

Canadian Association of Journalists

Board of directors meeting
International Living Learning Centre
Ryerson University, Toronto
June 22-23, 2013

Present board members: Ellin Bessner, Hugo Rodrigues, Shauna Rempel, Manjeet Singh Atthwal, Nick Taylor-Vaisey, Sean Holman, Sean Kavanagh, David Wiwchar, Micah Luxen, Dale Bass, Paul Schneidereit. Other: Anja Karadeglija.

1. D. Bass called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

2. H. Rodrigues moved to approve the agenda, S. Holman seconded, motion carried.

3. M. Luxen moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 13, 2013 teleconference, N. Taylor-Vaisey seconded, motion carried. P. Schneidereit moved that the board review the 2013 Annual General Meeting minutes (to be approved at the 2014 AGM), H. Rodrigues seconded, motion carried.

4. Election of officers:

D. Wiwchar nominated H. Rodrigues for president, N. Taylor-Vaisey seconded, H. Rodrigues was acclaimed.

D. Wiwchar nominated N. Taylor-Vaisey for vice-president, E. Bessner seconded, N. Taylor-Vaisey was acclaimed.

E. Bessner nominated D. Bass for chair, S. Holman seconded, D. Bass was acclaimed as chair.

D. Wiwchar nominated M. Luxen as vice-chair, N. Taylor-Vaisey seconded, M. Luxen was acclaimed as vice chair.

D. Wiwchar nominated P. Schneidereit as treasurer, M. Singh Atthwal seconded, P. Schneidereit was acclaimed as treasurer.

H. Rodrigues nominated S. Rempel, seconded by D. Bass, S. Rempel was acclaimed as communication coordinator.

5. Committee membership:

E. Bessner suggested the creation of an advocacy/government relations committee, perhaps headed by someone in Ottawa, and the board discussed the creation of a dedicated committee, noting that the CAJ's advocacy activities differentiate it from other journalists' organizations.

E. Bessner moved that the CAJ strike an advocacy committee to address journalism issues, which reflects national and regional differences. S. Holman seconded, motion carried.

Hugo pointed out Ivor Shapiro is stepping down from the ethics advisory committee.

Membership Services: E. Bessner (chair), N. Taylor-Vaisey, S. Rempel, A. Karadeglija (resource), H. Rodrigues (ex officio), S. Kavanagh.

Awards: H. Rodrigues (chair), D. Wiwchar.

Events: P. Schneidereit, H. Rodrigues, D. Bass (chair), S. Holman, D. Wiwchar, N. Taylor-Vaisey, M. Luxen.

Finance: P. Schneidereit (chair), H. Rodrigues, D. Wiwchar.

Advocacy: S. Holman, M. Luxen, S. Kavanagh, M. Singh Atthwal, H. Rodrigues.

Suggested task: That by July 27, that the committee take a look at communications policy, come back to full board with mandate.

6. D. Bass presented the 2012-13 chair's report, S. Kavanagh seconded, report accepted.

7. H. Rodrigues presented the president's report. He moved:

That the CAJ board establish, as policy ("Year-end financial surplus policy"), a practice of setting aside 50% of all year-end surpluses over \$10,000 and investing those funds into short- or medium-term investments;

That contributions to this/these investment(s) be made from 2013 year-end onwards in any year where the year-end bank balance, after financial review, of the corporation sits at over \$10,000;

That these contributions be made until the total value of invested funds reaches \$60,000;

That making withdrawals in any budget year be subject to a vote with the minimum support of two-thirds of all current directors of the corporation;

That should the CAJ draw down this fund in any year, the fund be replenished as soon as possible within the subsequent two years;

That reversal of the policy established by this resolution require the support of more than two-thirds of the current directors of the corporation; and,

That this new policy be appropriately numbered and added to the CAJ policies document.

M. Luxen seconded.

P. Schneidereit added friendly amendment to change threshold to \$15,000, and change wording to that the "fund be replenished as soon as possible or within subsequent two years." Friendly amendment accepted. Carried.

H. Rodrigues also moved (contingent on the above being supported by the board):

That the CAJ treasurer report on (a) recommended financial product(s) to meet the requirements of the new year-end financial surplus policy by the September meeting of the board of directors.

Seconded by P. Schneidereit, carried.

8. The meeting adjourned for a break at 10:45 a.m., reconvening at 11:06 a.m.

9. H. Rodrigues continued presenting the president's report. H. Rodrigues moved the report, [Sean] seconded, report carried.

10. P. Schneidereit presented the 2012-13 treasurer's report. P. Schneidereit moved the report, M. Luxen seconded, report carried.

11. P. Schneidereit gave an update on the 2013 budget.

12. S. Rempel gave a verbal communications report, outlining the growth in CAJ's communications channels and outlining what has been done thus far.

S. Rempel moved the report, S. Kavanagh seconded, carried.

The board referred discussion about designating a graphic design person to committee.

13. S. Rempel moved to change her title to community and communications manager. N. Taylor-Vaisey seconded, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned for lunch, reconvened.

14. A. Karadeglija gave the administrator's report. Report moved by P. Schneidereit, seconded by D. Wiwchar, carried.

15. P. Schneidereit moved that the CAJ inform CAJEF that the draft agreement process we were engaged in last year is being shelved by the CAJ board.

S. Holman seconded, D. Wiwchar, M. Singh Atthwal and D. Bass abstained, one opposed.

16. E. Bessner presented the membership committee report, which the board discussed.

17. The meeting adjourned at 17:12.

18. The meeting was called to order and reconvened at approximately 9:15 a.m. on June 23.

19. The board discussed a proposal to partner with Loyalist College on a journalism institute.

H. Rodrigues moved that he and E. Bessner sit on a working group for the institute. E. Bessner seconded, motion carried with D. Bass, P. Schneidereit and S. Holman abstaining.

20. The board continued discussing the membership report.

H. Rodrigues moved that the discussion over who is a member/ journalist be referred to the ad-hoc committee on the subject, with the recommendation that it comes back to the full board in September. M. Luxen seconded, motion carried.

P. Schneidereit moved to accept the report, D. Wiwchar seconded, carried.

21. M. Luxen and N. Taylor –Vaisey presented the 2013 conference report. D. Wiwchar seconded, H. Rodrigues moved report.

The board discussed the conference in general, as well as moving to a two-day conference.

Report carried.

22. The board confirmed the 2014 conference location as Vancouver and identified the conference co-chairs and key committee members.

23. The meeting adjourned for a 10 minute break and reconvened at 10:54.

24. The board discussed a potential 2015 conference location and partners, as well as a potential Spring 2014 event in Winnipeg and fall event in Calgary, which is a potential CJF partnership.

25. D. Bass presented and moved the Awards committee report. D. Wiwchar seconded, moved, report was carried.

The board discussed the category and criteria review for 2013 program as well as a revised fee structure for the awards.

26. N. Taylor-Vaisey presented and moved the National Capital Region chapter report, as well as the results of the June 19, 2013 chapter AGM.

D. Wiwchar seconded, carried.

27. S. Rempel presented the results of the Toronto chapter's June 21, 2013 chapter AGM and a verbal Toronto chapter report.

P. Schneiderei seconded, carried.

28. The board discussed the date of the next meeting, as well as whether it should be by teleconference or in person.

29. D. Bass moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 p.m. Seconded by N. Taylor-Vaisey, carried.