

## Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting

May 12, 2021 (via Zoom)

Call to Order: President Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda Smith reported all income for this current year has been received. We have 75% of paid memberships from the previous year. We had 400 participants in classes and income from classes exceeded \$12,000.00. Membership income was approximately \$7700.00 with \$875.00 in unsolicited donations. Cash balance remains good and we will end up with an approximate profit of \$1,000.00.

Attempt to prepare a FY21-22 budget is complicated by the fact that we have no indication of what we will be contending with in the fall. At present classes are limited on Thursdays to no more than 50 individuals in the Hutchinson building at any time. This will make it difficult to project class revenue. Obviously we will need a Zoom curriculum as well.

Old Business: Elisabeth Pollack presented the revised Senior College Handbook and requested that if there were any comments or questions to notify her ASAP. As soon as these have been received it will be posted to the website. Elisabeth reminded us that all postings to the website must be in PDF. Ron expressed great appreciation to Elisabeth for undertaking this difficult job and all applauded her work. (Elisabeth will retain a word copy of the document in order that it be easily revised in the future.

Committee Reports: Deirdre Good reported that she had mailed a letter to recent past Instructors inviting proposals. She had received 5 responses to date. The Committee has approved a number of courses both for the Summer Session and for fall via Zoom or in person at the Hutchinson Center. She announced that Anne Gass, author of *We Demand: Suffrage Road Trip*, will present a summer class on her book on August 18 at 6 p.m. This is a co-sponsored event with Left Bank Books. In addition Karen Gleeson has recruited Fred Bowers to join the Committee. The Ad Hoc Tech Committee has met and created simple, user-friendly guides for the HIP groups (Hosts, Instructors, and Participants). These will be posted to the website. In addition Deirdre reported on hybrid class potential (live class at the Hutch that would be joined by Zoom participants). Due to a number of factors the AD Hoc Committee felt that this was not a viable option at the current time. Brenda Smith felt that some Instructors might be adept at teaching this way and not to discard the concept. There will be more discussion of this topic in future meetings.

Nominating Committee: Jim Owen reported that the Committee had met twice, established a time line whereby a list of potential new members, to fill at least 5 seats of varying term lengths, would be identified by the June Board Meeting. A formal list of nominees must be announced 45 days prior to the annual meeting which has not yet been set. Jim stressed the need for individuals with marketing, legal, and financial backgrounds. He will be submitting a call for nominees in the Newsletter which will go out this week.

Special Event: Martha Laitin -no report.

New Business: Nancy Perkins reported on issues regarding the Hutchinson Center and the Board supported the ruling that all in-person attendees must be vaccinated. She will monitor the situation and keep all informed of the stipulations and protocols of the Center.

Marketing and publicity need special attention and we need to inform our membership and the public that while we are now Zooming we will be back in person in the future. All agreed that the postcards provide a valuable tool. Nancy will seek someone to help design a postcard for fall.

Martha Laitin suggested that the Board seriously consider paying a small stipend for a skilled individual to handle press releases and marketing for the organization. She cited the Garden Club's experience where this position accounted for a sizable increase in revenue. An objection was raised that we would be losing our "volunteer" driven culture but others were in agreement with Martha. A discussion ensued regarding the need to stay up to date with social media and modern marketing techniques even perhaps seeking volunteer help from high schoolers. This topic will no doubt be revisited in a future meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Perkins for Rebecca Jessup