

Minutes of AGF Board Meeting | Tuesday, April 13th, 2010

Pursuant to call and notice of the meeting, Carol Peck called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, April 13 at the Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona, 6720 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 380, Scottsdale, AZ.

Directors present included Carol Peck, Jerry Wissink, Mary Jane Rynd, Gene D'Adamo, Jack Jewett, Barbara Ryan, Pat Miles, Ed Portnoy, and Merl Waschler. Due to technical difficulties Kerry Blume, Barbara Poley, Lydia Lee, and Deborah Whitehurst were unable to participate via conference call. Marissa Theisen and Tom Torretta were also present. Carol Peck chaired the meeting and Tom Torretta acted as secretary.

Carol Peck asked the board to introduce themselves, sharing a recent activity in which they'd been involved that would "shed light" on issues facing the philanthropic sector in the State.

Approval of Minutes

Carol Peck asked for a motion to accept the board minutes from the February 9, 2010 meeting.

Upon a motion by Gene D'Adamo and a second by Jack Jewett, the board approved the minutes of the February 9, 2010 board meeting as amended.

The amendment, offered by Mary Jane Rynd, was to substitute the term "Valley Teen Leadership" for "Valley Teen Partnership" in the section "Special Events Committee."

Review of AGF Financial Statements

Mary Jane Rynd stated that she had reviewed the AGF financials and found everything to be in order.

Discussion/Action Items

▪ Role in Supporting State Sales Tax – Proposition 100

Carol Peck posed the question of what role AGF could/should play regarding supporting Proposition 100 (initiative to raise the state sales tax.) She mentioned that even traditional anti-tax entities like corporations and chambers of commerce were supportive of this initiative. She handed out a draft position statement that Marissa had prepared based on one the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits Board adopted, and asked board members to review it and comment.

One concern raised was if advocating for passage of Proposition 100 was consistent with AGF's mission. Another concern was whether or not private foundation members who aren't permitted to lobby would be comfortable with their membership association doing so. Another board member wondered if AGF's endorsement would even carry much weight. After additional discussion, the board decided that the most appropriate role for AGF would be to urge members to become well informed about this issue, citing links to factual articles produced by local media, and encouraging them to vote on May 18. AGF will also suggest that members share the information with their board, family, friends, and anyone else who might be interested.

- **The Arizona We Want**

Carol Peck asked the board two questions: 1) should the board encourage AGF members to take the “Arizona We Want” online survey? 2) Should AGF take a leadership role in assisting the Center for the Future of Arizona in building out goals 7 and 8 identified in The Arizona We Want study which relate to civic involvement?

The board quickly agreed to encourage AGF members to take the online survey and instructed Marissa Theisen to send an email with appropriate instructions on why and how to participate. Regarding question two, Carol first invited comments from Jack Jewett, since Flinn Foundation has recently developed a focus on civic engagement/civic leadership. Jack Jewett shared that he was quite impressed by the findings of the report especially as they relate to the clear disconnect between Arizona leaders and regular citizens. He stated he was encouraged by the ongoing efforts of many nonprofits like Valley Leadership, Scottsdale Leadership, etc. to prepare future leaders, and O’Connor House and others to understand and encourage civic involvement. However, he noted a significant lack of coordination among groups and expressed his belief that there was an expanded role that the foundation community could take to strengthen civic involvement at all levels.

Carol then invited Marissa Theisen to share what the Center for the Future of Arizona was seeking in terms of a lead organization to help them build out goal 7 and possibly goal 8 of The Arizona We Want study. Marissa explained that the Center was first seeking funding (\$60,000) to produce an Arizona Civic Health Index which would complement the annual America’s Civic Health Index produced by the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC). Marissa passed around a copy of a 2009 New Hampshire Civic Health Index.

Marissa Theisen then mentioned that the Center was also seeking a lead organization which would work with NCoC over the next several months to help them produce an Arizona Civic Health Index. The activities of the lead organization were outlined in Lattie’s proposal.

After some discussion, the board decided that AGF did not have the capacity to serve as the lead organization, nor did the role seem to fit with AGF’s mission. One board member suggested that O’Connor House would be a more appropriate lead agency. Another suggested that AGF could support the Center’s efforts by helping the lead agency to enlist steering committee members and “critical readers” and by providing a forum for future presentations on the Arizona Civic Health Index, assuming it is produced.

- **5th Annual “Art of Giving” Luncheon**

The board engaged in a brief discussion of next year’s Art of Giving luncheon. Merl Waschler suggested a possible speaker that he’d heard at a recent national conference. The speaker was with the Pace Funders (<http://www.pacefunders.org>) and Merl Waschler said he would share the name with Marissa Theisen.

