

Minutes of AGF Program Committee Meeting
September 26, 2008
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Flinn Foundation

In attendance: Jacky Alling, Nita Francis, Don Snider (Chair), Pat Miles, Barbara Poley (by phone), Ed Portnoy, Cheryl Ruggiero, Don Wilt, and Marissa Theisen and Erin Dow, staff.

Don Snider called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting agenda. Marissa provided a brief summary and spreadsheet of AGF program statistics for all programs for 2008 through the 9/15 program. Marissa clarified that affinity group programs do not rate programs but check whether or not they were beneficial on surveys. Participant ratings were high for all surveyed events.

Marissa explained that the program on Maximizing the Social Return on Foundation Assets, which had originally been scheduled for October, had been postponed. The Arizona Community Foundation had expressed an interest in co-sponsoring this program and requested we look at dates in early 2009 which would be compatible with their trustee meetings. Jacky Alling reported that she'd been in touch with Luther Regan of the Heron Foundation, who is an expert on this topic, and that he'd be happy to come to Arizona early in 2009 to speak on this topic. She suggested that Feb. 11th might be a good date to shoot for, as the ACF Executive Committee will be meeting then.

October 30th - Marissa reviewed the programs scheduled for October, November and December. It was noted that the October 30th program was still tentatively scheduled and would focus on Native American grantmaking. Barbara will assist with making connections to find a panel member representing the tribal gaming perspective. The meeting will be held at ACF. It was suggested that this program be opened to Native American grantmaking groups as well as key Native American grantseeking nonprofits.

November 20 Governance/Administrative Best Practices. This program will be open to nonprofits, and Marissa is working with the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits to enlist their assistance in marketing the event. The focus of this program will be on addressing the range of policies and procedures that all nonprofits should have in place to ensure nonprofits pursue the highest standards for accountability and transparency.

December 11 AGF Annual Meeting. The topic for this meetings is always one that is thought provoking and addresses the field of philanthropy. This year's speaker will be Joel Orosz, who will be talking about his book on the Challenges of Philanthropic Leadership. Marissa shared that she intends to invite nonmembers to this event as a marketing strategy and also will encourage members to invite trustees. As a result, the event might require a relative large room. Marissa reported that she did not yet have a confirmed venue for this session, since the Phoenix Country Club is not available this year. Don Snider suggested AGF check to see if the Flinn Foundation large meeting room would be available. It has a maximum capacity of 60 people. Marissa said she

would also check with Judy Mohraz again to see if the new Piper Trust meeting space might be available.

Next Don invited committee members to review the list of proposed programs for 2009 and asked for suggestions on other topics which should be added to the list. (Nita Francis emailed suggestions to Marissa to be added to current list.)

Marissa reminded the group that AGF strives to provide a good mix of programs, with some addressing grantmaking skills, others addressing key issues and others providing informal peer learning opportunities for members to discuss key topics. Generally, AGF opens at least two programs a year to the nonprofit community.

After some discussion, the group agreed that the January AGF program should focus on a newly released report, Greater Phoenix Forward, produced by the ASU College of Public Programs. The report highlights demographic factors that will impact the delivery of human service programs in Maricopa County and statewide. Ed Portnoy agreed to contact Debra Friedman, Dean of the College of Public Programs to determine her interest in presenting to AGF in January, and report back to Marissa

The group agreed that the February program should be on Maximizing Social Return on Philanthropic Asset. Jacky Alling will get back to Marissa as soon as she has confirmed a date with the ACF Executive Committee and Luther Regan. The committee also agreed that Exit Strategies would be a good topic for an informal session in March.

Another program which generated some interest was a site visit to the Human Services Campus. This would provide members the opportunity to learn more about the topic of homelessness and tour the new facility. Someone suggested it would be best to schedule this program when the weather was relatively cool. Ed Portnoy suggested that AGF check out the new Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) conference space as a possible future meeting space. Their new Sports & Fitness Center will be open by the summer of 2009.

The next meeting date was set for December 11, 2008, immediately following the Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm at the AGF office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30