

## **FAI Board of Directors Meeting**

September 24, 2019

### **In attendance:**

Lisa Schwartz (President)  
Matt Sever (Vice President)  
Deana McCloud (Secretary)  
Alka Sharma (Treasurer)  
Ellen Stanley (at Large) (left meeting at 3:50 PM)

Lynn Cingari	Gary Paczosa
lou DeMarco	Amy Reitnouer
Dom Flemons	Matt Smith
Gil Gastelum	Laura Thomas
Joan Kornblith	Gerald Torres
Michael Kornfeld	Reid Wick (left at 3:50 PM)
Sara Leishman (joined at 3:30 PM)	

Aengus Finnan, Executive Director  
Jennifer Roe, Director of Operations

### **Regrets:**

Chloe Goodyear  
Denise Stiff  
Meg Tarquinio

### **Call Meeting to Order**

President Lisa Schwartz confirmed quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM CT, with a reminder about the confidentiality of the proceedings and the process to be recognized for the list. Based on an email request, a motion to amend the agenda was made.

Motion: To amend the agenda and move Nominating Committee and Governance Committee reports to be directly after the Finance Committee report.  
Made by: Lisa Schwartz  
Seconded by: Michael Kornfeld  
Result: Motion was approved

Lisa further asked that any Directors who need to leave the meeting early please announce that departure in order to ensure that a quorum is maintained.

### **Review of Minutes**

Minutes from the August meeting were sent and reviewed prior to the meeting as part of the Board Kit.

Motion: To approve the August minutes as written  
Made by: Ellen Stanley  
Seconded by: Gerald Torres  
Result: Motion was approved

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **Membership/Registrations**

Aengus noted that memberships are in line with the FAI goals for 2019. Conference registrations are 467 more than this time last year, and the hotel is almost at capacity. Secondary blocks are being built at other hotels.

### **Programming Update**

Aengus was excited to announce that Rhiannon Giddens will be the keynote speaker for the conference. This is the first time for the keynote speaker to be African American. She is genuinely interested in attending due to the cultural equity focus of the organization.

### **Cultural Equity Plan**

An update was given on the cultural equity work being done as well as the creation of a Cultural Equity Task Force. FAI hosted a cultural equity webinar on September 17. The Board was given a Cultural Equity Plan context and a pronoun guide. The staff has adopted the policy of including pronouns as part of their email signatures.

### **Ethno Music Camp Update**

Aengus provided an update on FAI's partnership with JMI International, with FAI taking on the role of establishing ETHNO USA music camp, fully funded by the Cargill Foundation. This is an incredible partnership and opportunity to introduce this 30-year old global program into the US. The camp programming manager job will be posted shortly.

### **Policy**

A new safety and signage policy has been established and posted regarding postering on the Private Showcase floors. This follows the safety audit conducted in Montreal, and was informed by past attendee survey responses to three proposed options circulated publicly in August.

The new policy is to only allow registered Private Showcase hosts to hang posters on the Private Showcase floors, with posters specific to their room (listing all artists, times, and room number). FAI will designate sections of the Private Showcase floor hallways where postering is not permitted for safety and way-finding signage purposes.

Additionally, a Poster Wall will be designated on the main floors where all artists will be encouraged to hang one poster for all attendees to reference and vote on for a poster design award.

### **Re-Branding FAI**

Initial FAI brand refresh samples have been provided by Whiskey Design. The designs are flexible and adaptable for use as a replacement of the existing black and white FAI logo. A discussion followed with comments and approval of the design mock-up.

### **Finance Report**

Alka Sharma noted that the Finance Committee hasn't met to review the August statement. Jennifer Roe gave a brief explanation of the report and an update on the cash Sweep Account. This account earns more interest than the earlier Money Market account. The organization is on target with income and

expenses, and slightly behind on sponsorships. There are no concerns about this since sponsorships are expected to increase in October and November.

