

1814 Board

Meeting via ZOOM

Friday, January 8, 2021

4pm-6pm

Board Members Present:

Tom Donahue
Forrest Edwards
Richard Frost
Wendy Gilchrist
Vicki Giroux
Tim Horn
Chris Ransom
Mary Simmers
Samantha Williams

Board Member Not Present:

Linda Masterson Ward

Board Members Present and Elected on January 8, 2021:

Jim Guinness
Judy Lefebvre
Charles Loscalzo
PJ Miller
Emily Moosman
Lana Putnam

Advisors Present:

Kit Booth
Bruce Carlin
Craig Russell
Gary Vancour

Advisors Not Present:

Alice Church
John Rock

President, Tom Donahue called the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of 1814 Inc. to order at 4pm and presented the agenda for the meeting. Mary Simmers moved to approve the agenda. Tim Horn seconded. There was no discussion, and the agenda was adopted. (Vote: 9-yes; 0-no; 0-abstentions)

Election of Board of Directors for Nov 1, 2020 through Oct 30, 2021

The slate of existing Board of Directors is:

Tom Donahue
 Forrest Edwards
 Richard Frost
 Wendy Gilchrist
 Vicki Giroux
 Tim Horn
 Chris Ransom
 Mary Simmers
 Linda Masterson Ward
 Samantha Williams

Mary Simmers moved to accept the existing Board of Directors for November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021.

Wendy Gilchrist seconded.

There was no discussion

All voted in favor. (Vote: 9-yes; 0-no; no abstentions)

Resolution to Expand the Board of Directors (Resolution attached)

Tom Donahue read the resolution. Tom asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion, so Tom called for a vote. The Resolution to expand the Board of Directors was approved. (Vote: 9-yes; 0-no; no abstentions). The Board can now include 20 Directors.

New Board Members

Six people were nominated to serve on the Board of Directors. They are:

Jim Guinness
 Judy Lefebvre
 Charles Loscalzo
 PJ Miller (Paul Miller)
 Emily Moosmann
 Lana Putnam

There was no discussion. Tom Donahue called for a vote.

The new members of the Board were approved. (vote: 9-yes; 0-no; no abstentions)

Comment on Board Size

Gary Vancour, one of the Board's Advisors cautioned about Board size. He suggested that 20 might be alright but more might create challenges. He mentioned that value of a small executive committee. He suggested that the roles of the Executive Committee, Board Directors and Committee Members be defined.

Election of Executive Board for 2021

Nominations for the Executive Board are as follows:

President	Tom Donahue
VP President	Vicki Giroux
Treasurer	Forrest Edwards
Secretary	Chris Ransom

Samantha Williams moved to accept the Executive Board for 2021

Mary Simmers seconded.

No discussion.

Vote: 15-yes,0-no; no abstentions

The Executive Board for 2021 was approved. (Term ending October 31, 2021)

Treasurer's Report

Forrest Edwards provided and explained the financial report for the 1814 Commemoration Inc. fiscal year ending October 31, 2020 and current income and expenditures through January 2021. He also reviewed the budget for 2021. Our fiscal year begins November 1. The 2021 budget was previously approved by email because a budget was needed to submit a grant. The vote was 7-yes, 1-no, and 2 were absent.

Mary Simmers moved to accept the financial report and 2021 budget update.

Jim Guinness seconded.

All Board Members present approved. (Vote: 15-yes; 0-no; no abstentions)

Forrest mentioned that we now have a Pay Pal account on the 1814inc.com website which is available for donations. We also added liability insurance from Northern Insuring for the organization including directors and officers of the Board.

President's Annual Report

Tom Donahue presented the Annual Report. It is a chronological account of what happened in 2020. There was no discussion. It was voted on and approved.

Old Business

Website

The payment for our 1814inc.com website was voted on by email. The vote was 8-yes and 2 were absent.

Committee Assignments

Tom provided a document with possible Director assignments. Areas of responsibility for each Director were discussed. Directors of the Board will report back to the full Board of Directors at each meeting on the events and activities for which they are responsible.

Tentative Responsibilities:

These are very tentative, more like ideas that will need to be discussed further and solidified.

Tom Donahue	city contacts
Forrest Edwards	marketing, sales
Richard Frost	history, education, essay contest, poster contest
Wendy Gilchrist	ball, concerts, singing, history
Vicki Giroux	parade with Rotary, bands for parade
Jim Guinness	publicity, memorials, ceremonies
Tim Horn	volunteers with Dianne Kwarta, memorials, ceremonies, education, essay contest, poster contest
Judy Lefebvre	Old Post Cemetery
Charles Loscalzo	publicity at Champlain Centre Mall
PJ Miller	KDH, reenactments
Emily Moosmann	marketing, sales, and publicity at Champlain Centre Mall, education, essay contest, poster contest
Lana Putnam	marketing, publicity, sales
Chris Ransom	kids' games
Mary Simmers	memorials, ceremonies
Linda Ward	website, education, essay contest, poster contest, old time village market
Samantha Williams	KDH, reenactments

Tom Donahue

Tom will be speaking with our new mayor about the Battle of Plattsburgh including in-kind help the city provides. Tom mentioned that engaging the City employees in the Battle of Plattsburgh is important.

Rich Frost

Rich suggested that each Board Director should be developing a "heir apparent" for their areas.

Wendy Gilchrist

Wendy is interested in including more period music. The local, award winning dulcimer player, Nate Pultorak might be willing to help. Jim Guinness may have contact information. Dance lessons could be given ahead of time...could be recorded and posted on website.

Vicki Giroux

Vicki mentioned that she is no longer employed in the hotel business. She is now Benefits Director for CEWW Health Insurance Consortium. Vicki is willing to help with the parade. A parade may be possible as it is outdoors and could be socially distanced. Perhaps the English Country Dancers could be in the parade. Vicki also mentioned that bands are an especially important part of the celebration. Vicki said that Casey Degon is willing to work on Social Media with someone. He could work with Emily Moosmann if she is willing. Bruce Carlin is also willing to work with Emily and Casey. Vicki will put out feelers for the parade. Chris has

some contact information which she can share with Vicki. Our first parade had 19 units. Recently we had 75 to 100 units. We can pare down from the 75 units and still be successful.

Jim Guinness

Jim suggested a local hammered dulcimer player, Nate Pultorak.

PJ Miller

The Board gave direction to PJ to send out tentative invitations to possible reenactors. PJ would like to have opposing battles if face to face is allowed. If not, he suggests more demonstrations, perhaps ½ hour talks at scheduled times. The Court Case and Trial and Fashion Show done in 2020 were successful. PJ volunteered to contact Sharon Bell about dress making lessons. These could be filmed and made available on the website.

Emily Moosmann

Emily requested description of events, activities, responsibilities. Tom Donahue will provide information to Emily. Emily suggested dressing mannikins in the mall in period dress. A TV screen could be set up with films of Marcomb Ball dances, dance lessons, sewing lessons....

Lana Putnam

Lana suggested that we need to engage the community. Ideas: dress making now, displays now... Wendy Gilchrist is the contact for dancing and dance lessons and Sharon Bell is the contact for dress making and costumes. PJ will contact Sharon Bell.

Mary Simmers

Mary suggested that someone local could scout venues now.

Sam Williams

KDH does not know when it can go back to face-face-face, in-person activities. Sam mentioned that she was successful in producing video content for the KDH that was very well received. She continues to do so. Sam said that we are welcome to use her content. We only need to credit KDH. The fashion show was successful and could be done face to face or virtually.

Advisors

Bruce Carlin

Bruce encouraged us to ask for his ideas. Rick Dodge and he did fund raising for the Mayor's Cup. He said that providing "backstage" specials for large contributors was very well received.

Gary Vancour

Gary stated that entertainment including bands and concerts should be controlled by the Board and Committee, not the City. Consider using local people and groups. Consider using sites like schools. The Middle School space does not have great acoustics. The Strand is expensive. Remember the importance of sound systems and people. They are important and there are costs associated with sound systems. Gary recommended that we have Plan A and Plan B. Contracts need to make with the caveat that if we cannot have an activity, we may need to cancel. Gary

encouraged keeping the event in the community's mind all year. A Taste of the Tavern, fashion show, lessons... Tom mentioned involving the local breweries and wineries.

Inside Vs. Outside

There are many pros and cons for holding events inside and outside. It is difficult to sell buttons to outside events unless they are in an enclosed area. Weather is always an issue with outside events. Always have a rain or bad weather site or plan.

Entertainment

There was agreement that entertainment should be under the 1814 inc., not the city. Gary, Rich, Tom, Linda have some past information and budgets for past years

Enhancing the Number of Volunteers

There is a crucial need for all Board Directors to develop an "heir apparent" for their areas of responsibilities.

New Business

Plans for 2021

There was great discussion and brainstorming of new and old ideas. At this time there is no way to know how many face-to-face events can be provided in 2021. It may be best to have two plans: Plan A: Events like pre pandemic. Plan B: virtual events. In 2020 most events were virtual with some face-to-face events, socially distanced, etc.

Date of Battle of Plattsburgh in 2021

September 11, 2021 is a Saturday.

Ideas

Vicki suggested contacting someone like the Superintendent of Schools to see if the use of large sports playing fields might be available to use for BOP – 1814 events.

Sponsorship

Sponsors will understand if we cannot have a full, pre pandemic event, but we need to plan for the event now and request financial help now. Sponsorship for events like the parade may interest some sponsors.

Website Updates and Additions

Continue to update and add to.

Thank Yous

Tom thanked the many people who helped with the 2020 Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration.

Board Meetings

This Board will meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 4pm by ZOOM.

Vicki Giroux moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mary Simmers seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Chris Ransom, Secretary