

World Dignity, Inc.

814 Marietta Street

South Bend, Indiana 46601

Special Board December 7, 2023

Minutes

Attendance: Pam Chipman, Bill Odell, Rolande Parent, Roger Parent, Luther Taylor, Bob Urbanski. **Guests:** Jack Colwell, Anne Hayes, Rich Hill, Doug Hunt, Katrina Marquardt

Meeting called to order at 1:45 pm.

Item # 1. Proposal to use World Dignity, Inc. (WDI) as a vehicle to study and determine the best way to enhance and expand local news reporting in the South Bend Region.

Discussion of proposal. Rich Hill, who had prepared the WDI Articles of Incorporation said that they were broad and allowed the board to engage in activities consistent with its 501 (c) (3) designation, with which the above proposal is consistent. Jack Colwell talked about the hard work of the very few reporters left at the South Bend Tribune to cover not only South Bend but the region. He emphasized the need for additional resources to do the job required to expand news coverage, and supports the proposal.

Doug Hunt reported on efforts to expand and deepen local news coverage in other areas, such as Indianapolis, and distributed documents relative to this matter. He too strongly supports the proposal, and pledged \$10,000 to WDI. All board members indicated their strong support of the proposal.

Bob Urbanski moved to use WDI as a vehicle to enhance and expand local news coverage in the South Bend region and Luther Taylor seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

Item # 2.

- **Authorize** end-of-year balance of WDI funds for the South Bend Local News study.
- **Establish** a committee of the board: **South Bend Region Committee on Local News Study.*****
- **Appoint** Anne Hayes, Richard Hill and Doug Hunt to the WDI Board.

The three items in #2 were briefly discussed and supported.

Bill Odell moved to approve the three items, seconded by Pam Chipman. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Item # 3.

Bob Urbanski moved that the President of the board appoint Rich Hill, Doug, Hunt, Katrina Marquardt and Roger Parent to the committee. This was seconded by Pam Chipman. It was unanimously approved.

*****Information about the Committee.**

The committee's **primary purpose** is to study how best to enhance and expand local news. Its members will include interested board members, and others with expertise / interest in the project. The committee will access a variety of sources, retain the necessary expertise, and prepare a report on its findings. It's expected that the report and recommendations will be completed no later than October 31, 2024. At that time a decision will be possible on the future role of WDI, if any. Appointments to the committee will be made by the President.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.