

New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (NMFOG)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 2019
12:00 p.m.
Albuquerque, NM

A regular meeting of the board of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government was held at the offices of the Foundation, notice having been given.

Members Present:

Karen Moses, President; Susan Boe, Vice President; Carl Baldwin, Treasurer; Mike Melody, Secretary; Members: Dede Feldman (arriving at 12:50), Viki Harrison, Paula Maes, Tim Maestas, Steve McKee, Mary Lyn Roper, Bob Trapp, Greg Williams

Members Attending via Telephone: Tom Johnson, Fred Nathan, Lucas Peerman, Kip Purcell

Members Not Present: Kathi Bearden, Jeri Clausing, Henry Lopez, Sammy Lopez, Chuck Peifer, Hal Stratton, Daniel Yohalem, Joseph Zebas

Staff:

Melanie Majors, Executive Director; Diane Lopez, Marketing and Membership Director

Guests:

Penny Baldwin, Jason Espinoza

Call to Order:

A quorum being present, Ms. Moses called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., and welcomed the members present in person or by telephone.

Approval of Agenda:

Ms. Moses called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Ms. Roper moved, Mr. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12 meeting. Several members called for corrections to the minutes. The requested changes had in fact been included in the final version of the minutes. Motion made to approve the final, corrected version by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Ms. Harrison. Motion carried.

President's Report:

Ms. Moses discussed the status of the joint grant application to the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press by NMFOG, New Mexico Press Association, New Mexico Broadcasters Association, New Mexico Society of Professional Journalists, and other entities. In addition, she praised Ms. Majors for the excellent outcome of the Dixon Award Lunch, and thanked Ms. Harrison for her six years' service on the board as her term expires.

Finance Committee Report:

Mr. Baldwin reported on the year to date Income Statement, and the Statement of Financial Position, both as of October 31, 2019. He noted that year to date results were encouraging.

Mr. Baldwin also gave the board an initial view of the 2020 budget, on which the Finance Committee had worked immediately prior to the board meeting. Mr. Melody move, and Ms. Boe seconded, a motion to approve the year to date financial report, and to grant initial approval to the 2020 budget, with final approval to be taken up at the February 2020 board meeting. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Majors reviewed her written report, incorporated by reference. She also discussed her recent work with the PRC, and with the legislature's Ethics Committee, on which NMFOG is represented.

Committee Reports:**Legal Affairs**

Mr. Williams reported on a variety of issues of interest to NMFOG. He particularly mentioned the APS failure to adequately respond to IPRA requests concerning APS's law enforcement activity, and the Corizon Health Care appeals court decision favoring NMFOG's position.

Dixon Awards

Ms. Majors reported on Dixon Awards in lieu of Ms. Bearden.

Dixon Lunch

Ms. Maes and Ms. Majors discussed the possible move of the annual lunch date from a Wednesday to a Thursday, to benefit newspaper members. Thursday, October 1, was tentatively selected for the 2020 Dixon Awards Lunch.

Marketing and Membership Director's Report

Ms. Lopez reported on the current status of donor members and related revenue.

Marketing Committee

Mr. McKee deferred to Ms. Maes, who reported that the New Mexico Broadcasters Association had determined to donate a minimum of \$50 thousand dollars of air time to a PSA promotion annually. The first organization to benefit, in 2020, will be NMFOG. She suggested it was likely that individual stations would, through repetition, increase the total value to as much as \$150 thousand.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Nathan discussed initial strategies for the 2020 “short” legislative session, and deferred to Mr. Espinoza for a more detailed presentation of 2020 efforts. Mr. Espinoza then reported on several initiatives he was pursuing.

Nominating Committee

a. Mr. Baldwin first noted that three of twenty-three current members were rotating off the board at year end, and that the Committee recommended a full board membership of twenty-four. Accordingly, the Committee recommended the following individuals be elected for terms beginning January, 2020:

Billie Blair; former long-time NMFOG board member
Heather Ferguson; Executive Director, Common Cause New Mexico
Jessica Onsurez; newspaper publisher
Kristelle Siarza; CEO of a social media consultancy; Adjunct Instructor, UNM Department of Communications and Journalism

b. Mr. Baldwin reported that the Committee recommended the following slate of officers serve for the year beginning January, 2020 (*NB*: Ms. Boe had been appointed to the Nominating Committee at the September 12, 2019 board meeting, but had declined to serve):

President: Susan Boe
Vice President: Michael Melody
Secretary: Tim Maestas
Treasurer: Carl Baldwin
At Large: Kip Purcell
At Large: Daniel Yohalem

Ms. Feldman moved, Ms. Roper seconded, a motion to elect all candidates unanimously. Motion carried.

Ethics Commission Committee

In Mr. Sammy Lopez's absence, Ms. Feldman reported on recent activity of the state Ethics Commission rule-making efforts, and current status.

New Business:

Ms. Majors presented a card signed by members present, and a gift, to Ms. Moses on the completion of her term as President.

2020 Meeting Dates were approved and include Feb. 27, April 23, Aug. 20 and Nov. 19, 2020

Adjournment:

There being no further business, on motion by Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Harrison, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully,

Michael Melody
Secretary