



**Minutes of Open Board Meeting January 19, 2016
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology Room U202A**

Members Present: Betsy Hall, Regina Pyle, John Alekna, Jane Siegel, Patty Brennan, , Dave Crowley, Paul Duffy, Tony Gordon, Bill Gregor, John Herbert, Gordon Holmes, Yvonne Lee, Ed MacLean, Marie Schappert, Ellen Sheets, Carol Trust, Mike Worhach. Also present Executive Director Stacy Koepfel.

Members Excused: John Chambers, Michael Hall, Gretchen Chauncey, Barbara Hoffman, Toby Rodman, Kim Schultz.

Member Absent: Ken Tutunjian.

Regina Pyle called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. The December minutes were unanimously approved. In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no Treasurer's report.

Executive Director's Report: Stacy and Michael have transferred the current year's books to Quick Books and will add the past several years. She has added AMEX to credit cards accepted. 234 out of 400 members have renewed their memberships. The membership applauded Stacy for her work on the Political Forum with Sonia Chang-Diaz, Byron Rushing, Aaron Michlewitz, and Bill Linehan (January 26). The Calderwood Pavilion, Cambridge Trust, and Sue O'Connell have been generous in their contributions. The annual appeal raised more than \$6000, a 45% increase over last year, with 44% of the Directors contributing. The Fundraiser has been tentatively scheduled for June 19th at Mistral. Mistral waived their rental and reduced the cost per person with unlimited food. Stacy is redesigning the website home page and inserting the calendar.

President's Report: Betsy reported that the Executive Committee has voted to name Stacy the Executive Director, a well-deserve title. Friendly Toast (in the former Zocalo site) provided \$5 drink coupons for the Directors.

Committee Reports: Community Outreach: The Community Outreach Committee interviewed nine South End organizations and chose three to further explore: Casa Myrna Vasquez, St. Stephen's Youth Programs and the McKinley School. DLZ: John Alekna reported that the committee had written a letter of non-opposition for Wine Riot, an application that had engendered controversy. John Herbert reminded the committee to give more weight to abutters. DLZ has set up a process to handle reports. Ellis' support or non-support does carry some weight with licensing. There

was no Neighborhood Services report. Nominating Committee: Ellen gave a brief update of their activity. Wine: The tasting of nine South African wines was a huge success. Max at Wine Emporium will give a Wine Group discount. 75 people have already signed up for the Progressive Dinner on February 8th. We can expand a bit beyond 80. We are in discussion with Berklee about a Jazz event. We had hoped to schedule for May 2nd, but as this is around graduation time, are exploring March 29th. Young Professionals: The energy is still there. The Young Professionals have had a planning meeting and are setting up their own committees. They also want to get involved in Ellis events and several are interested in being on the Board. The YP's are exploring SRV, Beehive, and other venues for another event.

Other Business: Marie is working with Sur La Table on a menu theme for February 18th. Regina noted that during the recent Emergency Community meeting with police after several shootings, Commissioner Evans stated we cannot arrest our way out of the problems caused by gang activity and that the community needs to become involved and be a part of the solution. Many spoke of the importance of mentoring and she suggested we explore the feasibility of creating a mentoring program to serve young children and adolescents. The MLK event at the Blackstone School was very impressive.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35. Following the adjournment, wine and snacks were served.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Siegel, Clerk