

Denver Press Club and Press Benevolent Association Membership Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2019, at 6 p.m.

1. Quorum, Call to Order

- a. Quorum is 22 members; Gaveled in with 23 members at 6:03

2. President's remarks: Dan Petty

- a. Electronic balloting for this election
- b. Recognition of board members
 - i. Programming in 2018 - 88 events; 57 programming; Skyler taking over
- c. Recognition of staff
- d. Current membership: 430 members
- e. Runyon: Most profitable since 2009. Made \$43K
- f. Hall of Fame: Made \$11K
- g. Finances: In the black \$42.5K
- h. Passed member Code of Conduct: General rule is "Don't be a Jackass"
- i. New website coming
- j. Charging non-members for events, using Eventbrite
- k. Caricature wall, with a lot of space for more folks
- l. Honoring members who have passed away
- m. Upcoming initiative
 - i. Co-working
 - ii. #DPC2025
 - iii. Podcasting forums
 - iv. Programming initiatives
- n. Recognition of Election Committee
- o. Thanks to the membership

3. Treasurer's report, Kevin Vaughan: 6:22 p.m.

- a. \$42K for FY2018 (ended Feb), best OP since 2009 not counting for tax writeoff in FY2017
- b. Started the FY Mortgage \$250K; \$10K LOC; Paid Mortgage down \$10K and paid off LOC
- c. Monthly trivia competition now has sponsor and teams paid some \$ to participate
- d. Challenges:
 - i. Membership with dwindling newspaper staff
 - ii. The building itself: roof, brick facade
 - 1. Working on securing grants
 - 2. Established a goal to repair and refurbish by 2025, the building's 100th anniversary

- iii. Questions: Left on the mortgage: \$249K - Last year we renegotiated to a more favorable rate; we have a property tax exemption
- iv. Question: What can individual members do? If every member donated \$50, it would cover mortgage for the year. If History Colorado grant comes through, we'll be needing to match \$72K - Looking at other options, including giving membership benefits, endowments -
- v. Comment: Expand membership drives, at news organizations. Corporate membership planning.
- vi. Comment: Used to have an "Available for rentals" banner
- vii. Comment: Are there business-class membership?
- viii. Question: Nearby development? Should we purchase our airspace? Hotel
- ix. Question: What are you doing for freelancers? Skills classes, mixers, newsletter announcements

4. Building update: Jim Clarke, 6:48 p.m.

- a. Applied for Colorado Historical Fund for 2nd time (rejected in January)
- b. Fixing roof, A/V, electrical
- c. Gates Family Foundation invited us to apply for grant; president will be touring next week
- d. Looking at 3 phases - 2nd to make it ADA compliant; 3rd is exterior brick work and historically accurate windows

5. Manager's Report: Tom Foutch, 6:52 p.m.

- a. Salute to success of club, but we have a lot of work to do, but it's achievable. It is important that we accomplish that which we set out to do.
- b. Operationally, it's a challenge. Programming is a struggle but thrilled about where we are vs. where we were.
- c. Question: What type of events are best for us? What would be ideal to have? Look at events in a 2-tier structure: Corporate, business could be here and could pay the bills. Competition is relentless - but here's what we want:
 - i. Want to take every possible event that is profitable and we are capable of doing it and doing it well.
 - ii. Pursue the mission of the club and find committed programming to the pursuit of ethical journalism, and 40-50 people every night.

6. Election results: 6:58 p.m.

- a. 23 ballots, and 16 electronic. 10 people running for 11 positions;
- b. New board members: Laura Frank, Noelle Phillips, Megan Jurgemeyer

7. Public Comment: 7:01 p.m.

- a. Lots of support for the e-ballots
- b. Upcoming events: Columbine, Next Fifty Initiative
- c. New membership cards

8. Adjourn | 7:07 p.m.