



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Trustees

MINUTES

June 12, 2019

Documents sent via email prior to meeting

- Agenda
- Nominating Committee Determining Its Own Procedures document
- Special Envoy for Review of Gendlin Legacy Materials document
- Executive Director's report
- Affiliated Organizations to Consider document
- Nelle Moffit resume and photo
- Peter Afford resume and photo

PRESENT: Paula Nowick, (President), Hanspeter Muehlethaler (Treasurer), Leslie Ellis (Vice President), Dana Ganihar, Catherine Torpey, Sherrie Lynne for minute taking (present for first hour).

NOT PRESENT: Susan Rudnick (Secretary), Nancy Falls

PRIME MOVER: Paula Nowick

I. ATTUNEMENT/CHECK IN

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The Board approved the May minutes.
- Catherine informed the Board that, due to an oversight, the September 2018 minutes had not been formally approved and Sherrie would be sending them out along with the corresponding To-Do list to all the Board members the next day.
- As there was not a to do list generated at the May meeting, the April to do list was reviewed.

IV. PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL ENVOY

- The Board discussed a proposal that Dana Ganihar be named the Board's Special Envoy for review of Gendlin Legacy Materials.
- Dana explained how important this project is for the entire Focusing community.

VOTE: The Board voted to accept the proposal as written.

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V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Catherine submitted a written report and highlighted the following:

- Catherine reported that the Felt Sense Conference was a big success and that it's important that the Institute do fundraising for scholarship money in future years. She stated that if we want diversity, we will have to fundraise for scholarships to help a variety of people attend.
- She announced that the 2020 Weeklong will be in New York and the 2021 Weeklong will be in Ireland.
- Catherine updated the board on the website. She explained that with the soft launch there have been ongoing issues to work out. Our webmaster, Scott, and the web developer are working together and have been ongoingly resolving all the kinks.
- Catherine asked the Board if they would support the idea of bringing in an outside consultant who is an expert on the two platforms we are using, in order to give her an objective assessment about the current status of the website. The Board did not formally vote on this, but the sense of the group was affirmative.

VI. PORTFOLIOS UPDATE /

A. GOVERNANCE (Including Nominations)

- Paula presented nominations (on behalf of the Nominations Committee) for two new Board members: Nelle Moffett and Peter Afford. (they will be replacing Dana Ganihar and Susan Rudnick who are leaving the Board.) She gave a brief description of each nominee.
- **There was a motion to accept Nelle Moffett to the Board. The motion passed.**
- **There was a motion to accept Peter Afford to the Board. The motion passed.**
- The Board agreed to discuss by email the best day and time to meet for future Board meetings to accommodate everyone's schedules.
- Leslie and Hanspeter agreed to reach out to the two new Board members to welcome them.
- Paula described how compatible and motivated the Nominating Committee members are to find the very best candidates.
- The Board discussed item #1 on the Nominating Committee Determining It's Own Procedures document:
*In 2014, the practice was instituted to send notification to the entire membership about who's been nominated **in order to have their consent before making the Board's decision final**. The Nominating Committee believes the time that this practice was advisable has passed, and plans to discontinue this practice. Please note that of course we will send notification to **inform** members of the Board's appointments.*
After a discussion, there was a consensus from the Board that the Nominating Committee can make this procedural choice.
VOTE: The Board voted to approve item #1 of this proposal.

- The Board discussed item #2 on the Nominating Committee Procedures document:
Up until now, when a Board or ILC member's first term ended, they (as an individual) chose whether or not they would serve a second term. The Nominating Committee feels that the wiser practice is not to treat a second term as a given. Going forward, the Nominating Committee will interview those eligible to serve a second term, and will also check with the ILC, the Board and the Executive Director regarding a second term for these individuals. This is a way to affirm that the relationship is working well for all concerned. The Nominating Committee then must nominate the individual for a second term. (Note that this would eliminate the need, articulated in the March Board minutes, for Paula to write up a procedure on the end of members' second terms.)
One member expressed a desire for there to be language making it clear that if there were a problem with a Board member, that the Board speak directly with that person, so that they aren't simply not nominated for a second term, without a conversation directly with them having taken place. It was agreed that Paula and Catherine (perhaps in consultation with the Nominating Committee) would re-word the document to reflect this concern, and would bring the revised document back to the Board for the July meeting.

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B. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

- Hanspeter lead the group in a Focusing exercise as entrée to the discussion on affiliated organizations.
- Catherine read from the Affiliated Organizations document, parts II, V and VI regarding certification. Board members contributed thoughts, ideas and suggestions on this topic. Everyone indicated that further discussions are essential to move this process forward.

VIII. MEETING CLOSED

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 10 at 12noon