



Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2016
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Las Vegas, NV

President Brandon Benavides called meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Members present:

Rolando Arrieta, VP Broadcast; Brandon Benavides, President; Gary Cooper, Region 5; Geraldine Cols Azócar, Region 2; Brian De Los Santos, Region 8; Nancy Flores, Secretary; Mike Gaytán, Region 7; Mekahlo Medina, Ex Officio; Rafael Mejia, Region 1; Alberto Mendoza, Executive Director; Nathan Olivarez-Giles, General At-large Officer; Erik Reyna, Region 3; Michelle Rindels, Financial Officer; Blanca Rios, Region 6; Miguel Rosa, Spanish At-Large Officer; Joe Ruiz, VP Online; Sebastian Vega, Student Representative

Absent: Laura Castañeda, Academic At-Large, had to leave due to family emergency

Guests: Hugo Balta past president, BA Snyder of Veritas, Yunuen Bonaparte, senior at California State University Fullerton and photographer

-Approval of Minutes

Joe Ruiz made a motion to approve minutes from Aug. 7, 17 and 27 meetings. Board approved all previous minutes.

-President and Executive Director Reports

Brandon Benavides presented a report disclosing that the board's retreat on Dec. 9 began with an executive session, followed by a four-hour training and briefings from NAHJ's accountant, auditor and investment broker. The president gave updates on NAHJ activity since taking office in Aug. and dedicated meeting to NAHJ past presidents.

Executive Director Alberto Mendoza presented highlights from end-of-year message and emphasized focus for new year: partnerships, leadership development, next generation as well as training and development.

-Budget Proposal

Geraldine Cols Azócar made a motion to discuss budget proposal after Financial Officer Michelle Rindels presented budget overview. Motion passed. After discussion, Rafael Mejía made a motion to approve the 2017 budget. Joe Ruiz made a motion for a roll call vote. Board approved budget (17- 1 abstention).

-Partnership Proposals



After presentation by Climate Central, an independent organization of scientists and journalists researching and reporting about the changing climate and its impact on the public, Brian De Los Santos made a motion to discuss proposal for partnership. Proposal included workshops and hands-on trainings during conventions. Geraldine Cols Azócar made a motion to vote on proposal. Board voted unanimously for partnership.

After presentation by Fuente Latina, a nonprofit organization that specializes in providing tailored media services from Israel to global Latino media, Joe Ruiz made motion to discuss proposal for partnership. Proposal included offering NAHJ members media missions to Israel. Joe Ruiz made a motion to vote on proposal. Board voted unanimously against partnership.

-2018 Convention Selection & Merger

Chair of 2018 Convention Committee Nathan Olivarez-Giles presented Miami as the top city to host NAHJ annual convention. Erik Reyna made a motion to approve Miami. Board voted unanimously for Miami as host city for 2018 convention.

-2017 Convention Appointment

President Brandon Benavides appointed Robert Hernandez as 2017 Convention Chair.

-Executive Session

At 2:53 p.m. Geraldine Cols Azócar made a motion to go into Executive Session. At 3 p.m. Geraldine Cols Azócar made a motion to leave Executive Session.

-New Student Chapter

Brian De Los Santos made a motion to approve a San Diego State University student chapter. Motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.