

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020

Attendees (held virtually, via Zoom):

Maury Mechanick	Ron Johnson
Denis Curtin	David Lee
Dan DiFonzo	Richard Rankin
Ron Garlow	Geza Serenyi
Fred Kelly	

Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the Minutes for the May 12, 2020 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from May 12, 2020, through July 14, 2020. Expenses for calendar year 2020 through May 12, 2020, came to \$1089, consisting of Webmaster Honorarium (1 quarter - \$625); PO Box Rental of \$268; and initial web hosting fee paid to Bluehost (\$196). Consistent with the pattern over the past several years, incoming dues payments at this time are relatively low (8 members/\$235). As a result of the current economic downturn, the value of the COMARA Fidelity account has dropped to from \$47,023 as of the end of 2019 to \$38,268, representing a 19% drop in value, but with the value of the account still reflecting a healthy 53% increase in value since the account was established in 2014.

LMCO Benefits

Based on information more recently provided by IRAA, did not appear as though the Intelsat bankruptcy would have a material effect on retirees including those previously covered by the COMSAT/LMGT plan. COMARA will continue to liaise with IRAA to assist in this regard, and would offer such other assistance as it could to support efforts by IRAA to protect Intelsat retirees pension interests as a result of the anticipated bankruptcy filing.

Newsletter, Web Hosting, etc.

Dan DiFonzo, on behalf of himself, Geza Serenyi and Ron Garlow, presented a report on efforts to move forward with new hosting arrangements for the website, having selected Bluehost as the new hosting company, and for a redesigned website using a Word Press platform (a copy of Dan's presentation is attached hereto). The Board approved a nominal budget of \$3500 for this effort and also delegated final decision authority with respect to selection of a web design consultant to the committee.

Membership Report

As noted above, membership renewals remain fairly low year-to-date, but this is standard for this time of year. Concern was expressed that difficulty in accessing the website would diminish the value that members might see of COMRA membership going forward.

2020 Social Events/Board of Directors

The Board approved the nomination of Dan DiFonzo, Denis Curtin and Bob Kinzie for three year terms and membership will be notified of the nominations. As regards Bob Kinzie, Maury indicated that Bob's preference would be to step aside when a suitable replacement can be reached, but he would be willing to stay on the Board until such time as that occurs. In the event that Bob were to step off of the Board at this time, the Board confirmed its desire, in recognition of Bob's tenure on the Board and his role as a founding member of COMARA, to designate Bob as a Director Emeritus for so long as he would be willing to serve in that capacity. The Board decided to schedule the Annual Meeting for October 4, 2020, which will be conducted virtually using Zoom and which should allow for the first time for remote participation at the meeting. Maury Mechanick will take the lead in developing programming plan for the virtual meeting.

National Electronic Museum

No further developments to report.

Legacy Project Update

No further developments to report

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The next Board meeting will take on Tuesday, September 14, 2020, at 11:30 am, as a virtual meeting.

The meeting adjourned about 12:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Maury Mechanick