

## TIFI Board Minutes

Friday March 13, 2020

12:10 – 1:40 p.m. EST

Present:

Nelle Moffett, Paula Nowick, Catherine Torpey, Hanspeter Mühlethaler, Leslie Ellis, Nancy Falls, Peter Afford (joined later due to time clock change in North America)

Minutes taken by Nancy Falls

Paula informed the group that she will be stepping down as President, and in the interim, she has asked Nelle if she would take over as Interim President until a process for replacing the President is completed. Everyone agreed and supported Nelle. Much gratitude was expressed towards Paula's commitment, dedication and contribution as Board President. We all wished Paula and her husband good health.

Nelle did a Centering. Invited the members to consider the felt sense of what is going on in the world (Covid-19), and the sense of what is going on with TIFI. Group processed their experience.

Agenda

Nelle asked Catherine to provide an elaboration on a conversation they had had regarding TIFI. Catherine's overall sense of TIFI is positive. There has been a lot coming to fruition, due to the efforts over a number of years by many Focusers world-wide. Significant change, uncertainty, and anxiety is common in Post Founder organizations. There are positive indicators to suggest TIFI is moving beyond this phase; including increased interest in the Weeklongs, Conferences and in the Good Will demonstrated by the entire Focusing Community. Catherine also noted the dedication of the Board has contributed to this forward momentum.

There was a brief discussion about accepting the financial statements for 2019. HansPeter expressed his confidence and acceptance of the numbers. Nelle asked if there was anyone who did not want to accept the numbers as presented, there were no comments. When Peter joined the meeting this item was revisited by the Board and a clearer **acceptance of the financial statements from 2019 was confirmed by the Board.**

We did an exercise to prioritize the agenda items for the meeting.

1. Board's vision for TIFI
2. Clarity and agreement on information the Board requests from Catherine
3. TIFI annual report to the Board and the Community
4. Clarification of the Mission Statement before seeking external input
5. Process for Replacing the President

Discussion:

Catherine had previously shared a document through email that outlined tasks and a possible process to update the Strategic Plan. Catherine suggested that the Board take on the role of reviewing and revising the document so that the Board could feel ownership to the content and process. Board needs to agree on the mission statement that can be clear, concise, and guides the development of the plan. She suggested bringing in the ILC early in the process as their perspective may be different and to avoid continually needing to review the process. She encouraged the Board to look at the specifics, what is implicit about the goals and that an iterative process might be best. In order to accomplish the task of creating a document that everyone (Board, ILC, Catherine) can feel good about likely a September deadline might be doable.

Regarding the process, everyone agreed that developing the document was essential. Then we have something specific to solicit input from the community, which is a more efficient means of moving the process forward and ensuring that we are all on the same page. We agreed that it is better to have a dedicated time specific for the Board to review and revise the strategic plan. We want to be able to put our time and energy into the “big Picture” and have one person taking charge of writing the document, ie not to write the document as a group. There were no firm plans on how to move forward but this will be reviewed again at our next meeting. Nancy suggested that we might consider coming together (face to face) to work on the strategic direction. There are many challenges to implementing this suggestion.

The Board agreed that it needs to have the Executive Director produce an Annual Report for 2019 based on a template similar to what was produced in 2016 for the International Focusing Conference in Cambridge. The template will include details on membership, certification, and programs. It is recommended that there be a summary financial statement included. **Catherine put forth a request that she will write the report and that the Board accept it as a “good enough” report. Any suggestions for improvements or additional inclusions could be used to direct the development of the 2020 Annual Report. All were in agreement to Catherine’s request.**

The Board will be requesting additional information required to perform our functions as Board members. **The Board will complete this list through email correspondence and present it to Catherine for discussion and implementation. All were in agreement.**

#### Reports

Leslie indicated that Jan Winhall of Toronto has demonstrated her commitment to the Focusing Institute and would be available to stand for a position on the Board. Paula, who is chair of the Nominating Committee agreed take this information forward to the committee.

Catherine reported that following discussions, the Weeklong, set for the last week of April at the Garrison is being postponed. It is tentatively rescheduled for the week August 16,2020.

Leslie reported that there are 4 proposals to be reviewed for the Gendlin Centre. The Symposium for Gene's work is scheduled. And a simplified version of the Experiencing scale has been developed which may increase research into the efficacy of Focusing.

Peter identified concerns about the state of the website. Catherine indicated that there are special costs allocated in this years' budget to help with changes. She has hired on contract a person to help, Renee. An MVP (Minimum Viable Product) was developed to address some of the significant deficits. Renee, Elizabeth and Joel are continuing to move the process forward. Renee helped to develop the MVP2 which should see the majority of the information transferred over to the new site by the end of May. Peter will connect with Renee to attempt to get all of his questions and concerns about the website addressed.

There has been a change to how the Coordinators Dues are requested. An automatic system was implemented to increase efficiency. Peter noted that he had not yet got his fees statement. Catherine will look into the system and process to ensure there are no glitches.

The Evaluation of the Executive Director was the final issue discussed. It was decided that the discussion would be taken to an "in-camera" session of the Executive. Catherine transferred the Meeting Host to Hanspeter.

The Board meeting concluded at 1:40 pm.