

March 22, 2016

Jamie Kiechlin started the meeting at 6:31 pm. He commended all board members for their hard work.

Members in attendance were:

Alan Goldstein	Jamie Kiechlin	Sam Schaen
Alan Tolk	Judy Graham	Sandi Croan
Beth Morris	Kevin Egan	Tami Stieger
Bill Millhouser	Melanie Marts	Tom Brett
Bob Friedman	Mike Whalen	Willa Friedman
Brian Payne	Paula Neumann	Willa Siegel
Fran Bastress	Ron Taylor	

Membership Status Report

Judy Graham, Membership Coordinator, reported on the status of the 2015 – 2016 Club Year membership, as of March 20. Thus far, there are 244 members, including 240 who have paid through 2016 and 4 who are lifetime members. The number joining between 6/1/15 and 3/20/16 was 74. The number renewing from 2014 - 2015 was 166. The change in membership from the prior year was -7%. The 2014 – 2015 club year membership included 263 individuals, 97 of whom did not renew their membership for the 2015 – 2016 Club Year. A discussion ensued about various things related to membership, including the fact that NVPS membership numbers are in line with those of recent years, and the club's turnover is typical of what happens in most clubs regardless of their focus.

Competition Rules Changes

Kevin Egan, Co-VP of Competition, requested a discussion of four things related to possible competition rule changes:

- 1) White mats should be put into the rules, because it's not specified now.
- 2) Photographs should be mounted. (This is in the rules, according to board members.)
- 3) For Class 1 in the digital competition category: Make a change to allow only one versus two images submitted. (Board members agreed to this change.)
- 4) Since it's difficult to locate judges for the club's competition, is it acceptable to use judges who are NVPS members? The discussion involved the possibility of using inactive members, two of whom have judged for us in the recent past. (Kevin will write up and circulate his recommended wording on this.)

Policy on Meeting Cancellations due to Weather

Jamie Kiechlin facilitated a wide-ranging discussion with board members about whether to leave the inclement weather policy on meeting cancellations as is or to revise it. The existing policy is found on the website at http://nvps.org/home/?page_id=21:

In case of snowy and icy conditions, NVPS follows the closing schedule for Fairfax County Public Schools as announced on TV and radio stations. On the web, you can try wtopnews.com. If in doubt, call a Board Member.

Alan Goldstein made a motion to leave the policy as it is, and Willa Siegel seconded it. (However, based on the discussion, the assumption was that the reference to calling a board member would be omitted from the policy.) Jamie proposed posting the revised policy on the website. Other members suggested additional ways of alerting the membership to meeting cancellations, including blast emails, Facebook, and reminding them during winter months to check the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) website. Jamie will do a rewrite of the snow policy, so board members can discuss it at the March 29 board meeting.

The meeting ended soon after 7 pm.

March 29, 2016

Jamie Kiechlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Members in attendance were:

Alan Goldstein	Georgette Grossman	Ron Taylor
Alan Tolk	Jamie Kiechlin	Sam Schaen
Bill Millhouser	Judy Graham	Sandi Croan
Bob Friedman	Kevin Egan	Tom Brett
Brian Payne	Mike Whalen	Willa Friedman
Dale Nelson	Paula Neumann	Willa Siegel
Fran Bastress	Roger Lancaster	

Policy on Meeting Cancellations due to Weather

Jamie proposed a shortened version of the inclement weather cancellation policy, and members agreed after adding the FCPS website as another source of information. The revised policy now reads:

In case of inclement weather conditions, NVPS follows the closing schedule for Fairfax County Public Schools as announced on TV, radio stations, and the Fairfax County Public Schools website.

Competition Rules Changes

Kevin Eagan distributed copies of the current NVPS Rules of Competition in which he incorporated proposed changes (in bold), similar to what he discussed in the March 22nd board meeting.

C. Eligibility:

“Only **NVPS** Club Members are eligible to enter **Club** competitions.

- **Members competing in each Class (1, 2, and 3) can enter a maximum of 3 images. One image can be entered into each of the 3 competition categories: Color Prints, Monochrome Prints, and Digital Images.**

E. Presentation of Prints:

Additional wording added to the Rules of Competition: “**Mounting is to consist of Polystyrene or Foam Core Backing Board either 1/8 or 3/16 in thickness. (Please note that 3/16 is required for print submissions to Nature Visions), and a Mat Board of at least a 4 ply thickness (.05 to .06 inches). The Mat Board must be white. Mounted prints must not exceed 20” in height and 40” in width to accommodate the light box. All Prints and Mat Boards must be securely mounted to the Backing Board, so that . . .**”

“**Entries will not be eligible for competition if they are not mounted as noted above . . .**”

“**The name of the maker, the title of the print, the Class and Category in which it is being entered, and the capture date must appear on the back of the Backing Board, along with an arrow that indicates ‘this edge up’.** Neither the name of the maker nor the title of the print may appear on the print or **the Mat Board.**”

After a discussion of Kevin’s proposed changes, Bob Friedman made a motion to accept the changes. Sam Schaen seconded the motion. It passed with one board member dissenting from the majority.

Given that Rules of Competition are part of the Constitution & Bylaws, a vote by the membership at a general meeting is necessary to effect these changes. According to the Constitution, the vote must be announced to the membership six days before being held.

Sharing Members’ Email Addresses with Nature Visions

Roger Lancaster’s proposed motion was for NVPS to provide Nature Visions Photo Expo our email list of members, with the provision that the list only be used to communicate

Information about the expo and not be given to other third parties. In support of Roger Lancaster’s motion and to remove ambiguity about the proposed policy changes, Sam Schaen distributed information covering the various NVPS membership lists and three options for the degree to which members might exercise control over sharing their

information with Nature Visions (opt-in, opt-out, and no option). The consensus of the Board was to use the opt-out option.

Related to the legality of sharing members' emails with Nature Visions, Jamie had his company's lawyer evaluate the NVPS Privacy Policy. The lawyer pointed out several areas of the policy in need of strengthening. Jamie read these to the group, and he will later circulate the legal changes for a board member vote. The discussion ended with Sandi Croan motioning to share the NVPS membership emails with Nature Visions. Georgette Grossman seconded the motion. Acceptance of the motion was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Brett reviewed the specifics of his report, which he distributed to board members. The following covers the key points, as of March 28:

- The current NVPS bank balance was \$16,058.
- The meeting hall rent for the club year will total \$4,900.
- Expenses to 3/28 were \$3,932 including: \$500 for insurance, \$533 for competition ribbons, \$1,128 for Spudz lens cloth gifts to judges and speakers, \$452 for Membership (will cover more than one year), \$225 for digital projector and laptop calibration. (Ribbons and Spudz expenses will cover ~three years.)
- Other recurring expenses expected before end of the club year: EOY Competition ribbons and awards, EOY banquet subsidy, and NVPS membership fee in the Photographic Society of America (PSA).
- Expenditures by VPs of Competitions have been within budget and in line with previous years.
- Income from dues was \$9,442, and additional people are expected to pay for membership.
- Income from the sale of Spudz was \$180.
- End-of-Year Banquet: Income was \$3,531 and expenses were \$3,907 from last year's banquet. The NVPS subsidy was \$376 (~\$500 lower than in previous years, due to the lower cost of the Waterford). Subsidies have enabled NVPS to retain the \$35 banquet fee for members. Based on NVPS's continued financial stability, Tom recommended a banquet subsidy of up to \$1,000 to keep the per person fee at \$35 when paid in advance of the banquet

End-of-Year Banquet

Dale Nelson announced that The Waterford in Fair Oaks was unavailable for June 3rd or 10th, so he tentatively reserved the same room we had last year at The Waterford for the 17th. Dale checked other venues, but they were either too expensive or had insufficient space for the NVPS photography displays. He negotiated a dinner price at Waterford of \$32.50, an increase over last year's \$29.50, but less than the stated price of \$34.40. With the reduced dinner price, the total cost would be \$3,895 for the minimum of 80 people. The 2015 minimum for 80 persons was \$3,354.75, but 92 people attended which raised the total

venue cost to \$3,801. With the current pricing, the total venue cost for 92 attendees would be \$4,395—an increase of \$593.73 over last year's cost. * Several board members expressed concern about not attracting sufficient participants for the event, given the late date, and stressed that we should reserve for 2017 soon after this year's EOY banquet. Kevin Egan made a motion to go with the Waterford venue. Bob Friedman seconded the motion.

*From Dale, after the Board meeting: He recommends that the subsidized price be increased by ten percent, from \$35 last year to \$38.50 this year. This would keep the NVPS subsidy under \$1,000, at \$852.52 for 92 attendees. There are also audio/visual expenses, which were only \$106 last year for the screen rental, because the sound system was donated by Mike Whalen. Since Mike again has offered us the use of his sound system, the screen rental should continue to be under \$125.

The board meeting ended at approximately 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Bastress
Secretary/Historian