

# Annual Meeting of the Members

**December 2, 2021, 1:00 to 2:00 pm ET**

## **Introduction and 2021 Distinguished Service Award**

Tonya Allen, President of the McKnight Foundation and Chair of the Council's Board of Directors, thanked everyone for joining virtually and called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Allen passed the baton to Stephen Heintz, Rockefeller Brothers Fund President and CEO, who introduced Tara McKenzie Sandercock, Senior Vice President of Grants and Community Partnerships at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and the 2021 Distinguished Service Award recipient. Sandercock delivered acceptance remarks, which can be found [here](#).

## **Board Election**

At the conclusion of Sandercock's address, Allen thanked her for the inspiring remarks and introduced the fiduciary items required by the bylaws. Prior to the meeting, the membership received email communication about the slate of board members and minutes from the 2020 meeting. Voting members of the Council were able to submit proxy votes, enabling members of the executive committee to vote on their behalf to confirm board nominees.

**Action:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 2020 member meeting. After no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Peter Laugharn, President and CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and board Vice Chair, introduced himself as chair of the governance committee and explained that one of the committee's primary functions is to propose a slate of board nominees to the membership. Laugharn informed the group that no board members were leaving the board at the end of 2021. This year's slate of new members included:

1. Srik Gopal, Managing Partner, Humanity United
2. Galen Maness, Chief Operating Officer, The San Francisco Foundation
3. Jay Williams, President, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Laugharn also presented two candidates to be renominated for a second 3-year term:

1. Juan Martinez, Vice President, CFO, and Treasurer, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

## 2. Mason Rummel, President & CEO, James Graham Brown Foundation

**Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposed slate of new and re-elected board members. After no discussion, the slate was unanimously approved.

After welcoming the new and re-elected members, Allen called on Juan Martinez, Board Treasurer, to share the treasurer's report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Martinez shared that stabilizing the Council's finances has been a priority for the past three years, and he was pleased to report its goals had been accomplished. An important part of the Council's transformation has been the building of a sophisticated financial infrastructure and collaborative approach. Martinez cited that the board is confident enough in the Council's position that new staff roles will be added in 2022. The Council still depends on the ongoing generosity of funders for general operating support and special projects, and fundraising went well in 2021. Staff will begin raising funds to support the new strategy early in 2022.

The audit committee confirmed that the Council had a clean audit for 2020, which can be found at [cof.org](http://cof.org) along with the Council's most recent 990. In 2020, the board reconstituted a board designated reserve fund with a goal of reaching 6 months' worth of operating expenses. Martinez confirmed that, after today's board vote, the Council will have reached its goal of 6 months operating expenses in the reserve thanks to ending the year with a surplus for the third year running. Martinez reported that the 2022 budget will be finalized in the coming days, with priorities being staff resources and the continued delivery of high-quality Council programs and services.

### **State of the Council**

Kathleen Enright, the Council's President & CEO, provided a brief State of the Council report. She began by noting the year has been one of renewal and to that end the Council announced a 20-year vision for the future.

Some of the work the Council completed this year in service of that vision included:

- Working to create community and connection in virtual spaces, through gatherings like Leading Together, Policy Summit, HR Retreat, and ongoing workshops and trainings to a broad range of members. Topics ranged from challenges supporting employees in a pandemic environment to navigating restrictions globally on giving by US foundations.

- Developing knowledge and resources that members need to grow their practices and increase trust, through Legal Resources, publishing, and special topics like values-aligned philanthropy.
- Connecting philanthropy to the federal government and Congress so that philanthropy can be a trusted partner in important federal efforts. For example, convenings brought philanthropic executives together with leaders such as Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg about infrastructure and White House American Rescue Plan Act advisor Gene Sperling.

Enright highlighted signs of progress in the field, including the commitment to unrestricted grant support and streamlined processes as well as more explicit commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Enright closed by echoing the commitment to building trust and creating closer ties to community in the Council's internal operations and in its strategy and programs.

## **Closing**

Allen thanked everyone again for joining virtually and welcomed everyone to participate in more Member Week events. The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.