

Space Frontier Foundation

Board of Directors,
Minutes of Telecon Meeting, Th. Jan. 25, 2007 (draft)

The meeting began at 1 pm Eastern/10 am Pacific.

Present: Robert Werb, chair (RW); Jeff Krukin (JK); Wm. Boland (WB); Rick Tumlinson (RT); Kevin Greene (KG). Minutes by KG

1. The Board discussed a request for guidance from NewSpace 07 conference chair, Will Watson, regarding the timing of the evening events. Consensus was: welcome reception on Thursday evening, Advocate's Dinner on Friday followed by our hospitality suite and the wrap-up banquet on Saturday evening.
2. JK reported on the results of his recent opinion survey of our donor base. The general feedback was satisfaction with the SFF's mission and programs. The annual conference schedule needs to be nailed down sooner, to reduce uncertainty. Donors who aren't giving gave the reason of 'can't just now', instead of dissatisfaction with the Foundation.
3. JK reported in detail on two recent meetings during his trip to D.C.:
 - A. JK met with the head of FAA-AST, Patti Smith and discussed in some detail her outlook and plans for the coming year. AST are expecting paid-passenger flights to begin on suborbital rockets sometime during 2009. She is spending much time on the Hill, especially on briefing new members on both sides. When asked what SFF could do as productive help to the FAA, she mentioned the need to have responses and positions well thought out ahead of time, in the event that a loss-of-life accident occurs during one of the suborbital flights. She welcomes input from the NewSpace community on this topic.

The Board discussed this at length, in view of the recent development of an industry association for the suborbital operators, the 'Personal Spaceflight Association'. The SFF should be involved in these issues, and we need to poll our members – especially the entrepreneurs – on the best way to accomplish this. ACTION: JK – Poll the SFF's membership on this idea. (DONE, email 12/26.)
 - B. JK also met with Major Garrettson, USAF and received significant insights into Air Force ideas related to energy systems in space. This was discussed at some length, and this new lead will be pursued to further enhance our plans for the Thursday sessions during NewSpace2007.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59, PST.