

Center for Communal Studies Spring 2021 Board of Advisors

Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2021

Opening

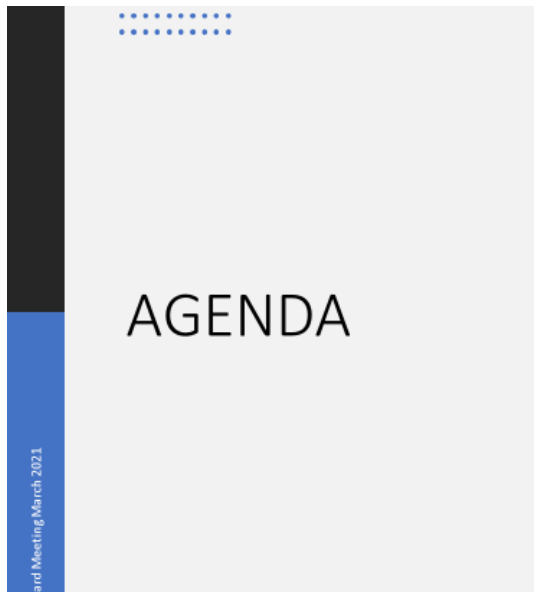
The regular meeting of the Center for Communal Studies Spring 2021 Board of Advisors was called to order at 11:07 A.M. on March 26, 2021 on Zoom by Dr. Silvia Rode.

Present

Greg Brown, Joshua Lockyer, Michael Strezewski, Leslie Townsend, Donald Pitzer, Marna Hostetler, Jennifer Greene, Jane Johansen, Wendy Bredhold, Carol Medicott, Franziska Bechtel, Sarah Feagan, Silvia Rode. (Special guests: Rodney Clark, Daniel Mason, Claire Eagle)

Opening Request

Silvia asked permission to record the meeting. Permission was granted.



1. Welcome
2. Permission to record meeting
3. May I record the board meeting?
4. Owen's 250th Celebration updates
5. 11-11:30am Guests
 - Mr. Dan Mason (Asst. Director HNH), Ms. Claire Eagles (Community Engagement Manager HNH) and Mr. Rod Clark (Board Member HNH)
5. Submissions for Owen Celebration
6. 11:30-12:30pm (Board Members)
7. Awards / Selecting review committees
8. Expanding List Server
9. CCS visibility
10. Brainstorming activity
11. Closing remarks

Updates from Dan Mason, Assistant Director of Historic New Harmony and Claire Eagle, Community Engagement Manager New Harmony

Dan Mason, Claire Eagle, and Rodney Clark were introduced. Claire began a presentation on New Harmony's plans to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Robert Owen's birth, life, and legacy. Upcoming programs in this celebration were detailed by Claire and Dan. Opportunities for involvement in this celebration include virtual conversations, panel discussions, content for social media, articles or books that may be relevant to share, and help in spreading the word about this virtual celebration. For more information, go to.

Claire invited the committee to contact her via phone or email, or to visit usi.edu/owen250 for more information.

Following the presentation, Jane Johansen asked for clarification on sharing articles or books. Claire explained that if anyone has any books or articles that have been influenced by New Harmony, Robert Owen, or related topics, to submit them so they can be shared via social media.

Silvia announced that 7 presentations have already been submitted for the Owen Celebration:

Owen's 250 th Celebration Abstract Submissions for Presentations
Mr. Greg Brown: Board Member, Center for Communal Studies, University of Southern Indiana "New Harmony as a Socially Engaged Community"
Dr. Casey Harison: Professor of History, University of Southern Indiana "Robert Owen's Impact and Legacy in Nineteenth-Century France"
Dr. Joe White: Professor Emeritus of History University of Pittsburgh (will submit title)
Dr. Greg Claeys: Professor Emeritus of History at the University of London "The Unfashionable Mr. Owen"
Dr. Thomas A. Guiler: Assistant Professor of History and Public Humanities Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library "Why could not his example be extended indefinitely?: Elbert Hubbard's Artistic Interpretation of Robert Owen"
Dr. Matthew Roberts: Associate Professor Modern British History, Sheffield Hallam University "Robert Owen, Harmonic Passions and the Practice of Happiness"
Dr. Victoria W. Wolcott: Professor of History at the University at Buffalo, SUNY "Black Owenites: Cooperation and the Long Civil Rights Movement"

Group expressed their appreciation and interest. Rodney Clark will receive their contact info from Silvia to schedule the presentations. Don Pitzer issued a special thank-you to the staff at USI and New Harmony for their work on organizing this 250th anniversary celebration despite the difficulty caused by the pandemic, and shared his experience organizing the 200th anniversary celebration in 1972.

Undergrad and graduate thesis submissions:

Silvia asked who would be willing to evaluate undergrad and grad submissions, with a tentative deadline of the end of April. Carol Medicott and Jane Johansen volunteered to do the evaluations.

