



# THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

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

Board of Directors  
MINUTES  
March 14, 2025  
Online

Documents and reports sent via email prior to meeting

- From Nelle Moffett:
  - Agenda (in body of email)
  - VIENNA and Centennial sponsorship fundraising
  - ED report to BoD 2025.03.14
  - Vienna budget for Board 2025.03
  - Board minutes DRAFT February 2025
  - Process for Selecting New TIFI Board Members
  - 2025 TIFI Board Strategic Directions
- From Bill Gayner:
  - Latest goodwill calls (in body of email)

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Bill Gayner, Flor Sassoli, Darryl Commings, Tom Larkin, Eveline Moor-Züllig, Catherine Torpey, Ilse Pieth (for minute taking)

ABSENT: no absences

GUESTS (AT BEGINNING OF MEETING) – no guests

(Please note that due to the US having changed its clocks, all the European members as well as the minute taker were late, so that the order of the agenda was changed.)

**I. Resolution to request pro bono legal representation from Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts**

Catherine explained that there is a legal situation regarding the rights to Eugene Gendlin's intellectual property, and that TIFI's regular pro bono lawyer is not able to assist because his firm also represents the publisher with whom we are trying to resolve the issue. Therefore, she has reached out to Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts to request their help. They require that the Board pass a resolution in order for them to consider the request. Catherine therefore presented the following resolution:

*RESOLVED THAT the Corporation wishes to work with Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts to attempt to secure pro bono legal representation for the following issue: to reach an agreement with Penguin Random House (Bantam Books), the publisher of Focusing, regarding The International Focusing Institute's status as the rightful recipient of royalties and the rightful heir to all rights previously held by Bernard Geis Associates and/or Eugene Gendlin.*

**Decision: This resolution passed unanimously.**

## **II. Executive Director Report**

Catherine submitted a written report and briefly highlighted these items:

- Videos by Nada Lou

Catherine reported on progress toward making Nada Lou's digitized videos available on TIFI's video website.

There will soon be an official recognition & celebration by the Board to express gratitude for Nada's work.

- Intellectual Property / Gendlin legacy

There are a lot of Gene's papers still in boxes in Catherine's office that need to be sorted through. Dana Ganihar and Baruch Brenner are going to go through the material with Catherine in June to see what is worth saving.

- There will be two special online gatherings on Wednesday, April 23 at 9am and 8pm (Eastern time) for the Board to congratulate new Coordinators who have been unable to attend on Fridays at noon Eastern time. It will be a „Meet and Greet“ at a time which is more favorable for people from Asia, Japan, and for observant Jews from Israel, or for anyone who can't meet at the normal Board time.

- Vienna budget:

At the Board's prior request, Catherine and Darryl (Treasurer) presented the Vienna conference budget. and discussed the projections and the impact should there be a deficit, if income were not to match expectations. Darryl expressed his opinion that the projections are reasonable. Of course, there needs to be a focus on bringing in the amount of donations that were budgeted, which Catherine felt were realistic. However, if there turns out to be higher expenses than income, the Board agreed that this event in Vienna is important to celebrate Gendlin, and that, although not optimal, the Board could choose to draw from funds held in reserve.

## **III. ILC and Board Interaction (Eveline)**

- Eveline reported that she had sent a suggestion to the ILC that they assign an individual as a designated liaison to the Board, to fulfill the commitment to regular interaction between the ILC and Board.

## **IV. Goodwill and Gendlin Center (Bill)**

Bill sent a written report in advance regarding two Goodwill calls

- The last Gendlin Center meeting had a good turnout, with good discussions and enthusiasm about their current projects. The Gendlin Center has plans for some presentations and publishing the names of the academics who have responded to their survey.

- Goodwill Calls: Bill reported that he had meetings with several very interesting and committed people. The „reaching out“ is really appreciated. More details were in his email.

## **V. Portfolio reports**

Membership (Tom)

- Regarding Roundtables – the energy seems to be shifting to other events, since there is not a team in place to lead Roundtables at the moment. It is, however, very important to offer free events to members, e.g. Reading Freshly, Pop-Up Focusing (there will be one in April), „Hello-Hello“s. The Hello Hello events are especially geared toward attracting new members to TIFI.

Nominating Committee (Flor):

- The Committee currently consists of 3 people, and as Roberto Larios is leaving. The committee would welcome new people.

*Submitted by Catherine Torpey and Nelle Moffett with assistance from Bill Gayner, from notes by Ilse Pieth*