

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board Call Minutes, May 13, 2019

Bay State Council of the Blind 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
- Dianna Leonard board member
- Cheryl Cumings board member
- Mary Haroyan board member

Ex Officio

- Steve Dresser Webmaster
- Bob Hachey BayLines editor
- DeAnn Elliott Legislative committee chair

Brian called the meeting to order shortly after 7:30 PM. All members were present except David, who was excused due to a conflict.

Chris Devin was on the call, as was Sharon Strzalkowski. Ann Donna joined at 8:14.

Brian indicated he was not feeling well and asked Frank to chair the meeting.

The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of our April call were approved.

Treasurer's report; Rick

(Written report)

- As of May 13, 2019, we have positive cash flow of \$412.78. This is in keeping with an annual run rate of approximately -\$4000.
- Total liquid assets are \$38,803.96. This does not include the separate long-term investment account on deposit at TD Ameritrade and managed by 3D Asset Management.

- Two additional members were certified after the original submission. 204 certified members including 3 ACB life members.
- All chapter dues have now been remitted.
- BSCB's portion of BLIND Day expenses is \$461.50 which has been paid.
- \$800 has been disbursed to Brian Charlson for the ACB National Convention Delegate Stipend.
- A filing extension was submitted for our 2018 tax reports. Our tax accountant now has all the data he needs to complete the tax forms.
- The Annual filing with the Massachusetts Secretary of State Corporations Division has been submitted.

(End of written report)

In response to a question, Rick said expenses for BLIND day were typical this year.

He discussed ongoing issues with the ACB e-mail lists.

Rick will do some analysis of our overall financial health, but he said we are likely to lose money each year, considering recent income and expenses.

An "anonymous angel" will match up to \$5,000 donated to the President's team. We need to raise money to take advantage of that.

Legislative Report; DeAnn

(Written report)

We met with Mass. Eye and Ear on April 26. Negotiating committee held conference call in advance to plan. All agreed that remaining half of agreement should

be driven by metrics. DeAnn spoke with our attorneys. Dan is working on a draft letter to follow up, and DeAnn will continue to work with them.

Massachusetts budget update: Blind advocates (and a BSCB resolution) requested an additional \$250,000 for the MCB Community Services budget for non-VR clients. This was added to House version, but not in Senate version. Senator Barrett filed an MCB amendment raising 4110-1000 by \$250,000. Today was the deadline to call Senators on amendment.

Does the board approve BSCB support for Massachusetts Bill S.1252?

which is currently in the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Health? Bill S.1252 would require pharmacies to provide accessible prescription labels for blind, low vision, elderly and print-impaired customers.

*There's MCB involvement in the wording of the bill, with a possible 5% loss in funding if agencies don't participate in the effort.

take a look at the bill

The Legislative committee met on April 17 and will meet again June 12.

(End of written report)

Rick and DeAnn agreed there is still need for improvement at Mass Eye and Ear; work continues in that initiative.

DeAnn and Bob discussed Senate bill S.1252; it is not yet clear whether we should support it.

Transportation; Rick

(Written report)

MassPort approved the plan to centralize Uber/Lyft pickup's at Logan. Sassy Outwater attended the board meeting and spoke on behalf of the blindness community.

Mass Port continues to say that Uber and Lyft will have access to the curb for people with disabilities. Mass Port agreed to establish a task force to advise Mass Port with regards to matters of accessibility for people with disabilities.

Fares on the Uber/Lyft Pilot will be raised sometime in the summer. Shared trips will be charged the same fare as RIDE ADA trips. Non-shared trips will be charged the same fare as The RIDE Premium fares.

The 6-month pilot of Aira throughout the MBTA fixed route system is underway. Aira usage is free when riding the fixed route. The ultimate objective is that with the assistance of Aira, people who are blind and visually impaired who use The RIDE today will be more able to take advantage of the fixed

route with its enhanced flexibility and independence.

Work progresses to implement the new scheduling and dispatch software for The RIDE on July 1. Customer communication and testing will ramp up during the month of June.

The next RTAG meeting is May 20. The first subcommittee meeting for The RIDE occurred today. The full time RTAG facilitator was hired and will start work on June 5.

(End of written report)

Membership; Mary

Articles on life membership will appear in the next two editions of BayLines.

Plans are moving forward for an at large members call in June. Mary hopes to have a BSCB officer on the call.

A person in western Massachusetts is potentially interested in starting a chapter there, possibly in September. Frank volunteered to provide some guidance, since he recently started the Boston chapter.

Publications Committee; Steve for David

(Written report)

Diana Leonard is the newest member of the Pubs Committee. She will assist Bob Hachey and the other co-editors in getting Bay Lines published. She will

also work with Cory on social media.

Regarding the website, David will work on constructing a donations page. Steve will communicate with Mary to collaborate on a membership and dues page.

Steve wants to consult Mystic Access on building a membership/dues form for this page.

Regarding the Council Connection podcast, Brian gave Steve the credentials for Spreaker a couple of weeks ago, but despite logging in and uploading a show,

Steve has not been able to publish it. He is currently researching hosting the podcast on the website, which may be a better alternative.

(End of written report)

Steve said he has gotten a lot of assistance from Dianna. He will investigate using WordPress to publish Council Connection on our website.

Bob said BayLines is almost ready.

Steve will look into whether a calendar can be added to our website.

Social Committee; Rose

(Written report)

On May 4, 2019, Mary from the social committee team,

Was able to arrange a wonderful and delightful tour to the Willard Clock Museum, Grafton MA. We had 20 people including sighted guides.

Tour started at 11:00 and ended 2:15 P.M. We learned how clocks and time pieces are made and the cost of clocks during the 1800's

Many thanks to the staff and Mary for all the assistance arranging the tour and a ride from the train station.

Next event will be June 21, 2019, Story Slam

The Story Slam will be held on Friday evening June 21 from 7 to 9 PM in the Carroll Center Technology Auditorium. Admission price will be \$10 per participant.

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided. Those wishing to tell a story will be given a maximum of 10 minutes. At the end, one or two \$25 gift certificates

will be awarded to the winners. A small committee will decide. It would be good to have 3 or 4 sighted volunteers to help with seating, food distribution,

and cleanup. More logistical details to be taken care of on the next Social Committee call.

In early June.

Thanks to David and the rest of the social team

(End of written report

Mary hopes to get pictures from the clock museum tour and will share them with Dianna for inclusion in social media.

Bob recommended that someone write an article about the tour for BayLines.

Conference committee; Frank

(Written report)

- I sent a few simple questions to each chapter president to circulate to their members for feedback. I did not receive any answers to my questions, but

two people said they may give feedback if there was an anonymous survey put out.

- I received two pieces of feedback which came to me third hand. The first being that the conference was a vacation and that it would be better to change venues each year and the second is that BSCB should cover all conference charges for attendees.

- I have reached out to President Charlson for permission and credentials to use survey monkey on several occasions with no response.

- Nina and I have been doing research into not-for-profit venues and have found only one that made the basic criteria of being accessible, affordable and can accommodate a group of our size and function. I may ask the board for a motion to move forward on that one venue, even if it is for another function other than the Spring conference, for example the Fall conference or a social event.

(End of written report)

Rick confirmed that we still have the Survey Monkey account, although it has been taken out of the budget.

Frank and others will create an anonymous survey to get input on planning future conferences.

Pursuant to a recent motion that was passed to seek nonprofit venues for future conventions, Frank is researching possibilities. Cheryl offered to assist.

Jerry made, Brian seconded, and the board approved a motion for Frank to pursue a relationship with a Masonic lodge that has conference facilities.

New Business

ACB convention: Brian is our delegate, and Dianna has expressed interest in serving as alternate delegate. BSCB will not pay a stipend this year to the alternate delegate.

Steve made, Rose seconded, and the board approved a motion to suggest Brian for delegate, Dianna for alternate, and Steve for the nominating committee.

Rick confirmed that we will only pay for the primary delegate this year.

Chris and Rose also plan to attend.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 9 at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary