

**Minutes of the IBMA Board of Directors Meeting  
September 23-24, 2019 - Raleigh, NC (WOB)**

Members Present: Regina Derzon, Joe Mullins, Ben Surratt, Bob Webster, Marian Leighton Levy, Dan Boner, Mike Simpson, Jamie Deering, Kenny Smith, Claire Armbruster, Jeremy Darrow, Ashley Moyer, Chris Pandolfi, Kyle Cantrell, Adam Engelhardt, Michelle Conceison, Stephen Mouglin and Joe Newberry. Silvio Ferretti joined the meeting in the afternoon.

Others Present: Paul Schiminger (IBMA Executive Director), Holly Gregory (Attorney, Sidley Austin LLP) and Chris Joslin (Executive Director, Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum).

Monday, September 23, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. (Eastern) by Board Chair, Joe Mullins.

It was MOVED (Ben Surratt) and SECONDED (Joe Newberry) to approve the minutes of the June 10-11, 2019 meeting as presented. VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Dan Boner presented a recommended revised Mission Statement to expand on the education aspect of bluegrass music. (Handout) It was MOVED (Stephen Mouglin) and SECONDED (Marian Leighton Levy) to accept the proposed Version 2. VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed. The wording was changed from "Education fosters a culture of learning at all levels" to "Education & Research help us understand that bluegrass music is part of a larger historical, social, and professional/commercial context. We are committed to preserving legacies of bluegrass while also cultivating and inspiring rising generations of tradition bearers and creators."

\*\*\*Ben Surratt (Chair of the Diversity Task Force) presented a report of the task force's work to date. He noted that the plan is a part of what the Women's Council has been discussing. Both documents will be shared with the folks who will be attending the follow-up meeting regarding the Diversity Task Force. Paul Schiminger also noted that the recently adopted Anti-Harassment Policy is included in the program guide for WOB. IBMA is addressing the issue of the venues that are not accessible and are seeking other options. It was MOVED (Ben Surratt) and SECONDED (Marian Leighton Levy) to allow the Task Force to distribute the documents to the extended discussion group and update the general membership. VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Paul Schiminger discussed the work of the branding consultant. The consultants will be interviewing several participants during the week of WOB.

Approved by the Board of Directors: XXX

Paul Schiminger presented an update on the Bluegrass Trust Fund. There were 9 grants totaling \$56,500 the previous year. There are 5 members of the Trust Fund board.

Ron Raxter gave an update on the search for an Executive Director of PineCone to replace William Lewis. Jamie Dawson and Ron Raxter are co-chairs of the search committee. Once a new ED is hired, he/she will take over the role of being the festival producer on behalf of IBMA.

Paul Schiminger presented the update of the World of Bluegrass event which included reports on business conference sales, ticket sales and sponsorship. Claire Armbruster gave an update on the Awards Show.

After a break, the Board was joined by representatives from the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the Raleigh/IBMA event. Loren Gold and Mara Craft from the Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau and Raleigh Convention Center, respectively. William Lewis, out-going Executive Director of PineCone (Piedmont Council of Traditional Music) and former IBMA Board member. They presented data from 2018 WOB with regard to attendance and economic impact. It is estimated that the impact from the most recent event (2018) was about \$12.7 million. IBMA is Raleigh's biggest curated event.

Paul Schiminger presented the report of the Executive Director. He provided a staff update and an overview of the status of the operations within IBMA. The Membership Report was included in the handouts. The Board had an extensive conversation regarding ideas about growing the IBMA membership.

The Financial Report was presented which included the final FYE June 30, 2018 audit, report for FYE June 30, 2019, and the final budget for FYE 2020. The audit was accepted by the Board as presented. It had been electronically distributed previously. The financial statements were thoroughly reviewed.

Regina Derzon reviewed the expiring Board seats that will require an election in the spring of 2020 (to be seated at the conclusion of the May/June 2020 Board meeting). Those 3 Board members who are not eligible to run again due to the limit on consecutive terms are Regina Derzon, Jamie Deering and Stephen Mouglin. There are a total of 6 Board seats for which an election must be held. Four are member-elected seats and 2 are Board-appointed seats. Joe Mullins will appoint a Nominating Committee (according to the Bylaws) in the next couple of months. The work will begin by the end of the year.

Daniel Boner presented an update on the New Awards Task Force. The Board discussed ways to encourage submission of nominees for various Industry (Special) Awards. Paul Schiminger presented a handout illustrating IBMA voter participation during 2017 through 2019 for IBMA awards, Hall of Fame and Industry (Special) awards.

Approved by the Board of Directors: XXX

Silvio Ferretti introduced discussion of what IBMA should do to overcome the unfair and risky obstacles that non-USA members (and musicians in general) have to deal with when they try to come and play in the USA. While several board members commented on encouraging and supporting all efforts of international artists, no action items were presented.

Marian Leighton Levy suggested a social hour for past and present Board members at future IBMA events.

The Board adjourned for the day at 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

The Board reconvened at 8:00 a.m. Guests in attendance were Wendy Tyner (Treasurer of the IBMA Foundation) and Nancy Cardwell Webster (Administrator, IBMA Foundation). The IBMA Foundation is the philanthropic organizations that supports programs and initiatives fostering the growth of bluegrass music. Nancy gave a report on the impressive activities of the Foundation during the past year. A summary report was provided to the Board. The IBMA Foundation Board meets every other month.

It was MOVED (Stephen Mougin) and SECONDED (Ben Surratt) that Michael Webb be appointed as a Board member of the IBMA Foundation immediately with a term expiration date of June 30, 2022. VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Holly Gregory (Attorney, Sidley Austin LLP) presented the annual fiduciary duty review for all Board members. The Board expressed its continuing gratitude to Holly and Sidley Austin for their generous work for IBMA.

Chris Joslin (Executive Director, Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum) gave a brief update on the first year of the Museum.

The Board discussed the issue of visas for international musicians.

Steve Chandler and Greg Fuson (of Chandlerthinks) gave a presentation about branding for IBMA and its various components. A follow-up report will be delivered around the end of the year.

It was MOVED (Stephen Mougin) and SECONDED (Jeremy Darrow) to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Directors: XXX

Regina Warner Derzon  
Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors: XXX