

Minutes of AGF Board Meeting | Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Pursuant to call and notice of the meeting, Carol Peck called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 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, Jack Jewett, Pat Miles, Kerry Blume, Lydia Lee, Karen Fisch, and Sharon Foltz. Deborah Whitehurst participated 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, since Kerry Blume and Sharon Foltz hadn't officially met several of the board members.

Approval of Minutes

Carol Peck asked for a motion to accept the board minutes from the April 13, 2010 meeting.

Two amendments were suggested.

Kerry Blume requested that her name be corrected to say Kerry and not Karen.

Mary Jane Rynd suggested that under the Finance Committee report the text be changed to read "The Finance Committee brought its recommendation to the board of directors and after serious consideration; the board decided it was not an appropriate undertaking for AGF."

Upon a motion by Lydia Lee and a second by Pat Miles, the board approved the minutes of the April 13, 2010 board meeting as amended.

Review of AGF Financial Statements

Mary Jane Rynd stated that she had reviewed the AGF financials and found everything to be in order. She noted some variances in the budget which were explained in the budget attachment. One board member asked if the \$5,000 honorarium budget item had indeed been fully spent and Marissa confirmed this. Another board member questioned why the net operating income (total revenues minus total expenses) was so high and Mary Jane Rynd explained that the vast majority of AGF revenues are collected at the beginning of the year while the expenses incurred to date represent only five months of the total.

Discussion/Action Items

▪ Role in Upcoming State Elections

Carol Peck asked Marissa Theisen to set the context for the discussion of what role AGF might have in upcoming state elections. Marissa mentioned that The Arizona We Want Gallup Poll results indicate that only 10% of Arizona citizens feel their current leaders represent them. She pointed out that certain decisions made by the State legislature in the last session created devastating impacts on much of the nonprofit sector, jeopardizing the investments made by funders over the past several years. She asked if AGF board members thought there was anything AGF could/should do to ensure more moderate and representative leaders are elected in the upcoming elections.

She explained that, in the past, the AGF board had discussed the idea of AGF working with the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits to survey candidates about their views regarding the nonprofit/philanthropic sector and sharing candidate responses with our respective members. She mentioned that she'd recently explored several ideas with Patrick McWhorter including 1) co-hosting a candidates forum; 2) partnering with the Center for the Future of Arizona around their June town hall meetings and subsequent candidate interviews; 3) drafting questions to pose to candidates after the primaries; and 4) supporting efforts to increase voter turnout for both the primary and general elections.

After considerable discussion, the board decided it would not be a good use of AGF staff time or other resources to schedule a candidates forum. Members felt that other organizations, including the Center for the Future of Arizona, League of Women Voters and Clean Elections Commission are better positioned to organize such an event.

The board did feel there was value in having AGF generate questions that could be submitted to candidates either directly to Lattie Coor who is soliciting candidate questions, or to other groups which will be hosting candidate forums in the fall. The board decided that AGF staff should poll members to generate an initial list of questions. The board will then review the list, selecting the most relevant/representative questions to forward to Lattie Coor. The board did not feel there would be benefit in AGF seeking attribution for the questions.

▪ AGF Form 990 Review

Mary Jane Rynd walked the board through the 2009 990-EZ, reviewing the document page by page. The only suggested changes involved a typo in the spelling of the Rodell Foundation of Arizona on the "Contributors" page, and substituting Mary Jane Rynd for Roy Pringle as the signatory officer on page four.

Mary Jane Rynd recommended the board accept the 990 as it stands, but offered members the option of reviewing the 990 on their own and getting back to Marissa Theisen next week. The board expressed confidence in approving the document at the meeting

Upon a motion by Jerry Wissink and a second by Lydia Lee, the board unanimously approved the Form 990.

Information Items

President/CEO's Report

Marissa Theisen discussed the current membership dues situation. She mentioned that three organizations have resigned, five government agencies have been granted a free year of membership, and five members have not renewed but are still expressing interest. These organizations include Arizona Foundation for Women, Arizona Humanities Council, Corporation for National and Community Service, Dorrance Family Foundation, and Wells Fargo. Karen Fisch stated Arizona Foundation for Women will most likely be rejoining. Karen also said she will follow up with Arizona Humanities Council and Wells Fargo. Carol Peck also stated she will be seeing JoAnn Holland and would speak to her about Wells Fargo's membership status.

Marissa stated there was a Corporate Funders affinity group meeting last month, an Education Funders affinity group meeting set for June 9, two Philanthropy Professionals Rising affinity group meetings set for June, and a Small/Family Foundation affinity group meeting set for July. She also mentioned upcoming programs including one on June 24 dealing with arts and culture organizations surviving the current economic crisis, one on July 22 which will be the summer social evening event featuring new CEOs and one on August 26 that will take place in Flagstaff and highlight a community needs assessment produced for First Things First

Carol Peck mentioned that the Education Funders affinity group meeting taking place on June 9 will feature Kate Walsh, CEO of the National Council on Teacher Quality. She said the program promises to be very good and even a bit controversial.

▪ 2009 Annual Report

Marissa briefly discussed the 2009 annual report which was included in the board packets. She pointed out that the final report now includes two minor changes prompted by modifications to the Financial Review document. Marissa Theisen said she planned to post the report on the AGF website next week and invited board members to submit any comments/suggested edits as soon as possible.

▪ The Arizona We Want

Marissa Theisen reported that 27 AGF members filled out the Center for the Future of Arizona's "The Arizona We Want" survey in April and May 2010. She reviewed some of the findings with the board highlighting how AGF members compared with the initial Gallup Poll results reported in October 2009 and other website responses generated in April and May of 2010. She agreed to send board members a report that captured the data on how other people responded to the survey questions in April and May. The board decided there might be value in asking AGF members one more time to take the survey, in order to obtain a larger sample size.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Mary Jane Rynd reported that the Financial Review produced by Fester and Chapman found no significant concerns. The report made note of one restatement of 2008 assets resulting from a payroll error, which staff and board identified and addressed in 2009. Mary Jane reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed the report, recommended changes, and that these had been incorporated into the document provided to the board. She recommended that the board approve the report

Upon a motion by Jack Jewett and a second by Jerry Wissink, the board unanimously approved the Financial Review report prepared by Fester and Chapman.

Mary Jane Rynd mentioned that the committee had also discussed the idea of AGF organizing a program on financial investments, if AGF members are interested. She noted that the recent turbulence of the financial markets was a cause of great concern to foundations of all sizes and many smaller foundations and nonprofits might benefit from a program that provided some guidance on investment strategies in the current environment.

The board supported the idea of inviting managers of nonprofit and foundation endowments to attend. Marissa mentioned that the Conference of Southwest Foundations would be interested in co-sponsoring such a program and had recommended potential speakers. Mary Jane Rynd and Deborah Whitehurst suggested that the Stratford team would also be good presenters. AGF recently surveyed AGF members about their interest in attending such a session and which topics are most important to them. Assuming there is sufficient interest expressed, AGF staff will move forward on organizing such a program.

Special Events Committee

Lydia Lee reported the success of the Fourth Annual Art of Giving event to date. AGF had budgeted for \$22,000 in sponsorships and has so far received commitments of \$25,000. In addition, there are 10 partners secured, the save the date card is ready for distribution in September, and the draft invitation is being developed. We are hoping to secure a number of seats for high school and college students and plan to work closely with Courtney Kline and others to find deserving students to attend the program.

Board members suggested that AGF staff reach out to the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation to purchase tickets for their youth leaders.

Karen Fisch reported that SRP has already purchased a table and has decided to share the seats with employees and their kids who are interested in attending.

Membership Committee

Karen Fisch reported that she and Barbara Ryan have been following up on membership prospects. She reported that Barbara Ryan had set up a meeting with a contact at the Apollo Group and has plans to set up meetings with contacts at Intel and John C. Lincoln Hospital. Sharon Foltz asked if AGF had any contacts at Texas Instruments or Allied Signal. Lydia Lee agreed to contact her peer in Dallas to see if she could get a good contact at Texas Instruments.

Program Committee

Pat Miles reported on upcoming programs, stating that all programs were set except the December program, which is AGF's Annual Meeting. She raised the possibility of inviting Bob Edgar, CEO of Common Cause, to speak about the link between philanthropy and democracy. The board expressed concerns that this topic might be too edgy and suggested a more neutral topic that focused on what foundations can and cannot do regarding advocacy and public policy. Deborah Whitehurst suggested it might be interesting to hear from Arizona foundations like Helios and ACF that are beginning to explore public policy/advocacy initiatives like Expect More Arizona and Vote 4 Education. Marissa Theisen agreed to talk with Barbara Ryan and Ellis Carter or Kendis Muscheid to get their ideas.

Strategic Planning Committee

Jerry Wissink reported the committee had decided that they wanted to use an outside facilitator and selected Marcia Sharp, since she has extensive experience working with Regional Associations of Grantmakers. Since Marcia will not be available until August, the committee has scheduled a conference call on August 3 at 2:00 pm to discuss her scope of work and get agreement on how to proceed in planning for the board retreat scheduled for October 12 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Jerry Wissink reported that the current committee members include Judy Mohraz, Ed Portnoy, Deborah Whitehurst, Carol Peck, and Jerry Wissink. He invited any other interested board members to join the committee.

There being no further business to discuss, Jerry Wissink 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