



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Minutes
Board of Directors
July 10, 2020
12pm - 2pm Eastern US Time

Attendance: Leslie Ellis (President and Chair), Catherine Torpey, Paula Nowick, Hanspeter Muehlethaler Nancy Falls, Peter Afford, Nelle Moffett

1. Attunement/ Check in
 - a. Peter offered an attunement
2. Approval of minutes from June
 - a. Further revisions of the June minutes are required. Leslie will send minutes for revisions by email. June minutes to be approved at the August meeting.
3. Portfolios
 - a. Finance – Hanspeter Muehlethaler
 - i. 2nd quarter ended June 30
 - ii. A summary of Q-2 will be provided next meeting
 - b. Fundraising – Nancy Falls
 - i. Board members are committed to making calls
 - c. Gendlin Centre – Leslie Ellis
 - i. Grant awarded with modifications to the study
 - ii. Felt Sense Conference date may need to change
 - d. Affiliates - Nelle
 - i. Confirmed previous discussions that this portfolio is to be put on hold, with the outcome pending wider strategic thinking to identify a specific purpose
 - e. Governance – Paula
 - i. Nothing new to report
 - f. Web Site – Peter deferred to Catherine
 - i. Early days with Giant Rabbit who are taking over the site. Working with Joel to ensure transition – very much a work in progress
 - ii. Web committee to work with Giant Rabbit to determine next steps and identify priorities. The site in its current form is not “International friendly”, re time zones, lack of non-English languages, and “othering” language
 - iii. Scott continues to manage the old site and transitioning to Joel; Both sites crashed; however, no major issues ensued
 - iv. Catherine and staff reviewing statistics on new site – Board was interested in investigating tracking to be used on the new site (views / hits – specific to what area; conversion %)
 - g. Programs - Catherine
 - i. Donata’s 4 session workshop was financially extremely successful.
 - ii. Programs offered through the Institute include the week Long, FOT conference,

Focusing highlights, Felt Sense conference. Programs is an area requiring further discussion as part of the larger strategic plan

4. Executive Directors Report
 - a. Week Long is moving on-line. Has been a difficult transition but the team is excited. May need more Coordinators to lead small group sessions.
 - b. FOT Conference to go online, Ann Weiser Cornell to offer a pre-conference for therapists. Date was moved to 2020 in large part for needed income.
 - c. Children's Focusing Certification. Although not a Board decision, the Board expressed an interest in being kept informed. ILC is overlooking the issue and will bring a recommendation to the Board. May provide a model for other specialty certifications
5. Donata Schoeller's request for TIFI to be an "international partner" for a research project she is involved with, called Deepening International Research in Embodied Critical Thinking (DIRECT)
 - a. Consensus in supporting Donata and the DIRECT research project. Leslie to write the letter.
6. Focusing Initiatives
 - a. There was further discussion of the issue with Focusing Initiatives. Leslie, Paula and Catherine to assess the next steps and what action is to be taken to assert our rights.
7. Board Responsibilities
 - a. August will be a time for Board members to express their interests in portfolio. Leslie declared that she does not have the band width to continue in the role of President. Hans Peter is nearing the end of his 3 year term.
 - b. Discussed what we are looking for in a Board member. Agreement to continue the exploration on-line with roles, responsibilities, and what key attributes are we looking for in a new Board member
 - c. Process for additions to the Board and ILC will continue to be funneled through the nominating committee.
 - d. It was identified that perhaps Nancy Falls (Board member) and Evelyn Fender Lee (ILC member) could switch roles. No decisions were made and discussions will continue at the next Board meeting
8. Closing: Felt sense of the meeting