



Special Board Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2023
(In-Person and Zoom)

Board Members: Jennifer Compton – Chair, Rob Lane – Treasurer, Emily Walsh – Secretary, Cathy Layton - Chair Emeritus, Steve Botelho, Charles Hines, Jennifer Jorgensen, Leslie Turner

Absent: Kyle Battie, Carlos de Quesada, Keith DuBose, Michael Klauber

BPC: A.G. Lafley, Lori Denny

Public: Jon Thaxton

Jennifer Compton began the Board Zoom Call Meeting at 9:02 am.

BPC CEO Update

Ms. Compton asked Ms. Layton to describe the CEO search. Ms. Layton indicated Freeman Philanthropic was hired to assist in the nationwide search for CEO. Ms. Layton narrowed the search to eight candidates, and one candidate stood out.

Mr. Lafley shared information on candidate Stephanie Crockatt, Executive Director of Buffalo Olmstead Parks Conservancy in Buffalo, NY, which is a much larger park than The Bay Park, and has significant fundraising and volunteer experience. Ms. Compton shared the extensive number of people and organizations important to BPC Ms. Crockatt met on her visit to Sarasota. The Executive Committee decided to make her an offer contingent on board approval. A May start date is targeted and based on 2-year renewable terms with standard benefits and bonuses.

Ms. Turner provided feedback that Ms. Crockatt sounds like an ideal candidate and asked whether “stepping down” to a beginning park project would be challenging enough for her. Ms. Layton and Ms. Compton commented that Ms. Crockatt is excited to be a part of the process building a legacy park. Mr. Lane added he feels Ms. Crockatt values collaboration and crafts opportunities for Win-Win situations. Ms. Walsh shared she appreciated her experience working with governments on projects.

Ms. Layton indicated one of Ms. Crockatt’s jobs was to create a Development department, which evolved over 2 years. She has that experience with philanthropy that is needed by The Bay.

Mr. Lane made the motion that the board accept the outline and contract for Ms. Crockatt. Ms. Layton seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

The contract will be executed by Ms. Compton on behalf of the BPC. A press release will be issued, and Ms. Compton and Ms. Layton will be making calls to the City and Foundations to announce the hiring. Ms. Crockatt will be coming for a visit in April so The Bay team can meet her.

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 9:17 am.