** NEST Board Meeting**

March 18, 2021

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Deb Roe, Lynn Schweikart, Chris Donnald, Jim Brule, Linda Ford, Rona Leventhal (Arrived at 3:06), Barbara Aliprantis (Arrived at 3:05)

**Meeting Start:** 3:03 PM

**Call to Order**

**Motion to Approve the February Minutes:** **Approved (4-0)** Motion Jim, Seconded by Cris

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

* **Governance Report**
* **Program Report**
* **Communications Report**
* **President’s Report**

**Executive Director’s Report**

* Finances/Insurance
  + Deb has drafted a “Working with Children” policy and incident report. She requested feedback from the board and it was suggested that the insurance broker could review it (which she declined to do). It was further suggested that other storytelling organizations may have developed such a policy and perhaps a request should be sent to the Storytell listserv. Deb has looked into criminal database searches. Most searches involve a fee (for example the CORI database search is a $25 fee per individual). It is unclear at this time what kind of search is expected by insurers. Rona brought up the statement in the policy of there being a minimum of two storytellers at any time with the children. Jim suggested that having recordings of all of the sessions might preclude this need. Deb explained that none of this is mandated. It is a matter of the level of risk that the Board and the insurers are willing to take on.
  + Finance committee met to discuss the Sparks budget and other finance matters. A conservative estimate was made about bringing in $7000 from Sparks 2021 which would leave NEST in a solid financial position.
  + Deb was approached by ASST to put an ad for their organization on the NEST page. It was decided that it would not be a good precedent to set as many other groups might then approach the organization with the same request.
* Program:
  + Sparks 2021
    - Deb has sent out all the contracts to performers for the event. The price was set at $65 for members and $75 for nonmembers. The performances-only registration is set at $40. Linda tried to make sure there was a mix of new members and some veteran performers and hosts. There was a discussion around picking people while avoiding a conflict of interest with committee members. Deb wanted to make sure there is a policy in place for the next event.
  + FLY
    - Deb has yet to hear back about the grant she applied for, for the program. There was a deposit from the Benevity Fund which will help fund the program regardless of the grant.
  + Social Justice
    - Jim has had to step down as chair of the Social Justice Committee due to time conflicts. There is a search for a new chair.

**Brother Blue**

* Linda sent out a proposal to the listserv asking for new nominations. There are two existing nominations. There were a few nominations from 2018 that had expired this year and Lynn suggested allowing them to stay in consideration for 2021.
* Lynn brought up that a policy was never created to keep the Brother Blue from being awarded posthumously. Deb brought up some issues relating to awarding the Brother Blue award posthumously. It becomes more about those who are left than for the person themselves. Also, if the name of a person who has passed in put forward and then not awarded the honor, it becomes a very awkward situation. **Motion to add phrasing of award being given only to living nominees: Approved (5-0)** Motion by Jim, Seconded by Cris.

**Annual Meeting**

* The annual meeting has to happen by the end of June. Deb mentioned having Sparks and the Annual Meeting separately to allow more time to prepare all of the material. Rona suggested having the meeting on a weeknight to attract more people. It was decided the meeting will be held on June 24 from 7:30-9/9:30pm.

**NEST Guide Update**

* The guide got split up into different portions that needed to be edited. Jo Radner is editing those. Deb updated the board on the progress.

**Technology Report**

* Chris gave an update on what he has been working on. He gave an update on the member benefits email that went out. A couple of people responded with videos to upload onto the site.
* He has been working with Deb on creating a tech checklist for working with the different performers and hosts ahead of time.
* He is working on creating a member search feature on the website. Users will be able to search by key information that members submit on their profile submission forms.
* He also continues to send out the weekly events email to the listserv and member list which is overall well received by the members.

**Committee/Task Reports**

* **President’s Report**
* **Strategic Planning Discussion**
  + Lynn brought up the possibility of having an outside consultant come in to make sure that something so important is handled correctly. Jim believes that the organization is small enough that it can be handled in-house. Linda added that the organization will not have the funds to support a consultant from start to finish. Deb suggested each board member reaching out individually to a few members to join the discussion. Rona suggested making an overnight or weekend retreat to get people together in one spot to discuss the Strategic Planning. There was also discussion around making sure that the views of younger people are including in the planning process. Jim suggested bringing in someone from outside the storyteller community to help give a fresh perspective on things.

**New Business**

* None to report

**Old Business**

* None to report

**Motion to Adjourn: Approved (5)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Linda

Next Meeting: April 22 at 3:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 pm