

SPJ minutes – July 11, 2024, via Zoom

In attendance: Marty Fischhoff, Kelley Root, Rob Davidek, Beth Konrad, Tracy Wolf, Mark Lee, Annalise Frank, Mary Zatina, Walter Middlebrook, Monica Williams, Peg McNichol; Administrator Marcia Hart

Absent: Ro Coppola, Jeff Payne, Nicole Avery Nichols, Vince McCraw, Christine Ferretti, Kat Stafford

Marty Fischhoff called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

President's Report – Marty Fischhoff

- Marty is working on the SPJ annual report which is due by July 19.

Peg McNichol made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. It was seconded by Monica Williams and approved by all.

Programs – Tracy Wolf

- Marty and Tracy noted that they were in the early stages of planning a “fun” summer activity. Monica Williams suggested it be in-person.
- Mary Zatina said that WDET is hosting an event on July 22 at the Garden Bowl. There are three levels of tickets available, some include bowling. The chapter could consider a similar fundraiser, and the owners, the Zania family, would be happy to work with us
- Beth Konrad suggested that The Shepard, the new arts complex in Detroit, would make an excellent venue.
- Monica suggested a more informal event, like a picnic in a park. Peg McNichol said it could be something to bring the whole family, too.
- Tracy mentioned the Belle Isle Pavilion, which would require a state park pass.
- Kelley Root suggested a rooftop gathering for drinks and snacks.
- Tracey said she would do some price checking.
- The optimum date would be mid-August to permit adequate time for planning.

FOIA – Beth Konrad

- Beth said that there were no recent developments on FOIA legislation and didn't expect to see any progress until after the election.

Membership – Rob Davidek

- Rob said that we gained three members (from 40 to 43). Overall, there are 106 members across Michigan, including non-affiliated members.
- Rob put out a survey on June 17 to all members but suggested we re-send it to encourage greater participation. Tracy added that perhaps a Google form could include a box for comments.

Communications – Kelley Root

- Kelley discussed the change to a new web vendor. The prior vendor's charges continued to increase, demanding a lot of money for little benefit. Walter Middlebrook reached out to Vince McCraw regarding NABJ's web site contractor, Dorothy Hall.
- Kelley noted that Dorothy is good to work with and thought the redesign was more modern and visually appealing. She has acted quickly to incorporate board members' suggestions to the site, including board member contact information, links, job links, FOIA documents and other resources.
- The website should be public soon.

- Marty said we also added the minutes for previous board meetings and would continue to do so.

Board Elections – Walter Middlebrook

- Walter said there are four board members whose terms are up this year. If eligible, they will be asked if they want to run for re-election.
- It was suggested that we send out a message to membership about the coming election.
- The general membership will be asked if any of them want to nominate themselves or other members for a board position.

Financial – Walter Middlebrook

- Walter said that as of June 30, our balances were:

○ Checking	15,595.92
○ Scholarship Savings	3,278.25
○ E*Trade	11,969.05
○ PayPal	<u>2,557.33</u>
Total	33,400.56
- Walter noted that we been a banquet analysis.
- Walter will prepare a budget for 2024-25.

Peg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:57 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 11, at 8 a.m.

Committee Assignments (chairs in bold text)

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- Programs: **Tracy Wolf**, Katrease Stafford, Walter Middlebrook, Beth Konrad, Ro Coppola, Mark Lee, Monica Williams
 - Membership Outreach: **Rob Davidek**, Marty Fischhoff, Walter Middlebrook
 - Communication Committee: **Kelley Root**, Rob Davidek
 - FOIA: **Beth Konrad**, Ro Coppola, Kelley Root, Mary Zatina, Peggy McNichol
 - Banquet: **Tracy Wolf**, Marcia Hart, Monica Williams
 - Campus Outreach: **Beth Konrad**, Kelley Root
 - Finance/Fundraising: **Walter Middlebrook**, Marty Fischhoff
 - Bylaws and elections (nominating committee): **Walter Middlebrook**, Beth Konrad, Marty Fischhoff
 - Contest: **Walter Middlebrook**
 - Scholarship: **Kelley Root**, Beth Konrad, Annalise Frank
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