Harvard Club of Southern Arizona

Meeting Minutes August 28, 2021

Meeting held using Zoom. Attendance: Jody Williams, Alison Hughes, Martha Tullis, Marilyn Heins, Bob Kamilli, Mike Norman, George Timson, Chris Tanz, John Levin,

Following roll call by Alison, George indicated that his role in the Club is to disseminate email notices using a listing of 200 people he received from Sheila Tobias, immediate past Club president, prior to her death. Earlier in the year Josh Polachik volunteered to be Club president, but shortly thereafter he disappeared without notice. In his last email George informed members that with Sheila’s death, [and the disappearance of Josh] the club is now leaderless, and our task is to find someone willing to assume that role.

There was discussion of the title of the Club leader title which, according to existing Bylaws, is “Convener.” George referred to a past Club Coordinating Committee which included Chris Tanz, Jody Williams, and Bob Kamilli who were in attendance at today’s meeting. He noted also that Marilyn Heins served as a past president, and thereby played a role on the Committee according to the Bylaws. Alison noted the current Bylaws were completed by Sheila Tobias with assistance from Club members and submitted to Harvard University Clubs office which did not object to the content.

Jody noted that Lyndsay Kelly at the Harvard Clubs offices distributes notices on behalf of Clubs and has distributed the flyer about a gem show trip Jody has organized for September. When asked if others received this notice directly from Harvard, no one noted having received it from this source. Jody noted she frequently receives notices from the Harvard Club offices.

Mike Norman and Martha Tullis each noted they are attending today’s meeting because they hoped to be of some help to the Club. Neither is interested in assuming the leader role at this time.

George noted that the past practice under Sheila’s leadership was with the assistance of two women Sheila hired at personal expense who managed the Club Website and event organizing including preparation of materials such as name tags for events, and collecting money during events. Neither woman is available to continue this work. George also noted he is happy to relinquish his role managing the Listserv to someone else

Jody asked for volunteers to help to check people in during the Gem show event on September 18. Martha volunteered to assist.

Further discussion ensued regarding a volunteer to assume the Club leader role. This led to discussion of the Club structure as represented in the current Bylaws. George noted that Margaret Halaby has reviewed the Bylaws and suggested some changes for consideration. He will share a copy of the document with the revisions to people attending this meeting.

Jody reported that she has lined up speakers for monthly meetings through December this year and will need volunteers to help at the reception area.

Jody suggested that in the absence of a Club President, the Club adopt the concept of a Vice President who will be ready to step into the President’s role when terms are up. Alison suggested the formation of a Bylaws Committee to review Bylaws and recommend changes for Club adoption and submission to Harvard University. Jody agreed to contact Harvard to ask that they send a copy of standard Club Bylaws we might use during consideration of changes.

John Levin reported on the death of Peter Solomon a month ago as was noted in a bulletin from the Art Museum. Regarding Club support, John queried if Harvard University might provide regular technical assistance similar to that received by the Chicago Club. Jody noted she received an e-mail list of 500 graduates living in the area, she received from Lyndsay at Harvard Clubs office in Cambridge, and is expecting an updated list.

There was discussion about which list is current. George said will be happy to relinquish the role of sending emails to Harvard alumnae.

Marilyn Heins suggested another meeting to discuss Bylaws when we each have a copy of the document to refer to. George reiterated that will see that everyone gets a copy of the current Bylaws, with the changes recommended by Margaret, and John also agreed to review the document.

Jody reported that she has speakers lined up through December for Harvard alumnae with arrangements made with Pastiche restaurant for lunch, with no contract signed. She is also talking with the Arizona Inn regarding availability to continue events at this venue when it re-opens for meetings.

Bob Kamilli noted that the Club needs to continue to discuss the issue of finding a Club leader since no one attending the meeting is able to volunteer. Alison motioned, Bob seconded, that the group attempt to agree on a leader today. As no one volunteered, it was agreed to meet again on Saturday, October 2 at a time to be announced by Jody who will arrange the Zoom meeting.

Notes by Alison