

Minutes of AGF Board Meeting | Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Pursuant to call and notice of the meeting, Carol Peck called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 11:45 am on Tuesday, February 10th, at the Rodel Charitable Trust of Arizona at 6720 North Scottsdale Road, Suite 380 Scottsdale, AZ 85253.

Directors present included Tom Ambrose, Pat Miles, Carol Peck, Ed Portnoy, Roy Pringle, Mary Jane Rynd, Don Snider, and via phone: Kerry Blume. Marissa Theisen and Erin Dow were also present. Carol Peck chaired the meeting and Erin acted as secretary.

Initial Discussion

For the benefit of new board members, Carol asked that everyone introduce themselves and share their favorite magazine or journal.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Roy Pringle and a second by Ed Portnoy, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 9th Board Meeting.

Review of Financial Statements

Roy reported on the 2008 end of year financials. He noted that they were nearly the same as the financials reviewed at the December 9th meeting. He questioned why the net income listed on the 2008 Year End Balance Sheet was approximately \$25,000 lower than the net Operating Income on the Dec. 31 Financial Statement. Marissa wasn't sure and said she'd get back to Roy. (*The explanation is that the Net Income on the Balance Sheet reflects the value lost from the ACF Endowment fund.*) He noted that the financials for January 2009 were also included in the packet and everything looked in order.

Discussion Items

- Board Structure – Carol announced that Committee Chairs for 2009 have been confirmed as listed in the board packet. Tom Ambrose volunteered for the Membership Committee. Erin stated that Adrienne Howell had also recently signed up for the Membership Committee. Marissa also noted that Rosemary Gannon had also expressed interest in several committees and has not yet chosen the committee on which she will serve. Marissa will bring an updated committee list to the next board meeting. Carol made note of the board meeting dates for the year as listed in the board packet.
- Conflict of Interest policy – Carol directed the meeting members to the Conflict of Interest policy in their board packets. She noted that this policy will be revisited every year in order for board members to report on any current conflicts they may have. She suggested they take a moment to fill them out and turn them in to Marissa. Marissa will compile the responses and forward them to all board members.
- Vote to add Deborah Whitehurst to AGF Board – In the wake of the departure of Bob King from the Arizona Community Foundation, Deborah Whitehurst agreed to be considered to complete Bob's term on the board through the end of 2009. Don moved to accept Deborah to the board; Ed seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.
- Assessment of Strategic Plan – Marissa reviewed the 2008 Strategic Plan goals. She reported that for the most part, the organization met or exceeded its goals and objectives. Areas where objectives were not full met included:
 - AGF did not meet its goal for recruiting 10 new members (recruited only 4) and fell just shy of its member retention rate of 90%.

- AGF missed its dues goal by \$8,000, but met its goals for grants revenue and exceed its goals for event underwriting. Roy noted that AGF was able to meet the grants goal without the help of any Kellogg grant funding in 2008.
- AGF was ultimately unsuccessful in developing a timely mechanism for soliciting state and local political candidate's views of the nonprofit sector. The collaborative effort with the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits was launched too late in the election cycle. Plus, some legal questions were raised regarding posting responses unless 100% of those running for a position had responded. Ed suggested Marissa consult with Lois Savage to get a more definitive legal answer before the next election cycle. Don also suggested querying Ellis Carter at Fennemore Craig.
- Tom Ambrose asked if there would be a board retreat this year. After discussion on the focus and timing of a possible retreat, the board agreed that the retreat will be held in conjunction with the next board meeting on April 14th from noon to 4:30 pm. The retreat portion of the meeting will include teambuilding as well as reviewing the mission of AGF to determine if it should be revised. Mary Jane arranged for the meeting to be held at Piper Charitable Trust. Marissa will explore names of team building consultants.
- AGF's role in engaging the Governor's Office – Marissa noted that Irene Jacobs submitted the Governor's Office dues invoice before leaving her post, but they have not yet been paid. Carol will be meeting with the Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff later in the afternoon and agreed to initiate a conversation regarding their membership. Don suggested offering to waive the membership fee for this year if they wished to be a part of AGF. Board members discussed asking someone from the Governor's office to be on the board. It was agreed that membership was the first priority. Marissa noted that the Education Funders affinity group wanted a representative from the Governor's office to speak at their next meeting. Carol volunteered to speak with Karla Phillips at the Governor's office to see if she would speak to the group.

Information Items

A. Presidents Report

- a. Dues renewal process update – Marissa reported that as of January 31st, AGF dues collection was ahead of pace for January 31, 2008. Marissa reported that thus far 4 members had resigned (2 of which suspended operations) and 4 new members had joined. Marissa asked the board to consider the specific case of Thunderbirds Charities. Their Executive Director called to say her board would not agree to pay \$6,500 in dues, feeling that in light of the tough economic times, more of their money should go to grantees. The E.D. wanted to know if AGF would create temporary adjusted dues this year in light of the economic crisis. After discussion, the board agreed that current dues policies should be followed but encouraged Marissa to talk with their representative to get more information. Marissa agreed to review the AGF policies and talk with the E.D. to learn more about the specifics of their circumstances and then report back to the board.
- b. Marissa sought board input on the idea of AGF applying for a VISTA Volunteer to be shared with Social Venture Partners. She explained that the person would split their time equally between the organizations. The cost for this half-time staff person would be \$5,500/year. The AGF budget currently includes \$16,000 for part-time staff support and last year AGF spent \$10,000 for part-time support. In addition to handling some administrative duties, this person would focus on marketing AGF to prospective members and to the general public. The board requested to see a job description for the VISTA before moving forward.

- B. Affinity Group Meetings - AGF has hosted two affinity group meetings this year for the Small/Family Foundation group and the Corporate Funder group. Planning is under way for the next Education Funders meeting.
- C. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership – Marissa reported for Jerry Wissink. The first meeting of the year is scheduled for March 16th.
 - b. Program – Don reported that the January program and today’s February program were successful. The next program on Effective Exit Strategies is on March 19th. The committee will meet on March 31st to finalize meeting dates and program content for the last half of the year. Don also reported that Marissa and several AGF members are also involved in planning for the Council of Southwest Foundation annual conference to be held in September in Scottsdale.
 - c. Special Events – Kerry deferred to Marissa who reported that the event is scheduled for October 27th. ACF and Lowry Hill have committed \$5,000 each to sponsor the program and speaker Nathan Dungan, founder of Share, Save & Spend. His topic will be *Families, Money and Habits: Navigating the New Normal*. Marissa shared that even with a budget adjusted for lower attendance, the event should make money. Gene D’Adamo has agreed to help again this year with advertising in The Arizona Republic. The first committee meeting is scheduled for March 3.
 - d. Board Development – Ed announced that the committee will meet later in the year to fill the position left open by Irene Jacobs, depending on how talks with the Governor’s office proceed.

Other

Ed thanked Marissa for her work in supporting the Emergency Funding collaborative. He reported that the collaborative has already secured commitment exceeding \$1.3 million from 8 funders and will launch a public awareness campaign in April to attract matching funds. The funds will be used to support approximately 50 nonprofits that provide emergency services in Arizona. Marissa agreed to email information about the collaborative to the AGF membership.

Carol Peck adjourned the meeting at 1:40 pm.