

Nominations Committee Meeting Minutes
Galena Country Tourism
Tue., May 18, 2022, 2 pm
Digital

- I. Call to order by presiding officer – 2:03 pm
- II. Roll call – Betsy Rose Achett, Colin Sanderson, Raechell Ahmed and Rose Noble. Absent: Bill Bingham.
- III. Citizen Comments* - none
- IV. Old Business/Board director concerns: - none
- V. New Business
 - a. FY23 At Large seat nominations:
Noble presented the candidates that were nominated. She referenced the applications were sent to the committee prior to the call.
 - I. Brittani Stephensen – Illinois Bank & Trust
 - II. Christina Eisbach – Hoof it!
 - III. Krystal Hewitt – Irish Cottage
 - IV. Marissa Linn – Editrix Row
 - V. Birgit Radin – Goldmoor Inn
 - VI. Zeke Winders – First Community Bank

Sanderson said he was familiar with all the candidates except Zeke. The committee discussed Zeke’s application, his title, his upbringing in the area, and his presence in the community.

- Ahmed expressed her thoughts on Zeke, praising his community presence and engagement. She noted his help with PPP Loans for many businesses in the community when other banks couldn't get to it fast enough. Ahmed said he knows so many people and is really good at Finance.
- Sanderson said he likes Ahmed’s enthusiasm for Zeke and could support him as the At Large seat.
- Noble noted that if the committee wanted to reseal a banker, she would suggest Zeke over Brittani purely on his connections in the community due to length in role and time in the area.
- Achett says she loves Zeke but for this particular role she would like to see Christina in the seat.
- Ahmed expressed her desire to recommend Zeke.
- Achett proposed the question – Who is better suited to fit the goals of Galena Country Tourism? Are we looking for someone with strong community presence or someone with a strong and respected creative background? Essentially, is community engagement or creative marketing more of a focus of the next year? Noble said she likes both candidates but thinks that community engagement is more of a current goal, especially as it aligns with our Tourism Master Plan outline. Ahmed added that the Board is losing a strong community presence with the absence of Rhodes. She believes Zeke can fill with role, while also proving financial insights. Sanderson agrees on the community engagement need. Achett, hearing this, agrees to support Zeke as he better suits our current needs. Noble noted that we have another At Large and Retail seat opening next year and Christina can apply for both. Noble said she can express that the committee really likes her application and encourage her to reply next year.

Noble briefed the committee on Krystal Hewitt and her application, noting her recent relocation to Galena and management of the Irish Cottage hotel. Noble also noted that she knew Krystal had a child in the Galena Public School System, which Noble thought was a nice note to have, seeing as it shows commitment to the community.

- Ahmed asked if Krystal could sit as Small Lodging seat and Noble informed the committee that Irish Cottage can nominate for At Large & Large Lodging only.

- The committee agrees that Krystal is great energy and perspective but needs a little more tie in Galena to understand the pulse. They would like to consider her for a seat in the future.
- Noble added that we can still have Krystal involved with a Large Lodging (non-board affiliated) group, that we keep discussing needs to happen. Perhaps Krystal can take an active leadership role in helping engage the large lodging stakeholders.

Noble asked if committee needed to discuss Birgit Radin's application in depth and the committee agreed they were familiar with Birgit as she was a former board director.

- The committee agreed they were happy to see Birgit's desire to be reelected but due to her previous time on the board and current nominations being strong candidates, they decided to recommend the board offer the open At Large seat to a newcomer.

The committee reviewed and discussed Christina Eisbach's application, role, and community presence. Noble noted that Christina runs an exception business and is very organized. She also noted that Christina has expressed interest in the board for a little while. Noble also touched on Christina's marketing background, noting the digital presence of Hoof It! and its branding – which could bring great perspective to GCT marketing initiatives.

- Sanderson knows Christina and thinks she would be great.
- Achett thinks Christina's insight will be quite valuable for the board. She would like to see Christina in the At Large seat.

Noble briefed the committee on Brittani's application and informed the board that Nikki Rhodes recommended this nomination. Noble noted that Illinois Bank & Trust would like to continue to hold a seat on the GCT board.

- Sanderson like Brittani and knows her very well. Had nothing but nice things to say about this candidate and her role with Illinois Bank & Trust.
- The committee agreed a little more longevity in the community and her role with the bank would better suit her for a seat on the GCT board. They agreed she would be a nice fit but not right now.

The committee reviewed and discussed Marissa's application and role in the community. Noble did let the committee know Marissa has been active in GDBA and other downtown items, including a vocal supporter of Outdoor Dining. Noble noted that Marissa expressed interest in the GCT Board last year, and Noble met with her to discuss what is involved.

After much discussion, the committee agrees to recommend Zeke Winders for the At Large seat.

b. FY23 Small Lodging seat nominations:

The committee discussed Jack Dieter remaining on the seat or the idea of Marissa Linn being seated – once again discussing and reviewing her application

- Achett would like to see Dieter be reelected to fill the Small Lodging seat.
- Sanderson agrees but said he wants to see Dieter be more engaged and involved. Noble agrees that Dieter can be more involved. She also noted Marissa would be a great fit if we are looking to seat someone new.
- Ahmed is unfamiliar with Marissa but says she thinks Dieter should sit another term as he has been a good director.

After discussion, the committee agrees to recommend Jack Dieter remain as Small Lodging seat for a second term.

VII. Adjourn – With no further questions, the committee adjourned at 2:47 p.m.