



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Trustees

MINUTES
July 8, 2022
Online

Documents sent via email prior to meeting

From Nelle:

- Agenda
- Template for Board Minutes
- Conflict of Interest Form

From Catherine:

- TIFI Board DRAFT Minutes 2022.06 (with CT edits)
- Strategic Conversation Notes 2022.04
- TIFI ED mid-year report to BoD 2022.07
- Annual Report 2021 FINAL
- Financial Report 2022.06

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Florentina Sassoli, Darryl Commings, Veronica Toescu, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Catherine Torpey

GUEST (last half of meeting): Rob Parker

ABSENT: None

I. VISIT FROM NEW COORDINATOR: None for this meeting.

II. ATTUNEMENT: Evelyn led the board attunement.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

There was no quorum for the June 2022 board meeting, therefore there were no formal board minutes to approve; the informal minutes of the June 2022 meeting were approved. The board subsequently approved via email the addition of Veronica Toescu to the board of directors.

IV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS (Nelle)

Annual conflict of interest forms are due from all board members by the next board meeting (August 2022)

V. UPDATE ON NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Flor)

Two potential new board members have been identified and vetted; next steps include follow-up conversations.

VI. UPDATE ON DIVERSITY STATEMENTS (Evelyn)

Both statements on Diversity of Approaches and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion were forwarded to the Coordinators for their deliberation.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Catherine presented her written mid-year ED report.

Catherine and Darryl presented the financial report through June, 2022. Highlights of the report include:

- Year-to-date revenues are below expectation. Donations, especially donations from large donors, tend to come in the latter half of the year. Discussion ensued on planned events that should also help us meet our annual revenue projections.
- Year-to-date expenses overall are tracking as expected

VIII. STRATEGIC CONVERSATION

Coordinator and former Board member Rob Parker joined the meeting to discuss how we might better “brand” Focusing. Catherine opened the conversation expressing that there is a new concern that as automated translation apps come to be used more and more, they are never likely to pick up on our meaning of the word "Focusing." A key takeaway from the discussion came in the form of something Gene Gendlin said frequently, which is that words like “Focusing” have common understandings that do not reflect our intention; therefore, in order to differentiate our intention, an additional word/modifier is likely needed (e.g. “... Focusing”). Rob suggested "Experiential Focusing" as a phrase that Gendlin himself used, especially in his early writings. One board member commented that the phrase "Experiential Focusing" therefore is loyal to Gendlin.

The next Board Meeting will be Friday, August 12 2022, at 12noon (U.S. Eastern time)