



CCACE Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2021

Present: Demi Ayres, John Ballantine, Paula Casey, Claudia Feeney, Carol Murphree, Margo Parent, Jill Weintraub

1. FEBRUARY MINUTES APPROVED BY Margo Parent SECONDED BY Claudia Feeney

CCHS is going back to school full-time, in-person learning after school break on 4/26.
There has not been any spread of COVID virus in the school.
All 4 employees in the CCACE office have been vaccinated.

2. MEMBER TERMS:

Addressing member terms got lost in the confusion of all that occurred with COVID last March. The only person on the Committee that is affected by this is Claudia, who ended her 2nd term last year. The By-Laws state that members are limited to two 3-year terms unless the Committee nominates a member for a 3rd term. So, today, those present at today's meeting nominated Claudia for a 3rd term. Claudia commented that if someone else comes forward as a likely candidate, she is happy to step back.

The other two people whose first terms come to an end this year are Margo and Paula, who would both like to stay on for a 2nd term.

Paula has agreed to serve as chair for another year.

There are some members of the Committee who have not regularly attended the meetings. We will reach out to see if they are interested in staying on the Committee, noting that if they choose to stay they are expected to attend. Paula and Jill will have a separate conversation following our meeting today to address this.

***Find the By-Laws below:

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL:

Jill noted that Claudia will be entering the 2nd year of her 3rd term next year and has single handedly run the Armchair Travel. Jill would like a second person to step up to keep the program moving forward. She noted that this program is really owned by the Advisory Committee. Claudia has everything on her computer which will make a smooth transition for the next person to take over.

Claudia said that the last presentation of the season with the Dillon's was very popular. There are over 30 people registered for the next presentation. The program has been well received; zoom has brought in many new people as well as new presenters, some who worked in non-profits in different countries. We will probably continue to offer the program on zoom in the fall. It will get complicated if we add live and zoom options given IT issues and lack of expertise in offering both. Perhaps we can see if Ned Roos will offer some suggestions. Claudia will start planning next year's programming in May by reaching out to past presenters to see if there's any future interest. She will start with filling the schedule for the first half of the year.

3. BUDGET

The budget shows a deficit, but as usual there is a lag, and \$250,000 in credit card receipts has yet to be recorded. There has been a huge turnover in the business department this year, almost everyone is new.

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4. REGISTRATION UPDATES for /winter 2021 programs

a. Adult ed:

Numbers are looking good. Adult ed has more registrations than this time last year. We are only 220 registrations behind where we were for the entire FY2020, and we are still in the middle of March. It's possible that we end up with more registrations this year than last. We are cancelling very few classes, some of this is due to the collaborative which has helped fill spaces.

b. Drivers ed:

The program filled up during the February break; 18 students have just signed up for a 7-week Saturday program. There are spaces open for the April break class, but Jill is anticipating it will fill up.

c. IMSCC:

We've picked up a number of students, particularly guitar and piano, which are instruments that are easier to learn on your own. There has been very little band playing.

5. FALL PLANNING

a. Preliminary survey results:

The survey was sent last Friday and re-sent this morning. We will leave it open for another week. We've offered 20% off a class if you fill out the survey and give your email address; we will pull a raffle winner next Friday. There have been our 300 responses and they are still coming in. Jill was surprised by the results, which differ from other community surveys (whose respondents wanted predominately online classes). Perhaps ours differed because we sent it out after the CDC laid out new COVID guidelines last week. Our surprising results showed that most people are interested in in-person or a combo of hybrid/in-person programs.

People found out about our classes by:

- 1) catalog
- 2) email
- 3) website

The two areas of most interest were 1) Creative Arts (historically we have not offered many, and traditionally they haven't been popular), and 2) History and Culture. There was a wide variety of interest in: History, Literature, Science, Political Science, Outdoor activities, Pickle ball, Gardening/Plant, Village University.

The most popular time for programs were mid-week, morning and early afternoon.

We struggle with physical space during the day since we don't have access to the high school. Morning and afternoon programs will be predominately online due to physical constraints. The main branch of the Concord Library has small rooms that can handle 6-8 people and the Fowler Library has a room downstairs that can accommodate 50 people, but 25 due to COVID restrictions. We are better off keeping classes online. Right now there's a "No-Visitor" policy at CCHS, part of the Teacher's Union negotiations. The community room in the new CMS building is a future possibility for our programs.

We'll capitalize on our outdoor programs which have been very popular. Those include nature and historical walks, bird watching, Haiku walks. We have partnered with Needham on walking and bike tours, both programs which are full.

We can get creative and offer the first fall sessions in a park or field setting, the middle sessions - online, and then move outside for later sessions. We may need to pay a fee for space for some of our programs. We discussed the possibility of using tents in a field. Stefany and Jill will start the fall planning in May and keep options open; Jill stated that they are a lot more fluid.

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There won't be a lot of effort going into summer programming, thinking that people will want to go back to old summer activities. Music lessons and workshops will be online this summer, but there's hope that some in-person lessons will resume in the fall. Jill is not certain that instructors will be willing to return to a classroom setting.

6. CAN WE TALK FY22 PLANNING:

Claudia sent information and reached out to Tim Phillips with no response.

Demi spoke with Tim Reilly who is an Emerson journalism instructor and lives in Concord. He liked our topic. His advice was that we should not bite off more than we can chew.... don't make it complicated. He might be able to find an Emerson graduate student to sit on the panel (of which there should be no more than 3 people). He liked the idea of the moderator being a CCHS teacher as long as that person doesn't come with an agenda.

John suggested that we might want to structure the program to a 2-part session and schedule them close together to keep a dialogue going and not lose interest by spreading it out. He thinks Dan Kennedy would make a good keynote speaker. John will ask Dan for advice on how we should proceed. If he's our keynote speaker, should he come back and lead a panel in our second session? A graduate student on the panel will be advantageous because he/she would have a strong sense of social media. Perhaps someone of color: Robert Monroe - Dean of Academic Programs and Equity at Concord Academy?

Carol noted David Brook's article in the NY Times 3/18/21: "A Christian Vision of Social Justice" - Changing mindsets from a Judeo-Christian Viewpoint. Jill will add the link to our conversation on google

doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aRf4EWXpoKeEsYqXzK6h2HF_wWgdJ2jl9wUQw7CviMc/edit?usp=sharing

Professor Kyle Moody at Fitchburg State is an authority on media and journalistic content and gave a talk on the subject of "Fake News: Media Consumption in the 21st Century" at Fowler Library. Carol suggested that he might be another option for keynote speaker if Dan Kennedy is unavailable. Jill has reached out to Kyle with no response, but will try again if needed.

What will be the attendees take-away:

- understanding of history
- skill set to appreciate different viewpoints
- open your mind to other peoples perspectives
- think critically when evaluating news media

We should offer a discussion group for follow-up conversation.

It was decided that John will approach Dan Kennedy for a proposed 2 hour, 2-part program with break-out rooms, and will come back to us with Dan's recommendations.

At which point we may schedule a meeting prior to our 4/16 monthly meeting (which we moved from 4/23 due to a conflict with school schedule).

NEXT MEETING: 4/16/21