

Friends of Lorine Niedecker
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, June 21, 2021 via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members present: Ann Engelman, Amy Lutzke, Tom Montag, Karl Gartung, Chuck Stebelton, Dot Kent, Laura Solomon, Ronnie Hess, Nancy Shea

1. **Call to order/Welcome Laura Solomon** – The meeting was called to order by President Ann Engelman at 6:30 p.m. Engelman introduced Solomon, co-Executive Director at Woodland Pattern in Milwaukee as a potential new board member. Laura described her role at WP and her previous experiences.
2. **Motion to approve Laura Solomon as a member of the Board of Directors** – Motion passed unanimously (Montag, Gartung).
3. **Approval of Minutes from e-mail meetings September 23, 2020 and April 15, 2021.** Minutes approved unanimously (Hess, Gartung).
4. **Treasurers Reports: final 2020 report; 2021 to date.** Reports approved unanimously (Montag, Hess).
5. **Overview of new options and current thinking**
 - a. Expand the board
 - Larger executive committee (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer)
 - Engelman shared that Amy will continue as Treasurer, we would add new Secretary position. In order to proceed with the plans discussed below, the FOLN will need to increase board meetings to monthly.
 - Add members with resources (Lawyer, Accountant, Non-profit consultant, Special Collections)
 - Board members with particular skill sets will be important as the Friends of Lorine Niedecker add a paid staff position. Current board members were asked to think of any individuals with these skills that may be potential board members. With the expanded board, the first order of business will be to review the FOLN bylaws.
 - b. Prepare for hiring a full time/part time position for two years with benefits.
 - Job description – Amy is working on a position description for an Executive Director. We need a committee to work on this with her. Tom, Laura and Karl agreed to be on that committee. Steel said he would be happy to be a reviewer of drafts.

- Raise funds for position with benefits for two years – Laura shared that she has two funding sources that she believes would be very interested in helping fund an ED position: the Poetry Foundation and The General Federation of Women’s Clubs – Wisconsin.
 - National search – this item was not discussed
- c. Timeline – this item was not discussed
6. Motion to move forward – A motion to expand the board of directors to gain additional resources and networks and begin process to move FOLN to a self-sustaining organization with a paid Executive Director position passed unanimously (Montag, Kent).
7. Next meetings – meetings will be the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. Next dates:

Monday, July 19, 6:00
Monday, August 16, 6:00
Monday, September 20, 6:00
Monday, October 18, 6:00
Monday, November 15, 6:00
Monday December 20, 6:00
Monday, January 17, 6:00

Items for the July 19 agenda will include: Review board member nominations, Review ED job description, draft timeline for the year.

8. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.