

The Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center

General Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2020

Conference Call

I. Welcome

Cindy Nicolaides

The meeting which began at 11:05 AM was the first General Meeting held as a conference call. The group's attendance was possibly the highest group ever for a General Meeting. Members attended who would not have been able to do so otherwise. Cindy thanked everyone for their hard work and support of the Medical Center since our last meeting in February. She particularly thanked Katie Frekko and Brooke Kuehnle for their work on the postponed Spring Luncheon. She also thanked Stevie Boggess, Abby Funk and Paget Bahr for compiling the Impact Report.

II. Approval of Minutes

Cindy Nicolaides

Cindy asked for approval of the December minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Introduction of New Members

Emily Reynolds

Emily introduced Dina Brown, Andrea Burridge, Margaret Nelson, Megan Roberts, Kathleen Sandner, Megan Smith, Andrea White and Stephanie Wilson. Last week, Amy Brock and Katie Comstock held a Zoom orientation to welcome the new members. The newsletter which will be coming out soon will feature photos of the new members.

IV. Finance

Mindy Kelly

Cindy thanked Mindy Kelly and her committee noting the current pandemic with all its uncertainty: postponement of the Spring Luncheon and closing of the Gift Shop.

A vote was taken to approve the full commitment of \$500,000 to the 2019 Principal Project - RCSIP, of which \$76,000 was donated by the Auxiliary Board. The motion was approved by Karen Reid, seconded by Sarah Bogan and passed by the Board.

Mindy explained that the appropriation process was different this year due to the pandemic. Over \$600,000 of requests were made by the various hospital departments. While we had approximately \$375,000 available to spend, \$310,767 was appropriated. The Junior Board contributed \$54,000. The excess money was saved for fall when the list of requests may be revisited. The approved appropriations will be distributed in July. Due to the unique circumstances, Rush Philanthropy helped on prioritization of the FY21 Appropriations requests. The vote to approve the Woman's Board's Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was approved by Karen Reid, seconded by Ann Potter and passed by the Board.

(FY21 Appropriations itemization is on file in the WB office and was distributed with the meeting notice)

V. Presentation of 2019 Principal Project Commitment**Sharon Gates**

Sharon expressed her gratitude for the \$500,00 given to RCSIP along with the help of the Auxiliary. After nearly 30 years of receiving the Woman's Board appropriations, this will insure RCSIP's endowment into the future. Our model is now being used in other schools across the nation. Cindy Nicolaides gave special thanks to Susie Healey, Colby Gaines, Buffy Maier, Gwen Geller and Anne Loucks for the money they raised with the 2019 Fall Benefit and 2019 Spring Luncheon. Sharon also thanked Katie Palmer, her committee and Karen Reid.

VI. Winnetka Auxiliary and Junior Board Report**Jeanne McAtamney and Heather Pigott**

There will be a Simpson Academy Diaper Drive – they will forward info to us in the next couple of weeks. Due to the pandemic, there will be no Cooks' Tour this fall. Instead, there will be a virtual fundraiser in September incorporating small businesses in the area. Details will be shared in August.

Since the Jr. Board Fashion Show had to be cancelled, an online raffle and virtual fundraiser for the COVID-19 Response Fund took place and raised \$27,000. The Jr. board will give over \$82,000 to the Medical Center this year. As of the end of April, there are 14 new exec members for 2020-21. Noelle Hunken and Lisa Weis will head the Jr. Board beginning in June, as Heather's term as parent advisor, ends in May.

VII. Fall Benefit**Elizabeth Bigelow, Gwen Geller, Wendy Herb**

Wendy reported that due to the current circumstances and restrictions, the committee has been concurring with Benefit Policy. With the theme being "how to celebrate excellence," their aim is to contribute \$500,000 to The Woman's Board Transformational Fund for the Rush University Cancer Center. On October 2, a Virtual Wine Tasting is planned for individual homes, instead of at Theater on the Lake. They are working on video/zoom to explain the cause. Plans are still in the process of being formed. Cindy encouraged everyone's help as committees are refocused.

VIII. Gift Shop**Melissa Hennessy**

As required by the Medical Center, the Gift Shop which has been closed since March. Tentatively, it will be reopened June 1 with some adjustments and changes.

IX. Website**Anne Tucker**

The website which has been rebuilt from scratch, will become live in June on a new platform. When it is completed, a link will be sent to every Woman's Board member.

X. Announcements**Cindy Nicolaides**

- Cindy thanked the entire Woman's Board for their response to the COVID-19 Response Fund. So far, the Junior Board has contributed \$27,000 and the Woman's Board, without members' matching gifts, has raised \$61,000, so we may get close to contributing \$100,000 towards for the Rush anonymous donor's \$1 million matching gift initiative.

- Wednesday, May 20 – Dr. Lateef will present a Medical Center update via WebEx.
- The Dues, Chapel and Flower, and Board Members' Fund notice will be sent in July. Dues are due September 1.
- Chairmen Reports are due August 1; Officer Reports are due, September 1. Jennifer will send out forms to be able to complete these.

XI. Further Business

Cindy Nicolaides

Due to the pandemic circumstances, several board members have not yet received their Impact Reports. The problem is being addressed with the Palatine (bulk mailing) Post Office, and because these were mailed at the non-profit rate, this also contributes to delays.

Cindy reminded everyone to check your emails for the upcoming newsletter, communications on the fall fundraiser and our future meetings.

XII. Adjournment

Cindy Nicolaides

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Cook
Corresponding Secretary