Information Items

President/CEO’s Report

Marissa Theisen reported that AGF has lost three members so far in 2010, and recruited six. Several membership organizations which are in the process of a leadership transition have not yet renewed but she is hoping most will. She mentioned that there were several potential members in the pipeline, and she acknowledged the efforts of Mollie Trivers to recruit

additional members. She suggested total dues revenues might fall \$5,000 short of budget projections.

Marissa Theisen reported on the three affinity group meetings held since the last board meeting, citing the strong attendance and positive evaluations. She also mentioned that AGF is waiting to complete its form 990 until the Financial Review is completed at the end of April. Since the board will want to discuss the 990 before submitting it and the next board meeting isn't until June 8, AGF has filed for an extension of time to file with the IRS.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Mary Jane Rynd reported that Fester and Chapman are scheduled to begin AGF's Financial Review on Friday, April 23 and she expects they can complete the process by the end of May. She also reported that the Finance Committee had met to review a proposal submitted by James Lincoln of Illuminated Funds. The proposal related to the establishment of an Arizona Social Finance Fund. It suggested a role for AGF that would result in the generation of a substantial revenue stream for AGF. After serious consideration, the Finance Committee brought its recommendation to the board of directors and the board decided it was not an appropriate undertaking for AGF.

Special Events Committee

Gene D'Adamo reported on the 4th Annual Art of Giving Luncheon scheduled for November 3. He said the committee had selected The World Needs Your Kid as the event topic and determined the target audience would continue to be mid to high net worth individuals. The committee identified a number of potential sponsors and partners and divvied up responsibility for contacting them. The board confirmed the idea of making a grant to New Global Citizens for \$10,010.10, but some expressed concern that the grant dollars not be used for overseas projects since there are so many needs right here in Arizona.

Upon a motion by Gene D'Adamo and a second by Ed Portnoy, the board unanimously approved restricting the use of the New Global Citizens grant to support of local student efforts.

There was a brief discussion about mentioning the award of the grant in event marketing materials and the consensus was that this was a good idea. Someone suggested that when the grant is presented, we make a point to mention that NGC should "pay it forward" to the next generation.

Membership Committee

Barbara Ryan reported on the Membership Committee meeting held on March 23. She stated that the committee first reviewed an extensive list of prospective members prepared by AGF staff. Neither she nor Karen Fisch was familiar with most of the prospects. They then discussed ideas for enrolling new members and suggested scheduling intimate informal gatherings of prospects (like sports related funders) which could serve as both networking sessions and opportunities to learn more about AGF.

Barbara Ryan also shared that the group had discussed reaching out to grantmakers in Tucson and discussed the idea of AGF scheduling a "meet and greet" once the new CEO's of

Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and Tucson United Way were in place. Several board members expressed a willingness to travel to Tucson to welcome the new CEOs. Carol Peck mentioned she'd be in Tucson in May and promised to give Marissa those dates so she could explore the idea of setting up a session. (Carol Peck will be in Tucson May 3 and 4, however, the new CFSOAZ CEO won't be in Tucson at that time.)

Program Committee

Pat Miles reported that the program committee met on March 2, and laid out most of the programs for the remainder of the year. The committee will meet again at the end of the summer to review this year's programs and begin planning for 2011.

Strategic Planning Committee

Jerry Wissink reported that his committee met on March 18 to discuss steps for completing a new three-year strategic plan by December of 2010. The committee agreed that as a mature organization, AGF goals would likely remain in place, but that the strategic planning process would help in delineating specific objectives. The committee decided that they wanted to use an outside facilitator and expressed a desire to hire someone with strong facilitation skills and considerable knowledge of regional associations of grantmakers. They recommended that Marissa Theisen contact Marcia Sharp to see if she would be available and what her rates might be.

Marissa Theisen reported that Marcia Sharp was currently working with the Conference of Southwest Foundations, but would be available to work with the AGF board starting in August. She stated that the board strategic planning retreat would be held in conjunction with the October 12 board meeting. Board members agreed this time frame would work and recommended the retreat be scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet next in early August with Marcia Sharp to flesh out the scope of work and get a firm estimate of costs. Gerry Wissink reported that Marcia's fees may approach \$7,000+ travel expenses – approximately \$2,500 more than included in the AGF budget. Board members approved the potential budget override.

There being no further business to discuss, Carol Peck called for a motion to adjourn.

The board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Minutes approved by:

Dr. Carol Peck, Board Chair

Date