### **Governance Committee**

Matt Sever reported that, based on previous meeting discussions and listserv comments, GovCom recommends that the following term limits proposed policy be adopted:

*To encourage turnover and include new voices while still allowing an appropriate amount of time to accomplish long and medium-term goals, Directors shall serve no more than 2 consecutive elected terms (a total of 6 years).*

*Directors at the end of their term limit may still be considered for limited appointment per the Term-end Extension by Appointment Policy. They may also seek re-election after sitting out a term.*

A discussion followed regarding appointments, and it was noted that this policy establishes precedence for procedures to identify ways to fill gaps on the board.

Motion: To adopt the proposed term limit policy effective as of the date of the motion.  
Made by: Matt Sever  
Seconded by: Matt Smith  
Result: Motion was approved with one negative vote

### **Nominating Committee**

Amy Reitnouer emailed a report to Directors prior to the meeting. NomCom is proud to present this year's Board of Directors slate. A review of the slate and comments followed. Directors asked to have time to review and discuss further on the listserv before voting.

**Action Item:** Directors will review slate and call for vote by the end of the following week.

Lisa expressed appreciation to Amy and NomCom for their report and work on the slate of nominees.

### **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee will have a call during the next week and will provide a report at the next meeting.

### **Programming Committee**

Programming chair Deana McCloud provided a report of the activities to date for panels and workshops. Scheduling and locking down speakers is in progress, and all members of the Committee are brainstorming to generate additional topics for the conference.

### **Development Committee**

Iou DeMarco thanked Directors for all their work on the Thank-you Call Date the previous week. 102 people were on the list to be called, and 90 were reached. There were 10 errors in the contact

information that will be corrected. This call process will be a quarterly practice moving forward. There was great feedback from all who were contacted.

Giving Tuesday is the next big project. Any new names to add to the calling list need to be sent to Alex at [development@folk.org](mailto:development@folk.org). To date \$1100 has been donated this fiscal year, which is a great number.

### **Advocacy Committee**

Laura Thomas was happy to announce that the staff has begun sharing #FolkLifeBalance posts on Instagram. They are asking high-profile artists to share these messages.

Michael Kornfeld reported that the PRO/Small Venue Task Force appreciated all of the recent meetings Aengus has held with representatives at ASCAP and BMI. Those discussions are moving forward. Aengus added that he and Jen recently held very productive meeting in Nashville. There is positive conversation about the idea of FAI acquiring a master license and administering through membership relationships and negotiating royalty payments. There is potential for announcing an agreement at the conference in New Orleans.

### **Regions Committee**

Matt Smith noted that, based on the current work that Jerod has done, conversations about the needs of Regions in regard to deadlines and verifying compliance have been circulated between staff, Matt, and passed back to Aengus. There is the potential of having Jerod managing Region relationships as a paid FAI staff member in order to provide support to the Regions. A draft proposal will be sent to Regions for discussion. Michael commended Jerod on the work he's already done for the Regions.

### **Other Business**

Lisa posed the questions about whether there was a need for a one-hour call in December or early January prior to the conference. Amy suggested that, unless there is official business that needs to be conducted, perhaps communication can be held via list serv. A discussion followed about options to use Slack and perhaps reserve an hour in case a conversation is needed prior to the conference. This will be discussed further at the November meeting.

### **2020 Board Meetings**

The following dates were approved as the Board meetings calendar for 2020.

Jan Wed 22-26 - NEW ORLEANS - In Person Meetings, AGM, First New Board Meeting

March Tues 24 / 3 - 5 PM CST

May Sun 17-19 / BOSTON - In Person 2-day Meeting; VIP & Members Reception

July Wed 22 / 3 - 5 PM CST

Sept Wed 23 / 3 - 5 PM CST

Nov Thurs 19 / 3 - 5 PM CST

Feb Wed 17-21 / KANSAS CITY - In Person Meeting, AGM, First New Board Meeting

Motion: To adjourn meeting

Made by: Mike Kornfeld

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM CT.