



# THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

*Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979*

## **Board of Directors**

### **MINUTES**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Online

#### Documents sent via email prior to meeting.

- Agenda
- Board Minutes 2023.2.10 – Draft.doc
- Procedure for Evaluating ~ED.docx
- ED Goals and Plans for 2022.pdf
- Board Strategic Directions.2022.newsletter.docx
- ED Annual Goals and Plans for 2023 DRAFT 2023.02.pdf

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

ABSENT: Eveline Moor Züllig

#### GUESTS:

Nancy Falls (ILC representative)

Donata Schoeller (new Coordinator)

TAKING MINUTES: Veronica Urioste (Toescu)

- I. Greeting the new Coordinator – Donata Schoeller was welcomed by the Board and congratulated for becoming a Coordinator. She introduced herself and spoke briefly about the work she does as teacher of Gendlin's philosophy, trainer and Focusing Coordinator.
- II. Approval of the minutes – the minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Official welcome to new Board Advisory Member Patrick Duffy – the Board is delighted in welcoming Patrick.
- IV. Attunement: Evelyn Fendler-Lee
- V. Board interactions with the ILC. The Board welcomed Nancy Falls as this month's ILC representative and had a discussion covering these points:
  - To both the Board and ILC it felt important to have the opportunity to welcome someone from the ILC. Nancy shared that 2 meetings with Coordinators have been scheduled in March to meet people and explore what are topics of discussion for them.

- The ILC has recently developed and approved the process that is now in place to become a Coordinator. It has been a long process. There is value in taking the time to reach consensus. The role of the Coordinator is different for different people around the globe.
  - Nancy and the Board began an ongoing conversation regarding the distinct roles of the ILC and the Board. The Board welcomes this conversation with representatives of the ILC at Board meetings every other month.
  - Nelle commented that TIFI does not have a clear current description of the Board and the ILC. She agreed to draft a document describing the role of the ILC and the Board for future discussion.
- VI. Report Progress on synthesizing Coordinator input regarding “Experiential Focusing” – Catherine & Eveline continue to meet once a week to read in detail the responses received from Coordinators. This process is slow. It is rewarding to acknowledge how thoughtful were most responses received. They are 1/3 of the way in assessing these responses. This work was very much appreciated by members of the Board. The Board looks forward to seeing the summary to decide next steps. .
- VII. Adjustments to the 2023 Budget and Accrual vs. Cash accounting – Darryl and Catherine
- The cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Elizabeth Cantor was amended in the yearly budget as it should have been 4% not 3%. This disclosure was appreciated by the Board.
  - Darryl explained that some reporting is done in cash and some in accrual, and that the Board will be informed for a given report which form of accounting is being used.
- VIII. Items for Board Strategic Conversations – Action Items for 2023 by portfolio
- Finance – sustainability. The goal is to increase our base of support to even out cashflow from programs, certification as yearly donations come at the end of the year. It would be helpful to spread our income through the year.
  - Nominating Committee – Wanting to reflect in the positions in TIFI what is in our diversity statement. To increase the representation of other countries.
  - Good Will Call – Invitation for other Board Members to do good will calls. A request was made to inform the board who has already received good will calls. Veronica will communicate this to the Board.
  - Gendlin Centre (GC) – Grants are sponsoring two students. They have added diversity. The GC is its own entity, body. GC is going well, what has been put in action has had an impact. TIFI would like to know if there is anything they can do. Invite the GC also to connect with the Board and make this visible to the Focusing community. Now there are no requests to fundraise for the GC. The book from the GC Conference will be published.
  - Website – no longer a portfolio. The revised Gendlin Library will be available via the new site. The intention was to make the website more user friendly, this is working well.
  - The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Statement is now ready and will be sent out in a couple of weeks. It is important to notice how we live it and translate this statement into action.

- IX. Executive Director Report – Monthly highlights
- Catherine sent a written report prior to the meeting. She briefly highlighted these items:
- Catherine reported on work she is doing with TIFI’s lawyer regarding Gendlin’s intellectual property
  - The Newsletter will be replaced by a News Feed via the website.
  - TIFI has contracted to sell streaming videos via a new platform.
  - The Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) statement has now been translated into several languages and they’ve been uploaded to [focusing.org/board](https://focusing.org/board).
- X. Executive Session: Executive Director Performance Review – The recording of the meeting was stop and Catherine left the zoom meeting.
- a. Identify Executive Director successes and accomplishments in 2022.
  - b. Identify any remaining issues on las years’ action items that still need to be addressed.
  - c. Identify Board requests by Portfolio area.
  - d. Anything more that has not been covered.

*The next Board Meeting will be 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 12noon (U.S. Eastern time)*