

Friends of Lorine Niedecker
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 20, 2021, 6:00-7:00 via Zoom
MINUTES

Present: Karl Gartung, Steel Wagstaff, Laura Solomon, Chuck Stebelton, Dot Kent, Ronnie Hess, Amy Lutzke
Absent: Ann Engelman, Merrilee Lee

1. Call to order – Amy called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes from August 16, 2021 – approved unanimously. (Gartung, Wagstaff)
3. Updates:
Laura - NEA grant application – The grant is for \$50,000 over two years. This money can be used for a salary. Awards will be announced the end of December.
Amy – Third draft of ED position description went to Laura and Chuck for NEA grant. At this time the group determined they need to develop a budget and plan salary/benefits. This way we can determine exactly how much money needs to be raised to be in a position to hire. Note: could free, local housing be a benefit?
4. Board Member Discussion – Steel reviewed the updated board skills matrix with his analysis of current board member skills. The group discussed how to prioritize the first round of board member additions. Ann had indicated we should start with two board members. However, we are now losing three current members and should consider replacing them. Nancy Shea and Tom Montag have indicated their desire to step down and Dot shared that sentiment at this meeting. The group agreed that legal and financial expertise are primary as they will bring skills to assist with hiring an ED and developing a new financial structure.
Laura shared a breakdown of the skill areas of those who have been nominated. The group weighed the merits of several candidates. Jeremiah Beitzel (law/nonprofit), Krystal Languell (finance), David Pavelich (library/archives) and Jeffrey Leppendorf (various skills) were considered as the first round. We will communicate with Ann about our plan to ask these individuals about their willingness to join the board. If acceptable, Steel will confirm with David Pavelich, Laura will confirm with Krystal Languell, Chuck will speak with Jeffrey Leppendorf, Amy is communicating with Jeremiah Beitzel.
5. Karl – Flora Coker has recorded Niedecker’s fiction pieces which we will upload to lorineniedecker.org. Rebecca Brown, fiction writer, essayist & critic will write the next “What Region” monograph. It will be on Niedecker’s fiction.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

For the October Meeting:

Update on Write On Door County partnership.
Executive Director position salary/benefits
Conversation about “who could be our funders?”

Next meetings:

Monday, October 18, 6:00
Monday, November 15, 6:00
Monday December 20, 6:00
Monday, January 17, 6:00