

Minutes of AGF Program Committee Meeting
March 31, 2009
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
The Flinn Foundation

In attendance: Don Snider, Jacky Alling, Pat Miles, Barbara Poley via phone, Brian Spicker, Rosemary Gannon, Marissa Theisen and Erin Dow.

Don Snider called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm.

Don asked for approval of the minutes from the December meeting. Pat moved to accept the minutes; Jacky seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Marissa highlighted the program summary for programs held since the last committee meeting, citing strong participant evaluations for all the programs and good attendance at the Jan. and March programs. Marissa also mentioned that the program on the Impact of the Federal Stimulus funds on AZ Nonprofits was confirmed for April 17th from 11:00-12:30 and that over 140 folks had registered in the first two days. Plans are underway to move the program to the auditorium at St. Josephs Hospital which can accommodate over 200 people.

Don asked Barbara what program topics suggested by Kerry Blume would be of interest for a program for Northern Arizona grantmakers to be held in Flagstaff. Barbara stated that a program on matching grants/collaboration or social entrepreneurship would be of interest to grantmakers. Brian suggested that the Lodestar Center may be a good resource for a speaker on social entrepreneurship (Pat Lewis). Marissa also suggested the organization Mission Wise as a resource for this topic. Rosemary questioned how long the program should be, indicating that Valley funders may not travel to Flagstaff for an hour or hour and a half program. Committee members suggested that nonprofits be included in the meeting to increase the reach of the program and incentive for funders to attend. Barbara said she would like to have a discussion with Kerry Blume, Marissa and someone from Mission Wise to guide the format and length of the program. Don asked Barbara for the best dates for the program. Barbara indicated that the end of July would be preferable but the end of August would work as well. Marissa said she would follow up with Mission Wise and said she'd check with Kerry as well for feasible dates. Jacky said she would contact the Flagstaff Community Foundation to get them involved in planning of the program as well.

Jacky suggested that we could use Flagstaff and Tucson meetings to create satellite locations to host future webinars of AGF programs.

Brian proposed having one of the summer or fall programs be a report on the Funder Collaborative covering both the impact of the grants made and the lessons learned from the collaborative process. After some discussion, the group decided that the December Annual meeting might be a good time to highlight the Emergency Funder collaborative. Marissa suggested there would be value in creating some kind of evaluation tool to distribute to collaboration partners to generate useful data on the success of the process.

The committee discussed the idea of having the alternate summer month program be a social event. Marissa stated that previous social events have attracted 20-25 folks who indicated the sessions were valuable. She suggested that most AGF members will not go to a program unless they see some professional value in it. Jacky suggested that the summer social meeting might involve an informal gathering, to learn more about the Lodestar Center and its plans to expand its philanthropic mission. Marissa offered to contact Robert to see if he would be interested in participating in such a program.

Marissa asked the committee if they felt it would be worthwhile for AGF to co-sponsor a program on Border Philanthropy on April 29th with ACF. AGF would mainly be responsible for sending information about the program to members. Marissa will also talk with Aaron Stiner from the Lodestar Center to see how they would like to be involved. The committee was fine with AGF co-sponsoring this event, so long as staff involvement was not significant.

Marissa mentioned the suggestion of Herb Paine of the Membership Committee that AGF engage board members and trustees in programs such as a book club. There wasn't sufficient time to discuss this idea at this meeting.

Brian asked if AGF would be providing a meeting in Tucson. Marissa said that Steve Alley coordinates a small group of funders (Southern Arizona Grantmakers) that meets periodically, but attendance is generally low. Most of the foundations located there are very small and most don't have professional staff. Jacky suggested that we include nonprofits in a meeting in Tucson to increase attendance. Don recommended that a program in Tucson should be held in the fall when the weather cools down and at the end of the week. He felt that if people could build personal time after the program they would be more likely to attend a program outside the Valley. Marissa suggested the possibility of having a program about the Lodestar Collaboration Prize in Tucson. Rosemary asked if a program about supporting nonprofits beyond grants would appeal to funders other than corporate groups. Marissa noted that Steve Alley had expressed interest in this kind of topic for funders in his region. Jacky suggested doing a program on the topic in Tucson with nonprofits and funders. Don stated that it might be a good program for November. Marissa said she'd follow up with Steve Alley to see if November might be a good month to schedule a program in Tucson.

Marissa noted the Conference of Southwest Foundations Conference in September and the Art of Giving Luncheon in October and asked if AGF should plan programs during these months. Marissa mentioned that she'd suggested to CSF that they give AGF members a member discount for their Sept. conference and consider offering single day pricing. Don Snider said he'd follow up on these suggestions via email as soon as possible. Jacky asked if one of the national speakers from the CSF conference might be available to present a short program to AGF members not attending the conference. Don said he will bring up the suggestion at the next CSF conference planning committee meeting.

Don suggested the committee wait until the next meeting to plan the fall schedule. He summarized the decisions made to date as follows:

July 30

Flagstaff Program or Summer Social in Phoenix

Aug. 20 or 27 Flagstaff program or Summer Social
Sept. 24 CSF Annual Conference (possible reception or program for AGF members
 with one of the national speakers in town for the CSF conference)

Marissa noted that they May program will be at the Human Services Campus and asked if attendees should be asked to arrive at 11:30 for a 30-minute campus tour. Rosemary suggested scheduling a tour before and after the program to allow flexibility for attendees. Marissa said she'd follow up with staff about that possibility.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.