

Minutes of AGF Program Committee Meeting  
December 1, 2009  
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Arizona Grantmakers Forum

In attendance: Don Snider, Belen Gonzalez, Rosemary Gannon, Brian Spicker, Jacky Alling and Pat Miles. AGF staff attending the meeting were Marissa Theisen, Heather Smith and Erin Dow.

Don Snider called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Review of November Program

Don Snider asked Marissa Theisen to review the November program. Marissa Theisen stated that the program was well attended and well received. Over 40 people attended in Phoenix, and eight people watched the live broadcast in Tucson. The overall rating of the program was 4.7 out of 5.

Reversal of Dec. 17, 2009 and Jan. 21, 2010 Programs

Marissa Theisen explained that the program topics for December and January were switched at the request of the program presenters for the Funder Collaborative program. Dr. Lattie Coor will present on “The Arizona We Want” at the December Annual Meeting and Luncheon and the Funder Collaborative program will be planned for January.

Marissa Theisen asked the committee what they thought about asking participants in the two funder collaboratives to evaluate their collaboration, using questions Marissa Theisen shared with the committee. Committee members weren’t sure it was necessary to ask all participants to complete an evaluation, but that the collaboration leaders could address these questions in their presentations. Brian Spicker mentioned that he will be meeting with Ed Portnoy shortly to discuss the grantee reports and that Marissa Theisen will be invited to that meeting. They can discuss then whether or not to ask collaboration members to complete an evaluation survey.

Jacky Alling suggested that another possible collaborative to highlight at the January program would be the Phoenix Funders Collaborative which focuses on meeting community needs in a specific geographic area. Marissa Theisen noted that due to time constraints, the January program could either highlight three collaboratives or highlight the original two collaboratives and also include a nonprofit representative from each collaborative to provide their perspective. Brian Spicker suggested that the Phoenix Funders Collaborative could be a program on its own. Jacky Alling will write up a program summary of the collaborative for future consideration by the committee.

Discussion of Feb. and March Program

- Feb. 18 - Half Day with Nonprofit Finance Fund

Piper Trust is bringing the Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) in to work with their grantees, and AGF would like to take advantage of their presence in Phoenix to create a program serving funders and possibly nonprofits. NFF will work with Piper grantees on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and the AGF program will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The committee agreed that both the half-day workshop on nonprofit financials and the luncheon should be open to nonprofits. Marissa

Theisen noted that AGF normally charges nonprofits \$25 to attend the luncheon and suggested charging \$50 for the half-day workshop and luncheon together. The committee agreed.

Jacky Alling recommended that alternative funding strategies like loans and PRI's be a separate topic possibility for a future program.

- March – Funder Role in Mitigating Impact of Drastic Budget Cuts for Human Service Providers

Brian Spicker reported that state funding for DES and DHS, which support most human service providers, has been drastically reduced and more cuts are expected. It is possible that a number of critical services will simply not be available to our most vulnerable citizens. Committee members agreed that funders need to understand the extent of the crisis and would benefit initially from a program that included key state agency representatives, the Alliance of AZ Nonprofits (especially Lisa Glow) and possibly other nonprofits. There was some discussion of possibly involving key leaders from the legislature and business community, if not in the initial March program, then later on. Belen Gonzalez suggested that this was a topic that could not adequately be addressed in a single program and that members might benefit from regular updates at future programs. Brian Spicker and Jacky Alling agreed to work with Marissa Theisen to flesh out the details of the March program.

- April - Informal Discussion of Technology Usage

Marissa Theisen suggested that April's program be an informal discussion of the use of technology and social media by funders. Rosemary Gannon suggested that a representative from JPMorgan Chase could talk about their recent partnership with Facebook. She also noted that *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* has some good resources regarding social media. Don Snider suggested that part of the program entail an educational piece on the basics of how social media and technology can be used. This could be followed by informal table discussion. Rosemary Gannon added that several funders who are already using technology could talk about their experiences. Several suggestions for presenters were recommended including the marketing person from VSUW, Jon Ford from SLHI, someone from JPMorgan Chase, and the marketing person from ACF. Marissa Theisen will query the membership to see if anyone is willing to share their experiences with social media and technology.

#### Discuss ASF Proposal to Co-sponsor Program

Marissa Theisen asked the committee how they felt about co-sponsoring a program with the Association of Small Foundations on Assuring that Arizona Supports Children and Families. She noted that Regional Associations sometimes view ASF as a "competitor" in terms of foundation members. Currently ASF has about 30 members from Arizona, only a few of which are also AGF members. After discussion of the value to AGF of co-sponsoring the program, the committee decided that unless AGF could play a substantial role in planning the session, it should not co-sponsor the event. Marissa Theisen stated she would check on the possibility of AGF having input in the planning of the program and presenters. The committee agreed that it would be fine for AGF to promote the program as a "Thought you might like to know" opportunity to its members.

The committee also discussed the possibility of broadening the topic presented by the ASF program so that it is more locally relevant and includes more relevant parties in the discussion (funders, nonprofits, legislators, ARRA ombudsman). They suggested this topic be the focus of the March program. (See full description above.)

#### Set Date for Next Meeting

Marissa Theisen suggested that the next meeting be scheduled for February. At the December program, members will be offered a chance to sign up for committees and will be given another chance in early January. Once all Program Committee members have been identified, AGF staff will circulate dates in early January for the next committee meeting dates.

#### Thank you to Don and Erin

Don Snider and the committee thanked Erin Dow for her work with the committee and with AGF. The committee thanked Don for his service as committee chair and his valuable leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.