



Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2024

Time: 11:07 AM

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees: Board members Jatika, Nicolle, Stell, Laura, Allison, Stella, and Rahul. Plus, members Craig Allen Brown and Genella Williams.

(Before the recording began, board members introduced themselves to welcome two SPJ non-board members who attended the meeting.)

Meeting Commencement: Laura called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM.

Agenda Approval:

The first order of business was to approve the February agenda. Jatika moved to approve the agenda, and Stell seconded the motion.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Jatika shared the minutes with Nicolle via email, and she sent Allison the agenda. Jatika motioned to approve the minutes from January, and Stella seconded the motion.

Treasury Report:

Stell provided the Treasury Report:

- Account balance for January: \$4,540.52
- Account balance for February: \$4,590.91

2024 Proposed Budget:

Allison motioned to approve the 2024 proposed budget, and Rahul seconded the motion.

Banking Fees:

Stell will follow up with the bank representative regarding ongoing banking fees. She will also conduct research with other banks by the next board meeting.

Zoom Room Inquiry:

Nicolle discussed reaching out to HQ regarding having a Zoom room.

New Business:

Chris will talk about workforce development at the March meeting.

High School Scholarship opportunity:

Laura presented a high school scholarship opportunity, proposing three categories: Print, Broadcast, and Podcast/Audio. The idea will be submitted to SPJ National for more grant funding. The scholarship should target high school juniors and seniors entering college

Meeting minutes written by Christopher Thompson, SPJ GA Chapter Secretary. Email chris@houseofheralds.com for edits/updates.



journalism programs.

Mark of Excellence Awards:

- KSU (2 submissions)
- UGA (6 submissions)

Code of Conduct Approval:

Allison motioned to approve the code of conduct, and Stella seconded the motion.

Committee Updates:

- Advocacy (Nicolle): She will start sending memos directly to police officers (Georgia Public Safety Training Center), needs to follow up with Ashanti to get National support, and then will wrap up the memo.
- Student Affairs (Allison): Working with the ONA/SPJ student chapter to host a student symposium at UGA on April 5th at Grady College. Exploring keynote speakers and a panel, including suggestions: Rahul (as moderator), Monica Pearson, Rodney Ho, someone from the Macon Telegraph, and more. Stella suggested an election panel. Allison has the space from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Membership (Rahul): He does not have an update but plans to work on retaining current members rather than attracting new ones.
- Events (Laura): A community service event will be held in March. The focus is to find organizations and opportunities outside the Metro Atlanta area. Genelle mentioned the Savannah Tree Foundation (planting season is October through April). She also mentioned organizations that help clean up rivers in the area, which could be another option. Nicolle mentioned moving the volunteer idea to another month. Stell suggested a networking event. Nicolle suggested a pitch mixer and getting editors to come.

Meeting Wrap-up: The meeting concluded at 12:13 p.m.

(Please see the video link for a play-by-play of the February 2024 meeting:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VnUmYyle9OUIAyQOn1pc1708MSreU411/view>)