



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, February 5, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.
Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, New Port Richey, FL

The 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), Patti Revello (Director), Laura Kosik (Director), Tom Wilder, P.P. (Director-At-Large), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Bob Russell, P.P. (Legislature Representative), Christine Tirpak (Sergeant-at-Arms), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant) and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

Attendees by Telephone: Cynthia Alderman (Treasurer) and Ray Husum (ByLaws)

Bill welcomed all and asked if everyone had read the October 16, 2021, minutes. Elaine Lewis made a motion to approve the October Executive Board meeting minutes, Laura Kosik seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill announced that Nancy Van Siclen resigned as Director because she could not uphold the Director's duties per the ByLaws. Tom Wilder motioned to nominate Bob Russell to fill the vacant Director's position until this July when the new Board is elected, Elaine seconded, and motion carried. Bill was hoping that Christine Tirpak was in attendance but was running late. Bill was told that Christine is moving back up North, so she will be getting off the board, but nothing firm yet. If needed, Bill is thinking of asking Ted Kaufer, who has expressed interest to be Sergeant-At-Arms if and when Christine moves to Virginia.

Bill stated that Albert Nahmad, BHS 1958, donated \$10,000 to the Society. Al did not realize that the Society is a different entity than the PC Museum at UF. We may award Albert an honorary membership to the Society. Albert also donated \$25,000 to the Friends of the Museum at UF.

Financial Reports: Tom motioned to approve paying the bills, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried. The P&Ls stand for audit.

Cindy Alderman's flights were cancelled and is in attendance via telephone. She will transfer her flights to attend the April Board meeting. Bill introduced Anna Hertrich who is the new Office Assistant. Her mom is Jean Medinger and grandmother is Edie Medinger Meeker.

Bill shared the 90th Reunion logo which will be the decal in the March Canal Record.

Chris Wilder is still working on the PCS website and migration of the database to the cloud. Bill contacted him about his timeline and if he was still interested in completing it with his busy schedule. Chris mentioned that he would love to dedicate more time to the website with all it entails but doesn't have the time. He is willing to share his work with a new web designer if the Bill and the Board agrees on moving forward with the development of this new website. Bill discussed with the Board about Word Press the program that will house our new website. Board members once again discussed putting the *Canal Record* online as a substantial cost

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savings when producing and printing it. The older generation still prefers a magazine. A discussion ensued about methods to protect just anyone accessing the *Canal Record* on-line with the memberships and sharing passwords to read the *Canal Record*. The new web designer would have to incorporate that into the design along with possibly an automatic membership and the membership database with the Office having their checklist. Another possibility down the road is to go online to reserve hotel rooms during the reunion registration process.

Bob Russell suggested to set up a committee to discuss the new website. The committee member volunteers are Bill, Tom Wilder, Chris Wilder, James Beattie, Jacque Vowell and Kathy Malin. Tom mentioned that maybe we should go through the 6,000 FaceBook followers and only allowed PCS members to be on FaceBook.

Reminder the Space Coast picnic is Saturday, February 26 at Kelly Park East. There has been a room reserved the Friday night prior at Gator's Dockside at Port Canaveral for a Happy Hour social.

Bill will be seeing doctors next week to discuss a knee replacement so he will have some down time.

A discussion ensued about reinvesting \$300K after all our investments/CDs have expired and now in our checking account. Cindy Alderman explained about Tom Ellis' company, B&C Financial and his presentation to Cindy, Bill and Kathy. It is 100% liquid, and we can touch it without penalty. B&C would work as our Money Manager and invest our money with a discounted fee of .5% per quarter which equals about \$375 plus a Perishing fee of \$6.25 per transaction. In 5-6 years, we can double our money vice putting in CDs or Money Market which only makes approximately .5% per year. It is safe, insured and the risk is minimalized. Ray Husum asked what the percentage is to different investments. B&C proposed 75% in stocks and bonds and 25% in cash. Cindy stated we can choose our investments. Tom Wilder reminded the Board that we are a not-for-profit organization, and we should not gamble with this money. Laura Kosik agreed. Cindy suggested these next steps to Bill: 1) Send out B&C presentation to Board; 2) Set a timeframe for review and response; 3) Have Board vote on investing or not. If the Board vote is 'no', then Plan B. Bill asked the Board if anyone wants to take ownership of our investments. No one expressed an interest, and this is why we contacted Tom Ellis to begin with.

Jacque would like to sell color ads for the *Canal Record* on the back covers – front & back. Board agreed and Jacque will come up with pricing.

Bill explained that our projector did not work out last year and the Convention loaned us theirs at no cost. Bill would like to purchase a new one with a case at 4,000 – 6,000 lumens. Elaine motioned to purchase a new projector with 4-6K lumens power and a carrying case spending up to \$700. James seconded, and motion passed. Tom suggested a check-out procedure so the projector is not lost.

Kathy explained that our current printer/copier/scanner is out of date and the company cannot find replacement parts. She found a temporary solution to turn off machine at night and it still works. ImageNet offered to rent us a new one for \$95.00 a month to include delivers, service, toner and other supplies. A new color copier/scanner at Staples is \$700 but the toner is \$250 per cartridge x 4 plus a service contract. Tom motioned to rent new copier from ImageNet at \$95.00 a month, Bob seconded, and motion passed.

