

BWW Board Meeting
2/15/2018, 6:30-8:30 PM
[110 Main St, Burlington](#)

Attendees:

Lauren Bender
Partridge Boswell
Terry Cleveland
Deena Frankel
Michael Freed-Thall
Rebecca Starks
Danielle Thierry

Meeting will be recorded.

Danielle will provide draft of Jan 18 minutes to Rebecca, who will circulate by email for review/approval.

Election of Michael Freed-Thall to board to fill a vacancy. Unanimous. Filling a position until next April.

1) Programming update (lead: Danielle & Partridge)

Open mic March 12, 7 pm

Gary Margolis will be rescheduled (canceled due to weather).

Deena: where are we with obligations under grant?
On track with spending other than rescheduling the Margolis.

Danielle on workshop leaders: Margaret Grant, Natasha, Terry, and Kelly Bartlett will now be rotating leadership on Wednesdays. Rosa is developing new poetry workshops:
March: What makes a good poem? April: Putting poems into conversations

Karin Ames: podcast conversation workshop went well, will keep doing that.

With extra scheduling, Danielle is starting calendars a couple months out. A question is asked, is it valuable to make public? Meetup calendar is clunky. Answer: These are planning calendars for us to use internally so we don't overlap events. Meetup calendar and website should still be the go-tos for now rather than introducing a third, separate calendar.

Terry- putting together something ? [Terry, do you remember what you said? I couldn't hear it]

Goal: Strengthening & diversifying workshop offerings. Partridge offered to visit and observe workshops.

Michael introduces discussion of MFA-style workshop, suggests alternatives, Terry and Rebecca discuss. Deena: turn it over to a programming committee

Feb 28: Danielle & Rebecca will lead new member meeting. Danielle will send email to those who signed up on Meetup in last couple months.

2) Mud Season update (lead: Lauren)

MSR gearing up for Feb 20 issue, still need an art pairing (not getting responses from artists).

Lauren put out a social media call for EIC, but no response. Looking for a next step. Stipend for EIC? UVM creative writing- find a mentor? Nominate editors?

3) Proposed committee structure (lead: Danielle; proposed structure sent by email)

Space- Mindy, going well

Fundraising/grant- could separate out

Membership- bring in people, welcome new members, hold new member meetings, possibly dealing with member concerns (Eva interested)

Programming/workshops- Partridge & Danielle currently planning/coordinating workshops, Barbie posting to Meetup and Website, Dennis handling submissions, and Suz Parente sending to Seven Days

Retreats-already set up and going well

Events- logistics of big events

Michael: having our mission statement will help codify structure.

Publishing committee? Is there enough buy-in from BWW membership? Would this help? Have a committee combining Anthology & MSR?

Deena concern: All the committees are more organic. This might just add bureaucracy bring in people who are interested. Agreement.

Filling committees: Need to put out a call so cast a wide net & get a wide variety of perspectives. Reconvene strategy group? Crowd source this--need other committees? Ideas on how they will work? Don't formalize until we finish the work on strategic plan.

4) Anthology renaming (lead: Deena)

Membership would like to change the name, but no one is comfortable with choices. Will share this with the membership. Post & share the survey. Will publish in fall so have time to figure it out. Will get anthology staff together face to face & get more creativity/ideas. Generate more names through workshops.

5) Strategic planning next steps

- Mission statement (lead: Partridge; draft sent by email)

How do we settle on words? Deena: Let's continue online exchange and then meet for a work session in next couple of weeks. Deena will send out a Doodle poll. Then an informal gathering for feedback.

Thoughts:

BWW is a learning organization vs. a fraternity of writers who have "arrived"
How are we unique? Differentiate from Vermont League of Writers.

- Powerful programming
- Sustainable membership model: Co-op model? UU model? Rebecca will share ideas from after the Scott call (will cue up discussion for next meeting). Deena: we saw opportunity, positive, but also had a visceral negative reaction to some points.
- Digital platform- VT Designworks waiting for back level access so can give audit /sense of scope of work. Deena will do that within the next week.
- Admin support

6) Financials (lead: Terry; previously sent by email)

No discussion.

7) Lease- Agree to sign a 2-year lease. Danielle asks who should be on the lease? All agree she will sign again.

April meeting date changed to April 12, 6:30-8:30 by phone.