

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
HOTEL JACARANDA  
September 8, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Terry Atchley	Mr. Don Elwell	Dr. Thomas Leitzel
Ms. Cheryl Brown	Judge Peter Estrada	Ms. Patricia Manderville
Dr. Catherine P. Cornelius	Mr. Alex Fells	Mr. John Shoop
Mrs. Christy Crews	Senator Denise Grimsley	Mr. Tres Stephenson
Mr. Robert Duncan	Mr. William R. Jarrett Jr.	Dr. David E. Willey

**Excused:**

Judge Danielle Brewer	Mr. Michael Kelly	Mrs. Robin Weeks
Judge Angela Cowden	Dr. Sunaina Khurana	Mrs. Lana Puckorius
Mrs. Joan Hartt	Mrs. Becky McIntyre	
Mr. Darrell Jensen	Dr. Vinod Thakkar	

**Others Present:**

Mrs. Jamie Bateman	Miss Anastasia Saunders	Mr. Sid Valentine
Mr. Glenn Little	Ms. Jill Sconyers	

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. At 6:03 p.m., Mr. Tres Stephenson, president, called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors of the SFSC Foundation. Mr. Stephenson and Mrs. Bateman asked permission to move the Hotel Jacaranda discussion to just before Time for Directors. Mr. Stephenson asked for a motion to adopt the amended agenda as requested by Mrs. Bateman of the regular meeting of September 8, 2020. Mr. Atchley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elwell to accept the amended agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Mr. Stephenson explained that the board did not select a Member-at-Large in May. Mrs. Bateman stated that Mr. Terry Atchley was suggested for the position. Mr. Stephenson asked if there were any additional nominations, there were none. He asked all members to cast their ballot on the small pieces of paper on each table. Ms. Sconyers collected the votes. Mrs. Bateman stated the results would be tabulated and announced later during the meeting.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Stephenson asked for a review of the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any questions. There were none. Mr. Shoop made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elwell to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion to accept the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

**III. WARRANT LIST**

Mr. Stephenson stated that Ms. Manderville had reviewed the current Warrant List. He asked Ms. Manderville if she had any concerns or questions for the current Warrant List

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and she did not. Mr. Atchley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elwell to accept the Warrant List as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. ENDOWED CHAIR PRESENTATIONS**

Mrs. Bateman asked the board members to refer to their packet to review the final reports for the Endowed Chairs that ended in June. She also shared that she presented the new Endowed Chair recipients their plaques and the pictures are in the board packet.

**V. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms. Lee was not available for the meeting, so Mrs. Bateman shared that based on reports from Bank of America our balance has increased over the last few months and they believe the investment outlook is improving.

**VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Dr. Leitzel shared that college enrollment is up 2.5%, one of only 2 in the state with increased enrollment.

**VII. FOUNDATION UPDATES**

- a. Calendar Review – Mrs. Bateman asked the board to review the calendar. She asked if there were any questions. There were none. She reminded the board members to mark their calendars with our event dates.
- b. Mrs. Bateman shared that the school board needed the Teacherage sooner than expected, and that it has been signed over to them. She gave to Mrs. Longshore 3 pictures of the Teacherage that were in the Foundation. Mrs. Longshore thanked Mrs. Bateman and said they would be displayed in the Teacherage.
- c. Mrs. Bateman asked the board to approve the 2021 annual sponsorship program at the same levels and benefits as 2020. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Dr. Willey to approve the sponsorship levels as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Mrs. Bateman shared that Mrs. Puckorius has been appointed the DBOT liaison.
- e. Mrs. Bateman will postpone sharing information about the Student Loan program to the November board meeting.
- f. Mrs. Bateman briefly explained the Innovation Grant request from Mr. Bobby Sconyers, Dental Programs. Mr. Atchley made a motion, seconded by Judge Estrada to approve the Innovation Grant request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. ALUMNI UPDATE**

Ms. Saunders reported that the Alumni Association sought nominations for the Alumni Advisory Council from the end of July through mid-August. She received nominations from LinkedIn, the newsletter and from social media. A virtual alumni meeting was held on August 26 to vote. Nine alumni attended and selected Lena Phelps, Chair; Eric Bautista, Vice Chair; Asena Mott, Secretary; Katherin Kinzel, Member; and Christina Martin, Member. Mr. Atchley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elwell, to accept the

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Advisory Council as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Saunders then shared the council is looking at dates for luncheons and networking opportunities.

Ms. Saunders reported she is seeking alumni volunteers for both the theater and TSIC. Two alumni volunteered, one for each department.

