



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, January 9, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.
ZOOM Meeting

The ZOOM Board Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P., President.

Attendees:

Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President & Reunion Coordinator), Brittney Wilder (1st Vice President), James Beattie (2nd Vice President), Laura Kosik (Director), Nancy Van Siclén (Director), Patti Revello (Director), Tom Wilder, P.P. (Director-at-Large), Noreen Hanson (Treasurer), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), Christine K. Tirpak (Sergeant-at-Arms), Ray Husum (ByLaws Chairperson), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Betty LeDoux, P.P. (Reunion Hotel Coordinator), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager).

Absent: Bob Russell, P.P. (Legislature Representative)

Bill welcomed the Board members. He asked if all reviewed the October Board minutes. Elaine Lewis motioned to approve the minutes as written, James Beattie seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill started a discussion regarding Jim Duffus' emails on recruiting descendants and possibly purchasing a token coin. Jim praised and applauded the Board on all our hard work but indicated that the membership is decreasing. Jim wondered how we can reach out to descendants. A discussion ensued on the number of FaceBook pages for the Canal Zone and even our PCS FaceBook page has over 5.7K members but our membership is around 1500 now. Betty LeDoux had an idea that if Bill writes up a paragraph, she can research and send out. It was suggested to post it on the different FaceBook sites, too.

Tom Wilder motioned to approve the new members, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials:

Noreen Hanson stated the Check Detail was business as usual. Elaine motioned to pay the bills, Tom seconded, and the motion carried. Noreen reviewed the P&L. Bill stated it is a big switch from our October P&L. Our *Canal Record* costs are very high and asked Jacque to investigate other printers. Nancy Van Siclén will call Renee Davis at Roberts to see if they can do any price cuts. Kathy Malin mentioned the high cost of postage. Carl Orvis will investigate it.

President Reports and Remarks:

A discussion on Carnavalito ensued regarding COVID and members' safety. There are 20 people signed up, 9-10 vendors and Betty will check with hotel. Contractually we will have to pay out \$8K if we cancel but we have the option to move the dates. It was suggested to keep the decorations at a minimum because it is only a dance, i.e. Madri gras beads. Purchasing face masks are too expensive. Noreen made a motion to move Carnavalito to April 16-18 weekend, so membership is more at ease to attend, James seconded, and the motion carried.

There will be no Board meeting in February but for the next Board meeting, March 13th was suggested for a ZOOM meeting.

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The Society has a CD of \$160K maturing on January 20, 2021. There is an attachment describing different solutions to reinvest. Right now, investments are at an all-time low. Noreen stated our cash flow is good and the money in the bank can cover our bills. Noreen suggested to take \$100K and put it in a 1-year Bank CD and the \$60K, place in a 6-month Bank CD. This way the CDs mature at different times. Tom motioned to purchase a 1-year Bank CD with \$100K and a 6-month Bank CD with \$60K, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

PCS/UF luncheon in March is cancelled. UF is just now opening their campus and not ready for any meetings.

For sponsorships to the Reunion, Bill stated that Ricardo March has retired, and he has reached out to the new person who seems interested in sponsoring the Reunion. We moved all our 2020 Reunion sponsors over to 2021 Reunion except for Howler Monkey who needed their funds because of COVID.

Noreen is working on the 2021 budget for Bill and will share at next Board meeting. We will lose approximately \$40K in 2021. We cannot confuse cash with operating expenses. Our expenses are exceeding what we are bringing in. Surplus in the Reunion has always been small, but the Canal Record and its postage is our biggest expense. Bill made these suggestions: look at another internet/phone provider; Carnavalito is always a loser; less kegs at the Pool Party since Caribe charges at exorbitant price; no more Guest Speaker receptions and Vendor gift certificates. Tom stated this is déjà vu.

The Board discussed ways to save from increasing dues; packaging Reunion tickets; raising Reunion registration; etc. A committee will be formed to discuss different ways to save and report back in the April Board Meeting. The suggested committee members are Betty, Nancy, Noreen, Kathy, Ray Husum, Carl then possibly two members, Dennis Gilbert, and another.

Upcoming Events:

Change Carnavalito to April 16-18. Add a ZOOM Board meeting on March 13.

The May PCS picnic will be changed to brown bag vice hamburger/hotdogs and buffet line. It is safer for our members. Games will be played.

The Board decided the Christmas luncheon will be held at the St Pete Yacht Club again, possibly December 4th. It was suggested no hors-d'oeuvres but possibly a Bloody Mary bar. Noreen motioned to have the Christmas luncheon at St Petersburg Yacht Club in December but without hors-d'oeuvres, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

The Board would like to go back to Der Dutchman in Sarasota. Bill will talk to Bob Russell about a September date. The Space Coast picnic is usually the first Saturday in November. Kathy will discuss with Peggy Huff.

Reunion 2021:

A U-Haul was suggested for getting the Reunion boxes and signs. James can pull the U-Haul and help pack it up a few days prior to.

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BHS 76 is hosting the Friday night dance.

Betty is working on getting the hotel deposit waived again once we fill out the Credit Report. The room nights have been sent out to all the Board members.

All Reunion bags, GC lanyard, and Volunteer gifts purchased in 2020, will be used for 2021 Reunion. Jacque did not print the Coloring Book last year, but it is finished and ready for printing.

Laura Kosik will send out Volunteer sign-ups in March.

Bill and Kathy will work on purchasing the shade tent which was approved back in October Board meeting.

Officer Reports: n/a

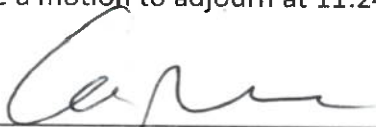
Special Committee Reports: n/a

New Business:

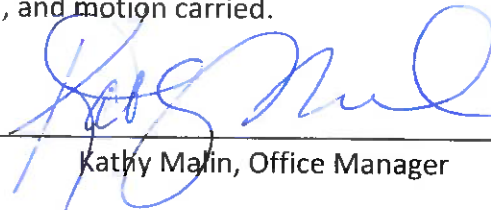
Another discussion on memberships and descendants arose. Carl feels the members need to get the children to join or provide Gift memberships. When the children were small, they love to meet up with the other kids but since they are older, they have no connections to Panama. Ray suggested a 2-tiers for memberships. He suggested possibly \$25 a year and not receive the *Canal Record* and \$40 with *Canal Record*. Or possibly not printing the *Canal Record* and emailing the magazine or having it online. The question is "What do you get with your membership?" As membership goes down, we must find solutions. One suggestion is to block all non-members from the PCS FaceBook page.

Kathy will revise the Meeting Schedule and send out to the Board once a few more dates are set.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 11:24, Elaine seconded, and motion carried.



Bill McLaughlin, P.P., President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager