



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Greenwich County Club – Adult Grill & Boardroom plus Dial In

### Attendees:

Present (11):	Caitlin Kraus-Long, Carey Wusch Giannetti, Debra Hess, Erin McCall, Jeffrey Coviello, JP Muir, Karin McShane, Laura Erickson, Mario Forlini, Nicole Kwasniewski, Patrick Kerney
On Phone (5):	Eva Marie Janerus, Grace Lockhart Djuranovic, Diane Viton, Kristen Riemer, John Maus,
Absent (8):	Alyssa Keleshian, Cory Anne Logan, Hagar Chemali, Jamie Eisenberg, Joui Hessel, Karen Scrivanos Oztemel, Shari Aser, Timothy Drinkall
Total Board Attendance:	16 out of 24
Staff Attending:	David Rabin (on phone from Japan), Ilyssa Tanchum, Jeremy Nappi

**Meeting called to order by Mario Forlini, Board Chair at 6:06pm.**

### Welcome

Board Chair Mario Forlini welcomed Committee members.

### Approval of Minutes

Secretary JP Muir made a motion to approve the minutes with the following changes: spelling of Eisenberg and Sole from February 23rd. Debra Hess second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### CEO Report

David Rabin opened the floor for questions on the CEO Report – no questions arose.

### Comments – Mario Forlini

Board Chair Mario Forlini spoke about the last Board meeting incorporating a topic to discuss. Later tonight Vice-Chair Nicole Kwasniewski will speak on Grants at the Greenwich United Way in the Topic of the Month portion.

Mario spoke about new business. There have been local organizations coming to us looking for help. Two examples were: 35 Church Street and Greenwich Hospital. After the Executive Committee meeting there was a consensus that we aren't real estate brokers, and we should stay out of these types of projects. Since we are a strategic partner with Greenwich Hospital on mental health, we feel more comfortable possibly supporting the Cancer Center. There was a discussion around the Greenwich Hospital - Cancer Center. Jeremy Nappi read an email from them, but they have not shared what other agencies are supporting them. Laura Erickson spoke about how she has been on some of the Zoom meetings about this and a lot of the neighbors disapprove. She bought up if they disapprove why should we go there? There was a round table discussion on that. Debra Hess read



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read the proposed letter from them. She wondered if we could go back to Greenwich Hospital and ask them to take out the wording of planning and zoning as well as what other organizations and possibly soften the language. CEO David Rabin spoke stating that at the Executive Committee meeting Greenwich Hospital – Cancer Center was discussed. He had sent out an email after the meeting asking if anyone had concerns to get back to him by EOD. No one had any concerns, so he sent an email to support to Greenwich Hospital – Cancer Center. Jeremy Nappi mentioned that the letter will be in the Greenwich Time and the Sentinel. After the round table discussion, it seemed everyone was on board to wait and see what the letter stated in the paper.

There was also a discussion around excess money from the grants. Erin mentioned there might be around \$300K-\$400K left over this year. She asked if the scholarship money was already pulled out and Jeremy Nappi replied that it has been. Debra Hess spoke and advised the board we need to explore all options for using the extra money from the grants. Everyone agreed.

Mario thanked everyone for the discussion on new business and then moved onto Finance.

### **Finance**

Vice-Chair Debra Hess asked if anyone had questions on the financial reports – no questions arose. Next, she made a motion for the Board to approve the 990. Patrick Kerney was first to motion and then Laura Erickson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

John Maus will be having a meeting with Brown Advisory on the 27<sup>th</sup>. He will provide feedback at the next Board meeting.

David Rabin thanked everyone on the audit committee for all their hard work.

Mario thanked Debra and then moved onto Community Impact starting with the Topic of the Month.

### **Community Impact**

#### **Topic of The Month – Grants**

Vice-Chair Nicole Kwasniewski proceeded to discuss CIP in detail, utilizing a handout, to the Board members. This was done so that everyone could understand what happens in the months of February – June, the breakdown of types of organizations applied, amount of grant money Greenwich United Way has this year to give out, volunteer responsibilities, and what the Grants Committee does. Nicole also communicated to the Board that we held a grant writing class to any organization that wanted to apply. It was a good class and possibly we should hold it again.



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Jeremy Nappi thanked Grace Lockhart Djuranovic for always getting new volunteers each year. There was a small discussion about recognizing the volunteers to either post an ad in the newspaper or have a lunch with them. More to come after a discussion with the Grants Committee.

Board Chair Mario Forlini spoke briefly on the survey that was sent out to the 26 organizations that applied for grants this year. This survey was to get feedback and results are still coming in. He also asked Jeremy Nappi to pass around the table a sheet to sign up for events if you have not already.

Mario thanked Nicole and moved onto Fund Development & Marketing.

### **Fund Development & Marketing**

#### ***Sole Sisters – Vice Chair Diane Vilton***

- The Sole Sisters luncheon is on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The speaker is locked in. Her name is Andrea Canning who is a correspondent for Dateline NBC. The Sole Sisters guests will enjoy a guided conversation with the mom of six about balancing work and family and thinking outside the box when it comes to your career.
- The Sole Sisters had a successful event at Veronica Beard Boutique in March. 10% of the purchases are going to be donated to the Greenwich United Way.
- All of April, Miku Sushi in Greenwich has 3 items on their menu for Sole Sisters. All are delicious and everyone should go in and try them.
- The Book Drive went very well. We collected over 1,000 books. Next up is getting them to the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich and Byram Archibald Neighborhood Center.
- Last week there was a meal train for Kids in Crisis. Thank you all for all your hard work and community service

#### ***Golf Tournament – Mario Forlini, Co-Chair***

- Mario mentioned that golf tournament will on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Round Hill Club this year. He thanked Patrick Kerney for his connection in helping us get in there this year. Patrick mentioned about Chuck and then Mario said at the event if anyone sees Chuck to thank him.

#### ***Brew Ha Ha – Mario Forlini, Co-Chair***

- Mario mentioned that this year the Brew Ha Ha will be on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Brunswick.

Mario thanked Diane and moved onto Board Affairs.



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**Board Affairs**

Vice-Chair Grace Lockhart Djuranovic advised the Board that there will be vote at the next meeting on 4 new Board members and 3 new Advisory members.

**Board Chair Mario Forlini made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Caitlin Kraus-Long. The motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

The Executive Session followed.