

**Florida Oceanographic Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2020**

Board Present: Allen Herskowitz, Board Chair, - John Amerling, - Mark Cocorullo,- Gary Goforth, - Paul Hederman, - Linda Houston, - Matt King, - Bob Mathias, - Dan Merritt, - Patricia Noonan, and Nancy Rand

Board Present via Telephone: none

Staff Attendance: Mark Perry, Cathy Muir

Not Present: Audrey Gillis, Matt Hooks and Scott Turnbull

Before the meeting, BOD Members and staff celebrated Mark Perry's 42nd year as Executive Director.

Board Chair

Board Chair, Allen Herskowitz, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Mission Moment

Mark Perry shared a news video from WPTV featuring the progress of our new Eco Center.

Consent Items

- A. Minutes from the Board Meeting January 22, 2020.
- B. Executive Director Reports-Education, Research, Animal Care, Operations and Development
- C. Committee & Task Group Reports
(See Board Website for Minutes, Reports and details)

Board Action – The Chair requested approval of the Minutes from the January 22, 2020 meeting and the consent agenda. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

Financial Report, February, 2020 Matt King, Chair,

- Cash balance is at \$4.3MM through the end of January 2020.
- We have received the entire amount from the TDC Grant.
- Account payable is down due to construction costs.
- Discussion of additional financial issues continued. We are working with the Accountant to move funds from unrestricted to temporarily restricted

Mark Cocorullo made a motion to approve the January 2020 Financial Statements. It was seconded by Gary Goforth, voted on and unanimously approved.

- Endowment fund is up due to \$10M being received in December 2019.

- Special Events revenues are up due to \$60M received from Oceans Sponsorships.
- Administration expenses are up due to an employee bonus, the cost of the Compensation Survey and an extra pay period in January.
- Mark Perry stated that due to the Compensation survey all positions were now within 80% midpoint of the market range. This will become effective March 1, 2020. The budget will need to be adjusted in each department through the end of this fiscal year to account for this.
- Matt King stated that we will be lean in September and October and really need to explore a Line of Credit. He will draw up points for Mark Perry and Allen Herskowitz to take the bank.
- Mark Cocorullo made a motion that we look into obtaining a Line of Credit. Linda Houston seconded the motion. It was voted on and unanimously approved.
- It was decided that we go forward with moving into the new building and get rid of the trailers.

Capital Campaign Update – Pat Noonan, Chair & Nancy Perry, CFRE

- Pat Noonan announced that the Shell Party was a success and raised \$274M in ten minutes.
- Capital Campaign totals are 122 donors, \$6,239,884; Reef Sculpture 4 donors at \$70,000. Endowment 5 bequest gifts totaling \$1,050,000.
- 17 new committed gifts.
- 4 notable pledge payments.
- 4 positive responses with no amount yet.

Zabik and Associates Update Report

- Larry Zabik stated that Color Ad is still working on the design of the exhibits for the new building and we need to release them for fabrication soon if we want the exhibits when the building opens.
- The hollow core planks were not fit to size and we lost about 2 weeks on the schedule. John Amerling wanted to know who would pay for that. Larry Zabik said he would get back to us on that issue
- The total change orders are coming in at about 2.3%.
- The third floor topping should happen this week.
- There was discussion as to whether we could open the building without the exhibits and still receive a CO. Larry Zabik said he spoke with the County and that is possible.
- The bridges are on hold.

Strategic Planning Task Group – Paul Hederman, Chair

- We are getting ready for the annual review for the Strategic Plan. Please email Paul Hederman if there are any suggested changes or questions.

Governance & Nominating Committee, Scott Turnbull, Chair

- Scott Turnbull did not attend the meeting but wanted everyone to be aware that next month is the election for the Board. There are seven expiring terms, so please contact Scott or Allen and let them know what your plans are and what Committees you are interested in.

Development Committee Update, Linda Houston, Chair

- The donor development luncheon at the Stuart Yacht Club was successful, re-engaged a lapsed donor and obtained major gifts from two others.
- Oceans Alive VIP Sponsor party will be held on March 12, 2020 at the Sailfish Point Yacht Club.
- Oceans Alive sponsors to date are 2 gold, 8 silver, 20 bronze 23 patrons and 12 supporters and will be held on March 29, 2020.
- We are accepting applications for the Teen Ambassador programs.

Information Technology Task Group – Dan Merritt, Chair

- Dan Merritt has met with Mark Baer and states that our hardware is obsolete. He also will research our licenses because he believes we are paying for some that can be obtained at no cost. Dan said his son is a technology expert who has volunteered to assist and will not accept compensation or fees for his work.

Advocacy Task Group- Gary Goforth, Chair

- It was suggested that everyone read the Volunteer Newsletter that our Volunteer Coordinator, Rosemary Badger, sends out every month.
- Mark Perry and Gary Goforth attended the Everglades Action Day in Tallahassee.
- Mark Perry chaired the February 2020 Rivers Coalition Meeting.
- Gary Goforth will be speaking at the Wolf Center at IRSC and at Sailfish Point on March 25, 2020.
- Gary Goforth has prepared a job description for the advocacy position.
- Gary Goforth will be working with the County and wanted to make sure that no one felt it was a conflict of interest. He was assured it was not.

Allen Herskowitz stated that the Board wanted to go into Executive Session and he asked employees to leave. A discussion regarding compensation then took place and the Board unanimously supported the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

The next meeting will be held on April 6, 2020 at 3:00 pm at the Coastal Center.

Minutes recorded by Cathy Muir, Administrative Assistant and submitted by Bob Mathias, Secretary of the Board of Directors of Florida Oceanographic Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Mathias, Secretary of the Board of Directors
Florida Oceanographic Society