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Ray had Kathy read the proposed ByLaw's excerpt that will be in the March Canal Record and asked if anyone had questions. Kathy did question how these out of state Board members will attend PCS General Membership Meetings in the state of Florida. The meetings in CA, TX, SC, and NC are not PCS General Membership meetings. Ray indicated if approved, adjustments will have to be made.

Reunion Reports:

- Tuesday morning July 5, 2022 – James will help load the U-Haul. Other volunteers are needed to help and meet at the Odessa office that morning.
- Bill will be asking Ted Kaufer to be the Bingo Chairperson at the 2022 Reunion. Kathy said that John Planchon has registered, and he is a Bingo caller in GA. Last year, he canceled his Reunion registration. John is willing to help with Bingo.
- We need a person to chair the Catholic Mass at 4pm on Saturday. Bill will ask the Grimisons.
- Chairpersons for the Ball will take the tickets, signs, money, etc. to Security team and explain the procedures. Board decided a stamp vice wristband or handing back tickets for the Ball. No security needed at the DJ dance. Chairs can stop charging for entry at 1:00 am.
- All chairpersons will pick up and return Signs for their events.
- Attrition is at 2,807 room nights. We can reduce on February 19 by 15% then June 3 by 10%. Board would like to see the 2021 room count but thinks we can wait until June's attrition date. If we do have to give back rooms, it might delete some of our conference spaces. There are virus and airport closure clauses in our contract if we need to get out of it our contract if needed and situations become serious and a treat to our members and board.
- Full Murga is now at \$2,000. Last one was in 2017 for \$1,500 so Bill will offer the Murga group \$1,500 - \$1,700 before the Board votes.
- The Ball dress code was discussed. Discussions arose on Semi-formal to Dressy Casual. The Board decided to leave as approved at our last board meeting **DRESS: BUSINESS CASUAL – NO RIPPED JEANS, NO SHORTS, NO TANK TOPS, NO FLIP FLOPS**. It is printed on the tickets, but the Chairpersons must bring the signs to the Ticket Sales and the Ball and remind Security. Security is to enforce, but within a reasonable attitude and with the assistance of the Dance Chairpersons.
- Pool party will need wristbands for those drinking beer.
- Margaret McLaughlin is already working on decorations for the Ball. She came up with an idea with a two rose bud vase with a gold 90th vase pic with ribbon for the Annual Luncheon. The cost is \$5 per table for 40 tables. Tom made a motion to pay Margaret \$200 for Luncheon decorations, Bob seconded, and motion passed.
- Bill will order a sheet cake for 100 people to celebrate our 90th Reunion. It was suggested to have the ceremony right after the Annual meeting in the same room as the meeting. The cake will set in front of the dais podium during the meeting. Kathy will purchase plates/forks/napkins.
- Bob suggested sending an invitation to the Mayor Jerry L. Demings of Orange County to attend the ceremony.
- Bill is working with John Pate, Sales Manager, Rosen Shingle Creek with providing the 90th Reunion signage that will be posted in the Convention Center and Hotel.

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- Our photographer, Barry Alsobrook, has moved on to another job. David Wright emailed Bill that he wants to be the official photographer again. His health has improved. Bill will follow up with David. The board agreed to hire David Wright again for 2022.
- As suggested by Bob Russell at our last board meeting for the Cultural Seminar, we should invite Panama's Smithsonian Tropical Institute, Dr. Stanley Heckadon-Moreno to speak. Dr. Heckadon has proposed two topics he can speak on. It was decided both will be on Friday afternoon. PCS has agreed to pay his airfare and 3 nights of room.
- Kathy is ordering writing pens for the gift to GC members. The Board decided both spouses should receive a pen each.
- In Registration, each registrant will receive a lanyard. Kathy will order 2,000. No bags this year.
- Bill discussed comping the two speakers, Ilya Marotta - Luncheon and Dr. Heckadon - Cultural, for the registration fee which Board agreed. Bill is planning to get an AI Sprague print donated by AI for the gift to the Luncheon speaker. It will be presented as the luncheon ends. A Certificate of Appreciation, mounted on a wooden plaque will be presented to both speakers.
- Coloring Book will be ordered. Elaine and Ray found 2 errors which Jacque will fix.
- The parking at the hotel has new contract operators who use a QR code to exit the property. There will be two categories, one for those staying overnight and another for day visitors. Bill believes the parking will be free for all but more details to come.

New Business:

Laura would like more information posted to FaceBook, especially about the Space Coast picnic. Kathy is planning on sending out email blast to the Space Coast and Orlando members about the picnic to bring folding chairs and food/drinks, Friday night Happy Hour and possibly a bonfire at Carl's house on Saturday.

Bob stated the Nominations for new Board will be in the March Canal Record.

Bob motioned to adjourned Board meeting at 12:08, Tom seconded, and motion passed.

Upcoming Events:

PCS Space Coast picnic is February 26th

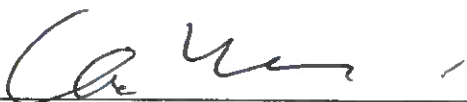
PCS/UF Luncheon is March 26th

Next Board Meeting is April 9th

PCS FL Spring Picnic is May 14th

Last Board Meeting before Reunion is June 11th

Reunion is July 6-10



Bill McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager