

Senior College at Belfast Board of Trustees Meeting

May 17, 2023 Social Capital

Call to order : Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Present : Nancy Perkins, Martha Laitin, Jim Owen, Marjorie Arnett, Mayo Bulloch, Ron Jarvella, Monica Morris, Denise Pendleton, Mike Ray.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report was sent out by email and included a financial narrative from the Treasurer, Beth Sterner. Receipt of this report was followed by a lengthy discussion as part of the Finance Committee Report.

Committee Reports

Finance The focus of this discussion was the narrative from the Treasurer and the reality that we are facing a nearly \$4000 deficit in our operating budget, roughly the amount we owe for refreshments. The Finance Committee is suggesting that the actions we can take are to raise fees as well as increase attendance. We will take a look at class fees at other Senior Colleges. The Hutchinson Center has yet to present a contract for the next year of classes so we are at a disadvantage until we know final costs. Ron Jarvella mentioned that when fundraising was done around twenty years ago for the new Hutchinson wing the Senior College made a major contribution and he believes that the Office was given to us in perpetuity for no charge. We have been paying \$400 per month. Nancy Perkins will check on this with both Cathy Bradbury and Arlin Larson, former Board members. We no longer have a contact at U Maine to assist us as in the past. We were reminded that the University as well as the Hutch are experiencing financial difficulties. This issue will be a part of the discussion at the retreat. We may also decide that an annual appeal to the membership should be considered during the next fiscal year..

Curriculum Mayo Bulloch reported that Summer Potpourri included 4 courses, 3 at Social Capital and 1 at Waterfall Arts. Making a Tote Bag, Acrylic Pour, Humanitarian Aid to Authoritarian Governments, and Monarch Butterflies and

Milkweed will be one morning courses at \$15 each or \$50 for all four. Overhead is extremely low for these classes. The Committee is hard at work lining up courses for the fall.

Nominating Committee Jim Owen reported that while he had spoken with Pete Reilly regarding serving as President for 2023-24 he doubted that Pete would in fact do it. Pete felt that a current Board member should step up in September. Jim also discussed the odd way that the new Board, immediately following the election, would convene and select officers for the coming year. We have strayed a bit from this and elected officers at the first Board meeting in October but it is not the method called for in the By-Laws. We are still seeking an additional 2 persons to serve on the Board. It was suggested that the roster include the term dates a member is serving, i.e. Nancy Perkins 2nd term 2021-2024.

Communications Denise Pendleton reported that she had prepared Press Releases for both the “Healing Through Laughter” event on June 10 as well as an announcement of the Summer Potpourri offerings. It was suggested that single subject Press Releases on classes featuring information about the instructor would be beneficial. Denise will take this under advisement. Mickey Sirota helps with Press Releases and she will be dealing directly with him. She also reported that the new Republican Journal Editor, Jim Leonard, has a background in education and may be open to additional features about Senior College. Denise also reported on the return of the evaluations and that Doug was sending out a friendly reminder. These results from nearly 25% of the attendees will be analyzed for the Retreat.

Old Business

Gilda’s Place Event Marjorie Arnett reported that all was going well with this project and that the group had raised the money needed. She is concerned that there may be too many people present that morningd but all agreed that is a good problem. The Committee will be meeting Monday to go over final details. Posters are up in many key areas and she asked that everyone take a poster and put it up in an advantageous spot. She was having table tents made to be used at the United Farmer’s Market the week previous to the event for additional advertising.

The Retreat Martha Laitin reported that all was in place for our one day retreat on June 1 at Springbrook Condominium ClubHouse. Lunch would be delivered by Bell the Cat and coffee, tea, and water would be available. She has not heard from everyone and she encouraged all to be present for this important event. She stressed the Retreat would result in an action plan for the Senior College Board of Trustees.

New Business

Nancy Perkins introduced a list of items outlining the responsibilities of Senior College Trustees.. They were read and the only change was to add an additional item and that would be "Help promote a positive image of Belfast Senior College." These will be presented to new members.

There being no further business at 10:57 Jim Owen moved for adjournment, seconded by Mike Ray.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Perkins