

Minutes of AGF Board Meeting | Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Pursuant to call and notice of the meeting, Carol Peck called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 11:55 a.m. on Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at the Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona, 6720 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 380, Scottsdale, AZ.

Directors present included Carol Peck, Jerry Wissink, Gene D'Adamo, Karen Fisch, Jack Jewett, Lydia Lee, Ed Portnoy, Barbara Ryan, and Merl Waschler. Deborah Whitehurst, Barbara Poley, and Sharon Foltz 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 for the benefit of the board members on the phone.

Approval of Minutes

Carol Peck asked for a motion to accept the board minutes from the June 8, 2010 meeting.

One amendment was suggested.

Mary Jane Rynd suggested that under the Finance Committee report the text be changed to read:

"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 original sentence read:

"... provided some guidance on alternative investment strategies."

Upon a motion by Gene D'Adamo and a second by Karen Fisch, the board approved the minutes of the June 8, 2010 board meeting as amended.

Review of AGF Financial Statements

Tom Torretta reported for Mary Jane Rynd in her absence. Mary Jane stated that she had reviewed the AGF financials and found everything to be in order.

Discussion/Action Items

➤ October 12 Board Meeting and Retreat

Carol Peck reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met on August 3 to discuss with the facilitator, Marcia Sharp, the expectations for the Oct. 12 board retreat. She mentioned that the group decided to hold two focus group meetings prior to the October 12 Strategic Planning session to gather feedback from AGF members. The focus group meetings will take place on October 4 from 10:30am – 12:00pm and from 1:30pm – 3:00pm. Members have already been invited to attend these sessions and enrollment is strong. Carol encouraged board members to

participate in either of the sessions. Both Carol and Jerry will attend the focus group sessions as observers only.

Board members agreed to review their schedules and get back to Tom Torretta if they plan to attend either session.

➤ **Conflict of Interest Statement**

Carol Peck asked the board members present to fill out the Conflict of Interest (COI) form in their packets. Members not present at the meeting are encouraged to sign and send back their completed COI forms to Tom Torretta.

➤ **Grantmakers in Aging (GIA) Proposal**

Carol Peck asked Marissa Theisen to briefly describe the Grantmakers in Aging grants opportunity. Marissa stated that GIA is encouraging regional associations to educate their members about issues related to aging and is offering a \$15,000/year, two-year matching grant opportunity. At least seven regional associations have already participated, and GIA is hoping to issue at least six more matching grants

Marissa mentioned that in a recent AGF member survey, over 60% indicated they would be interested in attending programming related to aging. She has already identified four funders (Piper, SLHI, BHHS Legacy and ACF) willing to provide the matching funds and to serve as a planning committee. Assuming there is board approval, AGF will need to submit a letter of intent by September 15 and the full application by October 15. Staff at GIA has offered to assist regional associations in preparing their grant proposals.

After some discussion, the board decided that AGF should proceed with the grant application.

Jerry Wissink suggested we get a letter of intent from each of the funders of this new initiative and also open the opportunity up to other AGF members who may be interested.

Marissa stated that she won't proceed unless she is assured that the \$15,000 in matching funds provided by AGF members will be "new" money, and not constitute a portion of any organization's normal organizational support.

➤ **What's Next in Philanthropy**

Marissa Theisen mentioned that she'd read the recent report from the Monitor Institute, "What's Next in Philanthropy" and thought the key points outlined in the two-page summary might serve as fodder for a good "generative" discussion. Most board members hadn't had the chance to read the summary sheet, so discussion of the report wasn't possible.

Marissa stated that this may be a good topic for our December meeting. She is checking with her peers to learn more about Barbara Kibby, Vice President of Client Services for the Monitor Institute, as Katherine Fulton, President of Monitor Institute, is not available. One peer stated Barbara is a good speaker. Deborah Whitehurst stated she would ask Steve Seleznow about

Barbara, as he has had a lot of interactions with the Monitor Institute while with the Bill and Melinda Gates Family Foundation.

Deborah Whitehurst briefly mentioned the two year, \$220,000 capacity building grant awarded to the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits and the Arizona Community Foundation by the Corporation for National and Community Service. AGF played an instrumental role in convening funders to discuss potential direction for this grant application.

Carol Peck mentioned Arizona's "Race to the Top" grant status, citing that the state is one of the 19 finalists for the second round of funding. This is a major accomplishment, given how poorly rated was Arizona's initial application. Carol mentioned there is no set announcement date and that there will be no feedback until after the announcement.

Information Items

President/CEO's Report

Marissa Theisen discussed the current membership dues situation. She mentioned that three organizations have resigned (one of which was not a paying member), seven new members have joined so far this year, and we are still waiting to hear from three members who have not yet renewed but are still expressing interest. These organizations include Arizona Foundation for Women, Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Dorrance Family Foundation. We are waiting for the Dorrance Family Foundation to select a new Executive Director before reminding them about their membership.

Tom Torretta briefly discussed his first Forum of Regional Associations conference and what he learned from his peers. He noted that AGF could do much more if we were able to go "deeper." He stated that his peers are providing a higher level of service and are also more "high touch" in regard to reaching out to members and providing more specialized services and programs.

Marissa discussed the program graphs that show member attendance and evaluation scores for years 2008, 2009 and 2010. She noted that affinity group attendance is trending up and the monthly programs attendance is trending down. She also noted that evaluation scores continue to trend up and are well above the 4.0 target for all programs and affinity groups. Marissa also highlighted the Google Analytics statistics showing the website use by both members and non-members. All of these numbers have increased in the past year, thanks in large part to Tom Torretta's efforts to upgrade our website.

Marissa mentioned that, following up on a recommendation at the June board meeting, she'd invited members to submit questions to be posed to candidates for the fall elections. After several reminders, she said she only received one submission. Marissa stated that Lattie Coor had compiled a very good list of candidate questions although none deal specifically with the nonprofit sector.

Committee Reports

Board Development

Ed Portnoy, Chair of the Board Development Committee, stated that he was seeking volunteers from the board to help him select candidates for board positions opening up in 2011. The committee will also identify the board officer slate for 2011.

Sharon Foltz, who was appointed by the board in February to fill Steve Alley's seat, stated she would like to continue as a board member next year.

Several board members including Jerry Wissink, Carol Peck, and Lydia Lee, offered to assist Ed.

Ed asked the board to let him know if there were any other candidates that they would like to recommend.

Marissa will schedule the Board Development Committee meeting for September.

Special Events Committee

Gene D'Adamo reported that Helios has agreed to sponsor the Art of Giving event at the \$5,000 (Silver) level. He also said he would continue to reach out to potential partners and circle back with committee members. The Arizona Republic will donate ad space and wants their logo on the ads and invitations.

Ed Portnoy stated he was skeptical about the idea four years ago, but the special event has been a money maker each year, and he is impressed by the program's viability.

Membership Committee

Barbara Ryan reported that she has reached out to Kathleen Barton with Intel and suggested Marissa follow up. She also met with John C. Lincoln's Marcia Mintz. Jerry said he would follow up with Marcia. Barbara had scheduled to meet with the Apollo Group's Pat Godfrey, but the meeting was postponed. Gene D'Adamo has also briefly spoken to Pat about joining AGF.

Tom Torretta noted that the Phoenix Coyotes had recently joined AGF and staff was exploring the opportunity to start an affinity group for sports teams. Barbara Ryan and Carol Peck mentioned they have contacts with the Diamondbacks, and Karen Fisch stated she had contacts with the Cardinals. Merl Waschler noted that there is already a connection between the University of Phoenix/Apollo Group and the Arizona Cardinals.

Program Committee

In Pat Miles's absence, Marissa Theisen highlighted the information in the board packets regarding past 2010 programs as well as upcoming programs

Ed Portnoy suggested that the Advocacy Guide produced by Tim Delaney for the Wallace Foundation Advocacy conference held in 2007 might be a good resource for the AGF

November program, assuming copies were still available. Marissa said she would check with the Alliance to see if they had any books left.

Strategic Planning Committee

Jerry Wissink reminded board members about the Strategic Planning retreat scheduled for October 12 from 8:00 am-1:30 pm and asked if all the board members would be able to participate. Ed Portnoy and Deborah Whitehurst indicated they couldn't attend. The board agreed that previous board chairs should also be invited to the Oct. 12 session. The meeting will take place at the Rodel Foundation.

The board decided not to do a board self assessment as part of the strategic planning process, but to consider conducting one in 2011

Jerry mentioned that the Strategic Planning Committee had a very good discussion with facilitator Marcia Sharp and that they planned to meet with her following the focus group meetings on October 4 to debrief and discuss the agenda for the board retreat. All board members would be invited to attend this meeting. Marissa agreed to coordinate a meeting for 4:00pm on October 4 at a venue near the Rodel Foundation. Merl Waschler asked if there would be transcripts from the focus group sessions to review, prior to the board retreat. Marissa was fairly sure this could be arranged.

Marissa mentioned that Marcia's original bid of \$7,000 involved phone interviews prior to the board retreat and only one trip to Phoenix to facilitate the retreat. She will now be making an additional trip to Phoenix to conduct the focus groups but graciously offered not to charge for her travel time but only for her additional travel expenses.

Committee Reports

Carol Peck mentioned she had purchased a table for the October 28 Arizona College Scholarship Foundation's luncheon at the Arizona Biltmore. She invited any of the board members interested in going to attend at the Rodel table.

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

The board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Minutes approved by:

Dr. Carol Peck, Board Chair

Date