Ms. Saunders reported that the Young Alumni initiative is off to a great start this term with a Welcome Back to the Jac for the dorm students and she attended Club Rush on campus. On September 15, she will host the Young Alumni Club Monthly Meetup outside of the HSEC with helpful hints on stress, interacting with the students and give out free Fruit Pearl cups, donation from CitraPac, Inc.

#### **IX. HOTEL JACARANDA**

Mrs. Bateman shared some pictures and information on the condition of the Hotel Jacaranda. She stated that many repairs and updates are needed. She and the officers of the Executive Committee had toured the Jac and decided to bring their concerns to the full Executive Board for review and recommendations. The Executive Committee agreed to refer their concerns to the full board, and Mr. Little was asked to present a similar briefing to the full board as he had to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Little discussed the history of the Jacaranda as it relates to the Foundation purchasing the building. He stated the Foundation decided to purchase the hotel in order to provide student housing, that the College cannot provide, and to offer the Hospitality and Culinary programs. The Foundation also purchased the hotel to support and encourage growth in downtown Avon Park. He stated the College leases the hotel, restaurant and culinary areas from the Foundation. The Foundation and College share the expenses for utilities, etc. He stated that in the past state funding was available to help maintain the Jac, but state funding has fallen dramatically and the College can no longer afford to pay the maintenance costs for the Jac. He stated that the Executive Committee discussed the options available to the Board: repair as needed; make minor improvements with donations; conduct a special fundraiser for the Jac; borrow funds. Mr. Little then fielded questions from the board.

Several board members shared their love for the Hotel Jacaranda and their desire to see it continue to support both the College and Avon Park. Judge Estrada pointed out that the county courthouse is in bad shape because maintenance was always delayed or done at a minimum and now the repairs are very costly and time consuming. Mr. Atchley shared a similar story about government buildings in Wauchula, they need vast amounts of money to repair them and funds are very limited. It was suggested that if repairs are made based on cost estimates, to add an additional percentage to the cost as repairs to old buildings are often more costly than anticipated. Mr. Atchley made a motion for the Foundation to work on saving the Jacaranda, seconded by Dr. Cornelius. No vote was taken.

Mr. Jarrett asked if the board would be as supportive of saving the Jacaranda if the dorm students moved out – if there was student housing available closer to campus and the Jac

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was no longer needed in that respect. Many board members, including Dr. Cornelius, nodded and said yes. He asked about a budget to maintain this asset and who would be responsible for the budget and maintaining the hotel in the future. He asked if the board is ready to make this kind of commitment, say the next 25-30 years, for this board and board of the future. Mr. Jarrett then asked for a commitment from all board members if the decision is to keep the Jac.

Mrs. Bateman then shared the Executive Committee recommended a new committee be created to look in to all aspects of maintaining the Jacaranda for the future. Dr. Cornelius stated she would like to be on the committee and stated that Mrs. Hartt would be too. She then asked Mrs. Crews and Mr. Jarrett if they would be also, they assented. Judge Estrada volunteered to be on the committee as did Mr. Fells. Mr. Shoop made a motion, seconded by Dr. Willey to accept these individuals for the Jacaranda committee. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Bateman said she would coordinate the first meeting and requested the committee have information or recommendations to share at the next Board Meeting in November. Since a committee has been formed to review the Jacaranda, Mr. Atchley withdrew his motion to save the Jacaranda.

Mr. Jarrett then shared he is on the Avon Park CRA and he may see what funding is available through that office to help with some maintenance.

**X. ELECTION RESULTS**

Mrs. Bateman reported that Mr. Atchley was elected as the new Member-at-Large. Mr. Shoop made the motion, seconded by Mr. Elwell to accept the vote as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. TIME FOR DIRECTORS**

Mr. Stephenson asked if anyone had anything else for the Board. Mrs. Bateman asked for a moment. She shared that the family of Ben Hill Griffin III has asked that we delay his Legacy recognition as it is too close to his passing. They asked if he could be considered for next year. Mrs. Bateman then shared that another name has been suggested for our second Legacy selection, Mrs. Joan Hartt. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Mr. Atchley to select Mrs. Hartt as our second Legacy recipient. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Bateman reminded the board that this should be kept as a surprise for Mrs. Hartt at our Legacy Showcase event in October. Dr. Cornelius shared that she loves this old building and thanked the board for choosing to try to save it. She then asked Mrs. Bateman what kind of numbers are needed to make a profit at the Showcase event. Mrs. Bateman shared that with our sponsorships and ticket sales last year, although we did not fill the auditorium we made a profit, and with the event being held in the Wildstein Center this year, we can seat more individuals so she hoped for a similar or larger profit.

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**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

After no further discussion, Mr. Fells made a motion, seconded by Judge Estrada to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*William R. Jarrett Jr.*

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Board Secretary