

**HMWG Board Meeting January 7, 2023 @ 7PM**  
**Meeting held via Zoom**

**Present:**

- Michael Wagstaffe
  - Stan Barber
  - Christine Carleton
  - Anita Joldersma
  - Shane Clair
  - Sarah Farr
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- **Book 6, and some ideas for future book(s).**

Plagiarism issues have arisen once again and there is a story which will be rejected. Noted some stories were not ready for publication. More tutoring would have been helpful since the technical skill of some writers was an issue. The teams will need to work together to check work.

The cost of skill and artistic expression versus censorship was discussed, as per the Intellectual Freedom's guidelines of the HPL. Submission restrictions will be reviewed. The possibility of genre-specific anthologies was discussed. The Board will look into the purchase of plagiarism detection software.
  - **Christine's Questions regarding Board and HMWG management**
    1. Why do we need a Board? *Because we are a registered not-for-profit*
    2. What is the purpose of the Board? *Overseeing and governance of the not-for-profit.*
    3. Is a Board necessary because we do charitable donations to N2N? Would a treasurer be just as accountable? *We have to have the Board as we are a not-for-profit. This also allows us to apply for grants.*
    4. I believe it is time to update the rules and by-laws of the Board if having a Board is deemed a necessity. *We will review the bylaws with the Board to see if any changes are necessary.*
    5. Is having 'teams' the best way to go? Perhaps we can address this as well. I think some people are just looking for guidance and help and may find being on a Team too much of a commitment. An open concept night could be an option, something to discuss.

Stan quite liked the team setup, as most people do. Christine noted that some of the people that come to a Guild meeting are not yet on a team but get scooped up into teams which might not be the best fit for them.

*"I was thinking we should create a questionnaire for all members and newbies, asking what they want to achieve, why they are writing...ie: for themselves, it's cathartic, want to write the next big seller, want to write their family history...these kinds of things. We*

*should also ask them if they have any skills they can volunteer/bring to the Guild...ie: marketing, technology, web skills, editing. These things will help people get oriented with the Guild.” Christine.*

*Stan - “If we want the goal to be to increase people’s writing skills we might want to mix up the teams somewhat.”*

Now that the Board members have changed, an update with the provincial/federal register is required.

Sarah - Is there a Code of Ethics form for us to sign?

Shane is to connect with local art councils and groups in Hamilton to provide awareness of HMWG.

Anita is overseeing membership.

Stan is to try and scan the bylaws to PDF so they can be forwarded to all Board members.

- **Board Positions**

Michael will be Treasurer again. Sarah motioned - Shane seconded. All in favour? Yes.

The Chair position is actually the President position. Christine motioned for Stan to take this position. Sarah seconded. All in favour? Yes. Stan takes the position tentatively as of right now.

Sarah will be the secretary. Anita motioned. Christine seconded. All in favour? Yes.

- **Meeting with HPL - Intellectual Freedom Priorities**

Stan quoted from the Hamilton Public Library’s site regarding intellectual freedoms. Stan noted one of the stories in book 6 was unapproved/requested to be changed or not be published. He noted concern that we would lose the library as a meeting place if we are censoring work since this falls under intellectual freedom - this goes the same for swearing, if someone changes swearing to “hell, yes...” that is against intellectual freedom. Stan felt that some profanity should be allowed as well as some sexual content. Having a writing group but telling people what they can and cannot write will not encourage people to join us. This will be further clarified upon meeting with the HPL representative.

- **Next HMWG open meeting at TerryBerry on January 11.**

Anita and Garvin have set programming for the meeting. Michael will bring the laptop to allow for a virtual meeting element. Garvin is the liaison with HPL as far as programming is concerned. Topics of discussion for future meetings include updates on local writing events such as GritLit or Eden Mills Writers’ Festival.

Writing prompt exercises will also be a focus of the in-person meetings.

HPL Meeting January 25: We aim to provide an update on Book 6 and request volunteers for the committee.

- **Website Updates**

We will look to see how complicated this actually is and ask for volunteers. It was noted that this is a WordPress site so very user-friendly. The password provided in the manual is incorrect. We will connect with Neil/Bob to get the right information.

Christine has volunteered to correspond with prospective new members who contact us through the website.

- **Zoom Account**

Purchasing a Zoom account for use by HMWG was discussed. This will be furthered at the next Board meeting. Other possibilities are using Facebook or Discord.

- **Miscellaneous**

Shane is keen on reinvigorating events and increasing the fun margin. He asked why we would want to apply for grants (and what would the money be used for?) when there are local events we can become involved with. He pointed out that the City of Hamilton has a speaker's corner starting this spring and they will need content.