Bay State Council of the Blind
Board call minutes for February 19, 2017

List of officers and board members:

- Brian Charlson President
- David Kingsbury First Vice President
- Frank Ventura Second Vice President
- Jerry Berrier Secretary
- Rick Morin Treasurer
- Rose Miller board member
- Jim Denham board member
- Mary Haroyan board member
- Phill Fernandes board member

Ex Officio

- Steve Dresser Webmaster
- Bob Hachey BayLines editor
- DeAnn Elliott Legislative chairperson

President Brian Charlson brought the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Steve Dresser was excused due to a conflict. All other officers and board members except PJ were present.

The minutes of our January call were approved with one suggested amendment.

Treasurer’s report; Rick Morin

Rick e-mailed the following with associated attachments prior to our board call:

1. Treasury Balance is $148,381.

2. Convention Revenue received thus far is $2161

3. Membership Convention Sponsorships received thus far is $1225
4. United Way Donation $459

5. Received about half of at-large member dues

Rick recommends that he base our proposed 2017 budget on the amounts we spent per account in 2016, exclusive of non-recurring Revenue and expenses.

Rick made and Jim seconded a motion that as treasurer Rick will create a proposed budget per the factors above to be considered and voted upon at our next board call.

The motion carried unanimously.

Rick mentioned that a few of us have received e-mails related to our involvement in the vehicle donation program. he is following up.

**Finance**

We discussed the lack of movement of our finance committee. Jim made and Rose seconded a motion to reconfigure our finance committee with Jerry as chair. Rick and Brian will serve on the committee. Within 90 days the committee shall propose a financial management strategy to this board. The motion carried unanimously.

**Publications:**

BayLines was e-mailed to the membership yesterday. Next publication date is anticipated to be during the first half of June. Content is due to Bob Hachey by April 15.

Brian thanked David for his work on BayLines Express.

**Executive Session**

After asking Deann to drop off the call, the board entered executive session.

A motion was made and seconded to take a more hands-on approach to managing our website. It was pointed out that content is woefully out of date and lacks important timely information.

Brian will reconfigure the website committee; David will take responsibility for content management, with assistance as needed from Frank and others.

We will take steps to ensure that more than one person has full access to and knows how to update our content.

The motion carried unanimously.

Brian adjourned executive session and Deann was invited to call back in.

**Legislative:**

Deann provided a detailed update.

Rick will provide a list of how many members we have in each congressional district, for use by those attending the upcoming legislative seminar.
Membership
Mary said 18 people attended the open membership call held on January 31. A membership committee meeting will be scheduled for March.

Catherine Moss has expressed interest in starting a Boston chapter.

Social:
David has a lunch event planned for March 4.

We will discuss our philosophy regarding provision of braille restaurant menus at our March board meeting.

Nominating committee:
Due to some confusion regarding the nominating committee, a motion was made by e-mail after this meeting by Jerry Berrier and seconded by David Kingsbury that in view of the factors stated below, we agree to accept the current members of the nominating committee.

1. Several months ago, Brian asked Cheryl Cummings to chair the Nominating Committee and she indicated that she would get back to him. This was a very casual conversation, one that would be easy to have forgotten. He followed-up much later by FaceTime but she didn't answer and FaceTime does not allow leaving a voice message.

2. Frank also asked Cheryl to chair the committee and she agreed.

3. It was Cheryl's understanding that she was to ask others to serve on the committee with her and she asked Steve Dresser, Nina Kagan and Rhonda Mencey to serve.

4. This committee has met and has contacted several individuals to see if they would be willing to serve on the BSCB Board and are currently scheduled to hold their next meeting on Tuesday.

5. Cheryl was not informed of the requirements for the other members of her committee.

The BSCB Bylaws call for a committee comprised of a chair, appointed by the President, a member at large appointed by the officers, and a member from each chapter selected by that chapter. Each of these appointments are to be made from 120 to 90 days prior to the convention.

Most of these provisions have not been met.

Brian therefore asked the Board to, by motion, validate the current selection of members of the Nominating Committee and their deliberations.

With the difficulties, we have been having with communicating with the Student and Guide Dog user chapters and with the limited time remaining before the
election, not to mention the calls already made by the Committee, he feels it is the only way to remedy this situation.

All members of the Board voted Yes with the possibility that Frank might vote no in that his “friendly amendment” was not seconded and P.J. has not voted.

Our next board call is scheduled for March 12 at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary