



Minutes for Remarks of President Gleizer at the May 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

April, 30th, 2020. At 5:00 PM, the meeting was called to order. Present were Guillermo Ariel Gleizer, Ariel Oliver Gleizer and Maximilian Damm.

Item: The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Item: For the first four months of 2020, along with all Italians and Americans, CRAF has suffered the consequences of the changes in policy and economics due to the coronavirus pandemics. The effects are profound when not devastating. What we observe is a society-wide retreat from the arts, cultural manifestations, educational endeavors and even tourism like we have not experienced in many years. In Europe, the effects of World War II, the Great Depression, and the 1900's epidemics and famines may be comparable in many respects. Learning from the past should help us shape a constructive response to the current situation, even if no longer a crisis.

Located both in Rome and Miami, our Foundation has the advantage of observing -and living- two very different socio-economic societies. While both societies are immersed in a global, highly inter-dependent economy, they have developed very different adaptations. The US fully embraced, indeed promoted, globalization and international specialization to its huge immediate benefit: cheaper industrial products, cheaper foodstuffs, lower tax levels, and generally a huge middle class with apparent higher living standards than most other countries (at least until a few years back). Italy, and to a large extent, most western European countries) worked hard at preserving large sectors of their societies on a more traditional, smaller-scale production basis: craftsmanship, artisanal, manual techniques, smaller agricultural units generally produced "better" products and quality of life with higher prices in all sectors of industry and food production, higher tax levels and more free time but with a relatively apparent standard of living lower than in US. It is looking at the current situation with these thoughts in mind that we are searching for meaningful opportunities in 2020.

During its first year of existence, CRAF devoted most of its energy and resources to arts and structured education in Rome. We are proud to have had several students as interns, to have sponsored artistic contests in higher learning institutions, to have produce several art-related events and, last but certainly not least, to have supported development, education and diffusion of traditional Roman agriculture and culture. As we restructure our efforts for the year 2020 and beyond, we have decided to pivot towards activities in Southern Florida (without abandoning our Rome roots), emphasizing low-tech, smaller-scale, more traditional production techniques and craftsmanship (without abandoning our emphasis on art and culture). At least in the short term, the idea is to be useful to the community as it faces today's challenges.

Signatures:

 Ariel Gleizer  Maxx Damm