

September 22, 2020 Minutes of GATe Board of Directors Special Meeting

Special meeting to elect officers following the Annual Membership Meeting from Sept. 13, 2020

Submitted by Claude Aubert, Secretary, September 25, 2020

Attendance: Frank Gervasi (President, reelected), René Sewell-Raysor (Treasurer, reelected), Ric Gordon (Secretary; elected Vice-President), Claude Aubert (member; elected Secretary), Rev. Ray Raysor (member), Maria Silvia Miller (member), Diana McFadden (member), John Campanile (member), Phoebe McFarb (staff)

Absent: Mayor Colin Byrd (City Council Liaison)

Meeting started at 7:10pm.

Frank Gervasi announced the order in which the officers would be elected:

1) secretary, 2) treasurer, 3) vice-president, 4) president

Rev. Ray Raysor requested to make a statement before voting starts. He argued that there were controversies involving the current president and asked the board members to make a new start.

- **Vote for Secretary:** Frank Gervasi nominated Claude Aubert, no other nomination, no discussion. Claude Aubert was elected secretary, Rev. Ray Raysor opposed.
- **Vote for Treasurer:** Ric Gordon nominated René Sewell Raysor. No other nominations, no discussion. René was elected unanimously.
- **Vote for Vice President:** Rev. Ray Raysor nominated Ric Gordon. No other nominations, no discussion. Ric Gordon was elected unanimously.
- **Vote for President:** Claude Aubert nominated Frank Gervasi, and Rev. Ray Raysor nominated John Campanile. John Campanile respectfully declined, due to being new to the board. Frank Gervasi was elected president, Rev. Ray Raysor and René Sewell-Raysor were opposed.

Rev. Ray Raysor requested the chair direct the secretary to write a letter to Council Member Hawkins on GATe letterhead on behalf of the board stating that he and René did not take any money and have it signed by the secretary and the president.

Frank wanted to talk about goals for GATe. One goal is board education: In past years, GATe typically had \$5,000 set aside in the budget for board and staff education. Last year we only spent about \$20 on some books. We could set \$5,000 aside this year and use it for a facilitator to help us function better as a board.

René would like board training to be mandatory and suggested that the administrative committee should be in charge of interviewing candidates. René committed to finding several people that would be willing to do the board training.

John Campanile presented his idea (he pointed out it was originally Konrad Herling's idea) of trying to get community members' comments on video on certain topics and edit them into a combined piece. Suggested project title: "Greenbelt Talks." Advertising through social media, *Greenbelt News Review* and personal outreach. Everyone loved the idea, John agreed to take the next steps to get it going.

Ric suggested the two new members say a few words. Diana McFadden explained that she is excited about what GATe has come to represent, a source of culture, news, information, entertainment and children's education as well. She has lived in Greenbelt years before she explored GATe because it used to be only accessible through cable, and she never had cable. John Campanile is looking forward to initiating or helping with projects that focus on community expression. Has a 30-year career in television.

Frank talked about the plan to have a mini-Utopia Film Festival in October. It would be virtual, using Zoom.

René cautioned that GATe can promote voting, but cannot be partisan.

Maria Silvia talked about the importance of fundraising and the difficulties doing it from afar.

Frank updated the board about the progress of the film-making for schools project.

John asked if we have an inventory of all the equipment GATe owns. Phoebe responded that a list was started but at this point only contained the major pieces of equipment. It will take much more work to complete this inventory.

John asked about the policy regarding accessing the GATe office, now that the Community Center has opened again. Phoebe said she was working on it but was under the assumption that the board would finalize the policy. She agreed to send out what she has formalized so far.

The next regular board meeting will be October 13, 7pm.

Meeting ended at 8:22pm.

Action steps:

- René committed to finding several people that would be willing to do the board training.
- John agreed to get the Greenbelt Talks project going.
- Phoebe agreed to send to the board what she has formalized so far regarding a policy for using the GATe studios safely.