



# **The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.**

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Fall Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – San Francisco, CA

February 19, 2022

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Philippe began the meeting at 8:10am. He thanks everyone for RSVPing and assigning Proxies to meet Quorum. Philippe then expresses our condolences to Mayi on the passing of her mother, Monique Berterretche. He says it is nice to have a meeting at his home club and points out the memorial for Aita Tillous in the lobby, as well as to Martin Minaberry along with library in created in his memory. There are also pictures of famous bertsolaris that sparked the beginning of the Basque club, and eventually the SFBCC, our hosts for the weekend. Philippe then introduces Matt Etchepare, president of the club and Joe Goyhenetche president of SFBCC who runs down the weekend's events.

## **ROLL CALL**

### **NABO Officers**

President – Philippe Acheritogaray

Vice-President – Annie Gavica

Treasurer – Mayi Petracek

Secretary – Kate Camino

### **NABO Administrators**

Euskara Coordinator – Sonia Castañon

Facilitator – Kate Camino

Webmaster – Lisa Corcostegui

### **Program Directors & Committee Chairpersons**

Finance Committee – Mayi Petracek

Investment Committee – Mayi Petracek

Calendars – Mary Lou Urrutia

Education – John Ysursa

Euskara – Martin Goicoechea

Mus – Pierre Etcharren

Pilota – Tony Huarte

Txerriki Contest Organizer – Valerie Arrechea

Udaleku – Valerie Arrechea & Kate Camino

Euskal Kantari Eguna – Anita Izoco & Noel Goyhenetche



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## Board of Directors (delegates) Representing 42 NABO Member Organizations

### British Columbia

Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver                      Absent

### Quebec

Euskaldunak: Quebec                      Marie Deraspe                      Marie Deraspe proxy

### California

Bakersfield

Kern County Basque Club                      Louis Iturriria                      Bernadette Iturriria proxy  
& Maria Toretta

Chino

Chino Basque Club                      Marianna Etcheverria                      Denis Petrissans

Fresno

Fresno Basque Club                      JP Etchechury                      JP Etchechury proxy

Los Angeles

Oberena                      Pello Urrutia                      Jose Urrutia

Los Banos

Los Banos Basque Club                      Christopher Bengochea                      Christopher Bengochea  
proxy

Marin-Sonoma

Marin-Sonoma

Basque Association                      Valerie Arrechea                      Pierre Etcharren

Ontario

Southern California

Basque Club                      Mike Aguerre                      Anne Marie Gariador



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## Rocklin

Iparreko Ibarra/Northern  
Valley Basque Club

Pat Torpey

Pat Torpey proxy

## San Francisco

Anaitasuna Basque Club

Marisa Espinal

Gina Espinal Aguerre

San Francisco Basque Club  
Basque Educational  
Organization

Matthew Etchepare

Jean Pierre Elissetche

Anna Marie Etcheverria

Marisa Espinal

San Francisco Basque  
Cultural Center

Valerie Arrechea

Pierre Etcharren

## Susanville

Susanville Eskualdun Inc.

Erinn Zubillaga

Erinn Zubillaga proxy

## Ventura County

Ventura County Basque Club

Pello Urrutia

Jose Urrutia

## Colorado

Denver Euskal Etxea

Mayi Petracek

Jone Brunelle

## Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Euskal Etxea SPM

Absent

## Idaho

Boise

Basque Museum &  
Cultural Center

Annie Gavica

Joe Lasuen

Basque Studies at

Boise State University

John Ysursa

Nere Lete

Cenarrusa Foundation

Gloria Totoricagüena

Gloria Totoricagüena proxy



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|  |                    |                        |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque Center                             | Argia Beristain    | Ricardo Yanci          |
| Oinkari Basque Dancers                                       | Annie Gavica       | Annie Gavica proxy     |
| Gooding<br>Gooding Basque Association                        | Sonia Castañon     | Sonia Castañon proxy   |
| Homedale<br>Txoko Ona Basque Club                            | Gloria Lejardi     | Gloria Lejardi proxy   |
| Mountain Home<br>Euskal Lagunak                              | Annie Gavica proxy | Annie Gavica proxy     |
| <b>Nevada</b><br>Battle Mountain<br>Battle Mountain Oberenak | Absent             |                        |
| Elko<br>Elko Euzkaldunak Club                                | Mercedes Mendive   | Mercedes Mendive proxy |
| Gardnerville<br>Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba                      | Teresa Cox         | Teresa Cox proxy       |
| Las Vegas<br>Lagun Onak                                      | Argia Beristain    | Argia Beristain proxy  |
| Paradise Valley<br>Santa Rosa Basque Club                    | Susan Gavica       | Annie Gavica           |
| Reno<br>Center for Basque Studies                            | Kate Camino        | Kate Camino proxy      |
| Zazpiak Bat<br>Reno Basque Club                              | Enrike Corcostegui | Jennifer Etcheberry    |



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## Winnemucca

Euskaldunak Danak Bat

Maureen McDonald

Maureen McDonald proxy

## New York

Euzko Etxea

Elisa Vidasolo Ancona

Elisa Vidasolo Ancona  
proxy

## Oregon

Ontario, Oregon Basque Club

Lisa Corcostegui

Lisa Corcostegui proxy

## Rhode Island

Portsmouth

New England Basque Club

Roberto Guerenabarrena

Juan Mari Aramendi

## Utah

Basque Club of Utah

Sonia Castañon

Jean Flesher

## District of Columbia

Washington D.C.

Euskal Etxea

Absent

## Washington

Seattle Euskal Etxea

Nora Leech

Nora Leech proxy

## Wyoming

Alkartasuna Basque Club

Martin Goicoechea

Mikaela Goicoechea

Big Horn Basque Club

Mick Camino

Mick Camino proxy

**Clubs not attending** – Zazpiak Bat Vancouver, Euskal Etxea SPM, Battle Mountain, and Washington DC Euskal Etxea.

**Basque Government Representatives in attendance**– Benan Oregi and Unai Tellerria from the Delegation



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**Quorum** – Roll Call - 38 clubs in attendance 39 is simple and 2/3rds majority is 51

Guests in attendance included Joseba Etxarri, Director of EuskalKultura.eus and Ronnie Goicoechea

Jean Flesher requests that minutes be amended to show that he did attend the fall meeting via Zoom

Please refer to committee reports provided

Treasure's report - Mayi – provides a very comprehensive report since this is the last report until the end of the Fiscal Year. Provides summary of all of the reports. If people need more time, please let her know if you have any questions. NABO did not receive a Basque Government grant in 2021. She also reports that we enjoyed an increase in the Euskara grant.

May asks about information regarding the agreement with Elko museum about proceeds from book sales.

First quarter income includes membership and Mus dues. Mus is now \$15. Paid \$971 for GoDaddy emails for 5 years. Only 7 clubs have paid dues so far. If you club treasurer has changed, please let Mayi know.

Investment Report - Committee meets every quarter and discusses how the investments are doing. They also meet regularly with the January Investment Group. Making sure to minimize unrealized losses and gains. Unrealized means we have not really incurred a loss because we are not selling; we are not coming out of the market. Overall, we still have a high rate of return, but it has gone up and down. We are at a moderate growth static strategy but JAG has come up with a new strategy for us. They have come up with a moderate growth strategy instead of moderate static strategy. If they see a certain stock or part of our portfolio, they will take that fund and move it into a cash position. This new strategy we will move to one that will go back and forth instead of remaining static. She is asking for approval to adopt this new Investment Policy Statement.

Jean asks if the committee was unanimous in adopting the new strategy, Mayi says yes.



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Jean moves that we approve the new strategy - Joe Lasuen seconds

Any questions for Mayi?

Elisa has a question - are they selling everything and moving to cash? Or are you taking a loss? What is happening exactly?

Mayi - We are not selling off the whole position. They are looking at each individual stock and if they see that the price is dropping by 30% then they will sell it off. Since we are tax exempt, we are not penalized for that.

Elisa - just protecting it from going down to zero.

Mayi thinks Elisa should participate in the committee.

Philippe with most securities there will probably be a net gain because we have had them for a while.

Elisa goes into a lengthy explanation...

Mayi - our portfolio is pretty diversified, and JAG does a great job of monitoring that.

All in favor for approving the investment strategy from moderate growth static to moderate growth momentum. - all in favor - passes unanimously.

CARL Loan - one-year interest free loan that clubs could take advantage of for different kinds of events.

Basque Government – Unai Telleria – Delegate of Euskadi in the US, and so he is talking on behalf of Gorka. He reports that we are recovering from the pandemic and so clubs are getting back to normal. Important to work together if they can help with anything.

Benan has nothing to add.

Jean Flesher Assesore report – He attended the annual meeting in the Basque Country and is sharing topics discussed there. The Basque Government is working on the law in hopes of updating it. Currently in NABO our members include dance clubs, educational organizations, Basque clubs etc. and not all entities are covered in the law. Because of that, and because there are now many Basque people now living abroad they need an easier way to deal with them as they do not belong to our Basque clubs. The Basque Government is looking for input from us, and would like us to help come up with a better definition of what a Basque club is. They also talked about NABO's anniversary and they would like to be involved. They talked about Basques in CA exhibit, and how we can get it traveling. It was built to be mobile and so would like to see it move around. They also went to



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Elgorriaga to the Shepherd Museum. Lara Igantzi took them through the museum created for Euskal Artzainak Ameriketan. It started with herders from that area but her dream is creating one in every part of the Basque country.

Jean also explained that the group Amerikanuak created a CD and hoped to cover costs and donate proceeds to NABO, unfortunately it didn't break even and so they are calling the sales done, and are presenting the Aita Tillous Fund with a check for \$1,000 in honor of Rene Caballero. Asks that Rene's family be notified. Remaining CDs will be given to other organizations for fundraisers and will be sold at a reduced price and that money will go to the Aita Tillous fund.

Mick asks where the shepherd museum is. Jean responds that it is in Elgorriaga, which is near Ituren and Zubieta.

NABO Bizi Emankorra - Winter meeting is when Bizi Emankorra nominations are considered. Reno's Zazpiak Bat nominated Mary Lou Urrutia. Philippe reads nomination that is included in the delegates' packet. She has done the calendar for 25 years and was president of the Reno club. She has also served on the Reno club board and has sown costumes for a number of years.

Jean moves to accept nomination and Pierre seconds to accept the nomination. All in favor passes unanimously.

Bernardo Yanci add that after doing the calendar for a couple of years he realizes how hard it is.

Program and Committee Reports - Refer to reports

Music report - Foku Musikala is resuming and hopes to resume one song a month. New playlist launched for Valentine's Day - Maiteminduta. Working on a collaborative playlist.

She met with Dr. Sabin Bikandi and he told her about the virtual dance lessons. Virtual and recorded dance classes available. Melodies are written out in musical notation along with rhythm of dance steps. Great resource for musicians. 30-day free trial now available. Link is in her report and she is happy to answer questions if she can.



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Mercedes will be reaching out to Mikaela since Elko is renewing its efforts to encourage more participation in music, singing etc.

Benan would like to add to what she has said. Manu has started putting together a program with Aiko, for online dance classes that the Basque Government subsidized the program and they had 200 students from all over the world take advantage of this program. They are doing it again this year but Manu is in charge of it this year. Benan encourages clubs to take advantage of this opportunity.

Nere talks about Boiseko Taupada - they have tons of Spotify lists with various lists that also include recipes etc. Will talk to Madalen about collaborating.

Mikaela has talked to Madalen and they have collaborated.

Elisa would like to advertise the Spotify etc. on their website.

Mikaela will share the link to the NABO Spotify

Calendar Report - Mary Lou thanks us for the nomination. This is the first year that we lost money on the calendar but we did sell some. When clubs do not have events to sell them it makes it hard. USPS is now more expensive so have to sell 2 calendars in order to make money. Will continue to contact clubs to be featured in the 2023 calendar. Dates are due by June 15th.

Philippe, calendar also used to promote NABO and so considered a promotional investment.

Education - John Ysursa - Thanks Jean for Amerikanuak donation. COVID has damaged Basque American and Basque Canadian communities because they have not been able to gather etc. If COVID was the lemon, Zoom is the lemonade, since it has facilitate NABO meeting attendance as it is hard for everyone to attend all 3 meetings a year. He also talked about BSU's Diaspora Day event held via Zoom that linked folks in Argentina, the Basque Country, and the US helping graduate students talk about their interests and research in Basque Studies. Maybe an opportunity to reboot, and maybe think outside the box and include more educational events in your club. There is no shortage of content online. May think about including an educational event in your organization's offerings.



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BSU has selected Xabier Irujo as the Eloise Garmendia Chair this year. He was chosen partly due to complications caused by COVID etc. since they usually bring someone from the Basque Country. Nere talks about his lectures in Boise in the coming weeks. All are provided with a Zoom option.

Coffee break meeting resumes at 9:51

Joe Goyhenetche - lunch is at 1pm. Bar opens at noon.

Euskara Committee - Martin and Sonia -

Sonia begins with her report - numbers are down, may be due to COVID. Majority of classes are in Boise and one class in San Francisco and 2 in Homedale. Down from last report. All of these classes are on Zoom. Have already talked about centralized enrollment and standardizing teaching materials. She has been working on this and shows the website.

Work in progress and not live yet. Students will enroll, pay etc. through the page.

Mayi - is this on your own, or with a teacher?

Sonia - the material would be there and the teacher would lead it.

Nere and Ziortza workshops have been taking place. She is so grateful for those. They learn a lot and appreciate their expertise. They teach our teachers to be better teachers. The Barnetegi has not happened because of COVID but hoping to do so at end of August or in September. Etxepare grant has been submitted. Sonia has reached out to other clubs who may be interested in having classes. Please reach out to her if you would like to start something in your Euskal Etxea. Korrika happens every 2 years to fund raise for Euskera for AEK. Begins in April. Kinku wants to know if anyone wants to put on a Korrika event, let Sonia know and there may be help to put something on. Please submit pictures of events here to promote it in the BC.

Martin - We were awarded 18K this year, 20% less than last year because of lack of teachers and students but we did receive everything we asked for. The grant justification is now done.

Martin continues to say that as of today, he is resigning his position as chairperson for Euskera. He would like to thanks the six presidents he has worked under. "Thank you for the confidence and respect they had in him. He wants to thank the coordinators, teachers, students, committee members, and HABE/Etxepare. Technology, grants etc. and personal



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service from Kinku. They responded every time he asked for anything technology or anything.

Philippe thanks Martin for the last 22 years. Started it with his own money and had to convince NABO into creating Euskera in the first place. For working with Basque Government so closely and for creating the coordinator position in the first place. Philippe got involved through the Euskera program in 2002. As well as what he brings to the community through Bertsolaritza too.

Martin - recommends we continue to work closely with HABE - do not ever cut the tree that produces fruit just the dry trees.

He reached out to Nere if she would be interested in becoming the chair but she is too busy, so she recommended Ziortza. Ziortza Gandarias will take over his position. Moves to accept Ziortza as his replacement and Joe Lasuen seconds the motion. Nere shares information about Ziortza for us. Philippe has spoken to Ziortza and she is excited for this opportunity.

All in favor of appointing Ziortza as Euskara Chair - Passes unanimously.

Facilitator Report – Since our last meeting, Kate continues to write Astero every week as well as monitor NABO emails etc. Thank you to everyone who continues to share their news with her too. Lisa has been working on website and has uploaded some of the Kantari videos to our YouTube channel 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993.

Euskal Kantari Eguna – will be in Rocklin on October 8, 2022.

Mus - refer to report - Chile became too complicated so MercoMus is not happening. Twenty-seven clubs participated in tournaments in 2021.

2022 tournaments are back to normal schedule. NABO finals will be on June 18th location to be determined. Last year's winners were from Gooding and they have said that they are not able to host finals so they are looking for a club to host the finals the day before Father's Day. Pello is talking to Chino in case, but if anyone else would like to step up to host 70 teams that would be good.

Marianna said Chino could host finals.



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International Mus will be in Boise in Fall of 2022.

The US will not be attending Mercomus because Chile's COVID protocols are too strict.

Decided to allow the 2021 winners to play in the 2022 international Mus along with 2022 winners.

Mayi moves to allow 2021 winners be second team for NABO - Valerie seconds.

All in favor, passes unanimously.

Last year dues were not charged but they collected but NABO received about \$4,000 in donations. There may have some 28 clubs participating this year.

JP - are we doing regional tournaments this year?

Pierre - no back to old format in Chino. If you have 21 or more teams at local tournament, that club gets 2 teams at the national level

Pilota - Tony Huarte - PowerPoint. Wants everyone to listen to the song at the beginning. Song by Pampi Ladouche - who passed away this fall. World Council of Pilota met in on Thanksgiving. They try to send us material, and so if there is any interest, you just need a wall and Tony can provide materials to you. He also met with Ander Caballero regarding convention in New London, and so they are working to have some games there as well. NABO 2022 finals will be shared among a few clubs. Shares agenda for the year.

Mayi hopes that the Grand Junction court will be the site of the Colorado picnic. Not many Basques left there. Maybe the court will be an excuse for them to come together again.

Grand Junction - was a charter member of NABO - Jean Urruty. World Championships in Biarritz in the fall.

Oinatz Bengoetxea to come to the US this summer. He will come to SFBCC, Chino and Bakersfield. Coming with another pro and two amateurs to play at various places on his farewell tour. Tony will share the schedule as soon as it is set. Encourages everyone to attend since he is a renowned pilota player. Write Tony with any questions, suggestions or needs.

Mayi wants to hold the Denver picnic in Grand Junction and so hopes to engage Basques in Grand Junction by hosting an event there.



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Philippe reminds us that Grand Junction is a charter member of NABO as one of its original clubs. Philippe refers to the Urazandi book about NABO and the picture of Mr. Urruty at that fronton.

There is a technical question regarding Zoom attendees being able to see those in San Francisco. Decided to continue as is.

Txerriki - No Txerriki in 2022 because convention is back East. Will come back in 2023. May also add Gateau Basque

Udaleku - Back in Kern County 10 days and eligible age is between 10 and 15. Means kids lose 2 years, but are brainstorming to see if we can create something for those kids to get together. Valerie suggests \$450 per child with a 10% sibling discount. She makes a motion, Ricardo seconded for tuition to be as such.

What was prior tuition?

Close to \$450 but for 2 weeks.

Yes, but Bakersfield will have extra expenses to justify this price.

Mayi reminds us of funds available for kids to take advantage of, for tuition assistance.

All in favor of \$450 tuition, passes unanimously

Spots available will be determined once housing is decided. Intent to participate will go live on March 1 at 6pm PST. Valerie explains how the process goes from intent to participate to housing, to determining number of participants. Email Valerie with any questions.

Ateak Ireki - Has been postponed - plan to return in 2023. Mikaela also talked to one of the organizers and relayed their disappointment in having to cancel.

Philippe expresses condolences on passing of her Jose Mari Beristain.

50th anniversary special committee - add Mayi to committee - members - Chris, Kate, Philippe, Valerie, Annie, Iñaki Arrieta, Ander Caballero and now Mayi.

Joseba Etxarri - EuskalKultura.eus – expressed that it is a pleasure to be back after 2 years, and that he always feels at home here. Announces the latest news from EuskalKultura.eus.



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Last year EuskalKultura.eus celebrated its 20th year and wanted to organize activities but was not able to do so. He has approached us many times to tell us about the project. Always thought that providing information about Basque clubs all over the world was useful and needed to be done. Including information from the Basque Government and others. The goal was to create a bulletin about the Basque Diaspora. Also hoped to promote and let folks know in the Basque Country that there is a Diaspora. Basque culture is important in the Basque Country but also abroad. He appreciates the collaboration he has received over the years, and especially the help received from NABO at Grace Mainvil's suggestion. Over the last 20 years, the world has changed a lot and changed the scenario for big presses and also small ones as his. He stopped publishing in English last October, and is currently in a period of rethinking the whole thing, but he feels like NABO, the Basque Government etc. should evaluate the worth of a bulletin like EuskalKultura.eus. In order to be stronger it helps to know each other better. This is reinforcing community and maybe more can be done. Thanks to those for supporting the English version of the bulletin. We are losing many members of our immigrant generation and it is important to pay tribute to them as well as gather information about them. The community should make it a priority not to lose these stories. It is also important to keep a record of activities happening in the Diaspora.

Mayi moves to continue to donate \$1,000 to EuskalKultura.eus to help his cause, JP seconds it.

Joseba thanks us for that, but he will decide whether to continue or not. Will make payment this year. JP could we make it an annual donation? Showing our support of the project in the future.

Mayi amends the motion to make it an annual donation. JP seconds the amendment.

Wants to emphasize the contribution of clubs. Maybe not EuskalKultura.eus, but people need to pay attention to what's happening. Maybe clubs are too busy to collect this information. Think about it and see if it is worth preserving this history and information.

All in favor - motion carries. Grace's spirit perpetuates.



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## Old Business -

Hybrid will be the format for NABO meetings probably and so recommends the Owl. Recommends that NABO invest in an Owl. Next two meetings will be in Connecticut and Homedale. Mayi moves to purchase an owl. JP seconded the motion. All in favor - passes unanimously.

Philippe points out Pedro's update on Fighting Basques and there is also the Omenaldi Berrezia on March 12<sup>th</sup> honoring bertsolaris from here and the Basque Country. Todor Azurtza will be the gaijartzailea (topic setter) and Xabi Paya to translate, with contributions by Joxe Mallea. Mercedes Mendive will also provide entertainment.

## New Business -

Jean was approached by the president of Mexico City Basque club about a documentary about Basque mythology. Seems like a very interesting movie and backed by experts and they would like to come and present the movie in person. Would like to maybe do a tour like "Dantza." Reach out to Jean for more information if your club is interested.

Benan would like to talk about the grant process this year. Said it was nice of us to not apply last year. Like the previous year, many activities were planned but could not take place because of COVID. This week they are presenting the new grant deadlines. Hope to have it published in BOPV in late March. Deadline to apply would then be a month that date. The process is through the internet and so have to have the BAK completed.

If you applied last year, they are set. However, it takes a couple of weeks to do, so don't forget about that. He hopes that amounts will be announced by June. Total budget is about \$50,000 higher than before increasing the infrastructure category.

Elisa, asks about the person who guarantees the club grant, because the board members change. Is the BAK person responsible for that year's grant money and how to justify it?

Benan - The legal representative at that moment is the person who is responsible.



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Future Meetings -

NABO Convention – Juan Mari lets us know that the date of event is August 26th and 27th. Meeting is on Friday, main event on Saturday and minor event on Sunday. Everyone is invited and they promise a great weekend.

2020 Bizi Emankorra awards will be presented this year. This follows two weeks of festivities in SPM

Homedale - Will host meeting November 5<sup>th</sup>. Delegates will have to drive about an hour from Boise; they also chose this date to coincide with the Center's Mortzilla Dinner in Boise.

Winter 2023 SLC last week in January.

Reno would like to get back into the rotation, potentially fall 2025.

Election of officers takes place at convention. Philippe and Mayi intend on running. Thanks officers, chairs etc. for all the good work

JP Elissetche moves to adjourn, Annie Gavica seconds, and all in favor meeting adjourns at 11:51am.