** NEST Board Meeting**

February 18, 2021

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Deb Roe, Lynn Schweikart, Chris Donnald, Jim Brule, Linda Ford, Rona Leventhal, Barbara Aliprantis (Arrived at 3:25)

**Meeting Start:** 3:07PM

**Call to Order**

**Motion to Approve the December Minutes:** **Approved (5-0)** Motion Cris, Seconded by Jim

**Consent Agenda: Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda: Approved (5-0)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Linda

* **Governance Report**
* **Program Report**
* **Communications Report**

**Executive Director’s Report**

* Finances/Insurance
  + Deb brought up that the fees from various vendors have increased this year, including, RingCentral, Hostgator, and Neon. Specifically, NEON wanted to double the monthly cost to NEST from $110/month to $199/month but after NEST threatened to move to another vendor, they agreed to raise the price to $130/month.
  + Deb reached out to Mass Humanities for organizations that do online children’s programs in order to see what type of insurance they get and was directed to a Northampton theater group that uses Whalen Insurance. She is in the process of submitting an application to them.
* Program:
  + Sparks 2021
    - It was decided that STF for 2021 would be cancelled due to inability to do an in-person event and the difficulty of producing that same event virtually. Instead the event will be replaced with a smaller event involving fewer workshops: Sparks: A Storytelling Staycation on May 13-16. Chris has agreed to do the tech for the event. Unlike NEST Fest, the fees will be set instead of donation based. Rona brought up having the annual meeting around the Sparks program to have the energy from Sparks present. Lynn said that having the brainstorming session around Sparks might be better and that the annual meeting should be held in June.
  + FLY
    - Deb put in for a $5000 Mass Humanities Digital Capacity matching grant for the FLY program. The grant is to start a guild similar to WVSG but for youth. Oni Lasana and John Porcino have agreed to host the program.

**Committee/Task Reports**

* **President’s Report**
  + Storyteller Interview Project
    - There was a video interview that was submitted for the NEST Blog. The Board felt that it was a bit too long and unfocused and there was some concern on if it was appropriate to be put on the site. Deb brought up that she likes the idea of a video and feels that it needs to be short and to the point but, most importantly, professional reflecting the standing of NEST in the storytelling community. There was a discussion about what to do with the first submitted interview and how to move forward with the video blog idea.
* **Strategic Planning Discussion**
  + Where are we now? Where are we going? How will we get there?
  + There was a review on the goals that were set in 2017 through 2022.
    - NEST is starting to grow past the original geographical boundary of the Northeast, especially with Zoom and online reach as well as WVSG.
    - Rona brought up about having various workshops for different topics for members such as business, legal, etc.
    - Jim brought up about having a well-curated presence and having noteworthy, quarterly events for our members.
  + Purpose, Mission, and Vision
    - The Board discussed how to classify NEST’s geographical focus as far as NEST’s purpose. Linda reminded the Board that after the pandemic people would be gravitating back to “local” in-person events and we shouldn’t give up the regional part of our mission.
    - Deb brought up the idea of an app for storytellers to help provide them with a resource. The Board members gave ideas of what information they would want to find in an app: which venues support storytelling, useful tips, etc.
    - Linda brought up the idea of a circuit of in-home concerts to provide our members with more performance opportunities. Jim had the idea of creating an “Air BnB-esque” environment for people to host/tell/attend.
    - The vision statement was worked on and reworded and will continue to be reworked.
  + Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats
    - Lack of ability to execute great ideas.
    - Moving beyond STF with brainstorming. Give people the opportunity to know what members think and what they want.

**New Business**

* None to report

**Old Business**

* None to report

**Motion to Adjourn: Approved (4)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Linda

Next Meeting: March 18 at 3:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 5:00 pm