Graduate Paper or Thesis or Dissertation Chapter
[REDACTED]: The Reverend Jim Jones and Religious, Political, and Racial Radicalism in Peoples Temple (thesis chapter)
[REDACTED]: What role can student-led transition play in place-based sustainability? An investigation into Eco Vista using strategic niche management theory (thesis chapter)

Undergraduate Papers and Thesis Submissions

██████████: Sundays in the Park: On Being in Washington, DC.

██████████: Fear if Savagery: An Analysis of the Religious Conspiracy Between the Shakers and the Shawnee Prophet

██████████: The Communes as the Counter-cultural Alternative to the Family within Spanish Transition (1968-1986): An Ontological Approach

Research Travel Grant Submissions:

Silvia asked who would be willing to evaluate travel grant submissions. Josh Lockyer volunteered, and Jennifer Greene offered as well. Dr. Rafal Soborski received a travel grant last year but will be unable to travel. Grant money is not transferable to next years budget. Deadline for grant submissions is at the end of April. Silvia will send them out to the volunteers.



- 3 Travel Grant Submissions
- Travel Grant Cancellation

Dr Rafal Soborski
Professor of International Politics
American International University in London
Chair, Global Studies Network
<https://onglobalization.com/about>
Editor, The International Journal of
Interdisciplinary Global Studies

Expanded list server

Silvia expanded the list server from 200 people to 600, adding new contacts at IMMIS Uni Osnabrück and the Center for Future Studies in Vienna.

Visibility of Center for Communal Studies (Brainstorming activity)

Silvia recounted a discussion from the Fall CCS meeting surrounding the validity of the Center and its direction in the future. She opened the floor up for discussion regarding the relevance of CCS as a truly academic entity at USI, and how it can be purported as such to USI's administration and community.

Marna Hostetler started the discussion, saying the Rice Library will continue collecting and storing material for CCS as long as possible, which Jennifer Greene seconded. Jennifer Greene expressed concern about the current public perception of the Center and

suggested that there should be a publication tool to help people understand the purpose and importance of the CCS.

Don Pitzer asked if there might not be a scholar-in-residence program that could be developed for the CCS, wherein a scholar might lecture on campus and study CCS's collection. He also suggested establishing a virtual colloquium for the center, or a web forum where people can meet and discuss ideas, post publications, etc.

Mike Strezewski asked for clarification regarding remarks about USI administration's change in attitude toward CCS. Silvia clarified that under present budget constraints funding requests will become more difficult despite the Centers value to the university. The Center needs to rethink how it can maintain relevance for the larger USI community. Greg Brown added that the lack of community engagement from the CCS is the reason the Center lost its physical office, adding that hosting virtual colloquiums might be an effective way to boost the Center's relevance without the typical expenses of travel, lodging, and staff.

Greg Brown suggested establishing new CCS headquarters in a house in New Harmony. Leslie Townsend added that there is a university property in NH that is handicap accessible and has rooms available that may work with Don Pitzer's suggestion about having a scholar-in-residence. Josh Lockyer agreed, remarking that establishing headquarters and bringing in funds would be the best way to catch the attention of USI's administration, along with hosting highly visible public events. He expressed that communal experiments are more relevant now than ever due to the Pandemic as everyone is learning how to reorganize human society.

Carol Medicott asked whether a modest YouTube presence could be created to help bring attention to the CCS from younger demographics. Leslie Townsend agreed, adding that virtual conferences from last summer have been recorded and posted on the University's YouTube channel, which have been helpful for outreach purposes and could be applied to future CCS colloquia. Jennifer Greene reminded everyone that keeping channel links updated, frequent posting is necessary to maintain the attention of YouTube's algorithm. Mike Strezewski added that the University likes to see students involved, and since colloquia would mainly involve faculty, having students involved in managing and contributing to social media presences would be desirable. Greg Brown volunteered to moderate and manage CCS social media forums.

Wendy Bredhold asked if a presentation about CCS might be done at a faculty meeting to introduce people to what the CCS does. Silvia added that all UNIV 101 courses should have students visit the Archives and go to New Harmony. Greg Brown recommended that CCS keep trying to connect with other schools and other campus programs, and to create a residence location to foster a cooperative living and work environment. Jennifer added that the library now has a repository to store abstracts, and that a link to said repository

could be created so people across campus could browse or search its contents for citation purposes.

Jennifer Greene and Carol Medlicott recommended updating the CCS Facebook page with new banners, profile pictures, and making all members ADMIN of the page. Silvia stated she would immediately contact Casey Harison so that all committee members would be made ADMIN and updates could go underway as soon as possible.

Silvia closed by asking everyone to write up their ideas and input and email them to her so she may categorize and summarize them.

Closing remarks

Silvia thanked everyone for coming and asked for any final remarks. Don Pitzer announced that Josh Lockyer has a book coming out in April, as well as other publications from CCS members.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 by Dr. Silvia Rode. The next board meeting will be in Fall 2021.

Minutes submitted by: Sarah Feagan

Approved by: Name