved.

We will discuss the charge a \$10 fee for those who do not eat to help defray costs when we fail to meet our minimum at the next meeting.

David Keely has identified the necessary equipment to maintain a “hybrid meeting” whereby we continue to stream on Zoom while also meeting in person. A USB video bar which will be set up at the side of the podium with a large monitor. At this time, 7 people have committed to helping broadcast our meetings by running the equipment.

4. **Leadership Changes:** The subcommittee appointed at our October meeting has met via Zoom and identified candidates for the 2nd VP position. Unfortunately, none of the candidates agreed to accept. The subcommittee will meet again to consider other candidates. Ellen may need to request an extension per our bylaws. The group also needs to identify someone to replace Jennifer Frederick for the period between now and June 30. Roger suggested Bruce or Jan. Eric Jorgensen and Mike Robinson were also suggested.
5. **Dues:** Bruce has done extensive research and agreed to offer more insight into discussions on our dues structure. The central issue is whether we should establish a rate that would be more attractive to younger members and those from the immigrant community. The bottom line is that it’s not clear if we should offer a different rate for different people. Bruce suggested a 1st year ½ price for \$130. Howie told the Board we currently pay \$35 less to Rotary International for any members under 30 years old. No decision made at this meeting.
6. **Other Items:** Roger notified the board that Dean Rock of the International Service Club has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Roger suggested we nominate him for a Paul Harris Fellow. Patti said the Club has enough credits to do so. Motion: Transfer 1,000 credits to the International Service Club for the naming of a Paul Harris Fellow for Dean Rock. Ellen made the motion, Bruce Jones Second, motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm by President Elect Bruce Jones. The next general meeting will be at December 17th , 2021 at 1:00 on Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle DiSotto, Secretary

Approved by: