

## **Minutes of AGF Board Meeting | Tuesday, February 15, 2011**

Pursuant to call and notice of the meeting, Jerry Wissink called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at the BHHS Legacy Foundation, 2999 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ.

Directors present included Jerry Wissink, Gene D'Adamo, Karen Fisch, Jack Jewett, Lydia Lee, Clint Mabie, Pat Miles, Carol Peck, and Steve Seleznow. Kerry Blume, Barbara Poley and Barbara Ryan participated via conference call. Marissa Theisen and Tom Torretta were also present. Jerry Wissink chaired the meeting and Tom Torretta acted as secretary.

Jerry Wissink welcomed Clint Mabie and Steve Seleznow to the board. He asked the board to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new board members and board members on the phone.

### **Executive Session**

Jerry Wissink held a brief Executive Session during which the minutes of the December 7, 2010 Board Executive Session were reviewed, distributed, and unanimously approved.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Jerry Wissink asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the board meeting on December 7, 2010.

***Upon a motion by Gene D'Adamo and a second by Karen Fisch, the board approved the minutes of the December 7, 2010 board meeting.***

### **Review of AGF Financial Statements**

Jerry Wissink reported for Mary Jane Rynd who was unable to attend the meeting. It was reported that Mary Jane Rynd had reviewed the AGF financials and found everything to be in order. Jerry mentioned the Finance Committee was considering moving AGF from a cash basis accounting system to an accrual method. If the switch is made, income (dues/grants) would be recorded when the commitment letter is received, and expenses recorded when goods or services are received rather than waiting until the money is received or a check is actually cut. This would improve the accuracy of year-end financial reports. If the decision to switch is made, the move wouldn't happen until the end of 2011. The board also recommended that the Finance Committee re-examine the investment strategy relating to AGF's operating reserves to determine if some portion of the funds could be invested in higher-yielding instruments.

Marissa informed the board that the year-end balance sheet included in the board packets did not reflect the fourth quarter returns for the ACF funds, as they weren't yet available. Having just received the ACF report, Marissa reported that fourth quarter total assets were nearly \$5,000 higher than initially reported.

## **Discussion/Action Items**

### **Strategic Planning Process**

Jerry Wissink thanked Barbara Ryan and the rest of the committee for their hard work and turned the discussion over to her. Barbara led this discussion by first thanking her committee members: Gene D'Adamo of the Arizona Republic, Jerry Wissink of the BHHS Legacy Foundation, Lydia Lee of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Lois Savage of the Lodestar Foundation, Karen Fisch of the Salt River Project, Clint Mabie of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, Pat Miles of the McMiles Foundation, and Kim Van Pelt of St. Luke's Health Initiative. She also thanked Marissa Theisen and Tom Torretta of AGF. She stated the committee worked diligently to put the strategic plan together and were satisfied with the result. Barbara then proceeded to go through the new strategic plan including the goals, objectives and sub-objectives. She elaborated on the new structure and how the goals are better aligned with AGF's mission.

Barbara then listed the recommendations that came out of the strategic planning committee meetings including:

- Adopt the new strategic plan
- Discontinue the Art of Giving Luncheon
- Create an ad hoc Development Committee to help AGF develop creative revenue generating ideas outside of dues, for example:
  - Sponsorship Opportunities
  - Small grants from members
  - Advertising on the website, newsletters and giving reports
- Create a Public Policy Committee to help keep AGF's membership informed and engaged with public policy trends and events, but not to engage in advocacy efforts.

The board engaged in a brief discussion of how to enroll new AGF members and expressed interest in seeing a prospective member list. Marissa Theisen explained the board would hear more details during the membership committee report.

Clint Mabie suggested AGF develop a three year projected budget to accompany the strategic plan, so board members could clearly see what will be needed in terms of growth and sustainability.

Steve Seleznow, Jack Jewett and Pat Miles expressed interest in joining the Public Policy Committee. The committee will look to the AGF membership for dynamic leaders who have an interest in being involved with public policy in Arizona. Kim Van Pelt and Joyce Lopez Powell were suggested as possible chairs of the Public Policy Committee.

***Upon a motion by Barbara Ryan and a second by Lydia Lee, the board approved the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan.***

## **Response to Tucson Tragedy**

Jerry Wissink asked Clint Mabie to inform the board about the response to the tragedy in Tucson. Clint told the board about the [Tucson Together Fund](#), which consists of all of the individual victims' funds that were combined into a single fund. He also mentioned a fund on civil discourse that is being started by the Ron Barber family called "[The Fund for Civility, Respect and Understanding.](#)" The fund is being created to help those affected by the tragedy of January 8. He said the fund will be holding a concert the week of March 10 to assist with the healing process.

Clint also mentioned that there were many other initiatives taking place in Tucson around the tragedy. The 9/11 Foundation is creating a statue in memory of Christina Green using steel from the World Trade Center, because Christina was born on 9/11/2001.

Gene D'Adamo discussed the efforts of the Arizona Republic/AZ Central to create a funder collaborative, the Arizona Centennial Project Citizen Initiative. The focus is on assuring that Arizona's youth learn the value and virtue of civil discourse. The project would create an opportunity for students in Arizona to pick five public policy related issues, e.g., anti-bullying, immigration, or budget concerns. The students will work on the projects and report their findings during the centennial celebration. The collaboration is looking to raise \$116,000 over two years. The majority of the funds will go to cover teacher stipends to attend district trainings, project materials and travel expenses for the winning project participants to attend the National Conference of State Legislatures in Washington, D.C. in 2012. The Arizona Republic/AZ Central has contributed \$25,000. JPMorgan Chase, Freeport McMoRan, Arizona Community Foundation, and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust expressed an interest in joining the collaborative.

Jack Jewett mentioned that the University of Arizona was creating the National Institute for Civic Discourse. Clint Mabie will forward information regarding the institute to AGF.

## **Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits Report**

Jerry Wissink discussed the recent Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits report, *A Breaking Point: Arizona Nonprofits Face a Precarious Crossroads*. He inquired if AGF board members might be interested in meeting with the Alliance's board to discuss the findings of the report and ways in which funders and nonprofits might work collaboratively to address serious problems. A number of board members expressed interest in being involved and Marissa Theisen agreed to contact Patrick McWhortor to set up a meeting.

## **Information Items**

### **President/CEO's Report**

#### **Highlights**

Marissa Theisen briefly reviewed the 2010 Strategic Plan summary report, the current state of dues paid vs. unpaid, and the upcoming programs and affinity group meetings.

## **2010 Giving Report**

Marissa mentioned that the 2010 Giving Report was complete and had been mailed to around 750 state and local leaders including AGF members, other AZ funders, community leaders, government officials and others who would be interested in the findings. She asked the board for marketing ideas for the report. Suggestions included securing time on NPR radio, PBS, KUAT and Pat McMahon's show among other ideas. Marissa will work with board members to secure publicity opportunities.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Membership**

Karen Fisch reported on the most recent committee meeting. The committee has three new members including Kelly Balthazor of US Airways, Patsy Kraeger of the Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, and Kevin Ruegg of the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education. The committee will focus first on more traditional tasks (membership recruitment and retention). Their initial task was to review the prospect list created by AGF staff which includes larger foundations, corporations and former members. The committee hopes to recruit members that will help AGF diversify (geographically, foundation type, funding interests, etc.). The committee will look to the board and all AGF members to help recruit new members, recognizing that members reaching out to peers is much more effective than cold calls. The committee discussed the idea of establishing an annual drawing (possibly for an iPad) for all members who recruit a new or former member in 2011. AGF will post a list of prospective members on the members-only section of the AGF website.

Tom Torretta is working on a membership recruitment toolkit that will consist of AGF's mission, vision, goals, history, benefits and other talking points. The tool kit will support members in sharing a common message about AGF membership.

Karen Fisch next discussed the annual AGF member survey and the idea of holding focus groups in addition to or instead of an annual survey. The committee will review these ideas as the year progresses.

Karen raised the idea of creating an AGF Alumni/Friends membership category for retired grantmakers who wish to remain connected to the grantmaking community. Karen mentioned that these people might be valuable community resources who could serve as mentors for new grantmakers and ambassadors for AGF. Karen read the proposal to amend Article III, Section 2 of the AGF bylaws:

***(c) Individual Associate Members (AGF Alumni). An individual grantmaker who has been an officer, director, or employee of an Active Member [or other grantmaking organization] but who has retired or voluntarily resigned his or her position shall be eligible for membership in the corporation, provided that he or she is not currently a compensated employee of, or compensated consultant to, a nonprofit organization or other organization with respect to which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors of the corporation, a conflict of interest may arise. Eligible individuals may be invited to become Individual Associate Members by the AGF***

***CEO, in consultation with the Membership Committee and president of the board. An Individual Associate Member shall have no voting privileges, may not hold office in the corporation, may not be counted in determination of a quorum, and may attend only those meetings of the corporation which are open to the general membership of the corporation. Individual Associate Members may not represent or speak for Arizona Grantmakers Forum in any context and may not solicit Active Members in any context.***

***Upon a motion by Karen Fisch and a second by Clint Mabie, the board approved the addition of Alumni/Friend of AGF Membership to the Bylaws.***

### **Program Committee**

Pat Miles recapped upcoming programs for 2011. She highlighted the fact that AGF will now only be offering six regular programs in addition to all of the affinity group meetings. She did state that AGF was not limited to six programs, and could add programming if the need arises.

Pat also mentioned that Marissa and she had been discussing the Program Committee's potential role in overseeing the programs for all of the affinity groups. Marissa has developed some guidelines relating to affinity groups, based on examples from other Regional Associations. The Program Committee will review these guidelines at their next meeting and bring a recommendation to the board for approval.

### **Community Information**

Jerry Wissink mentioned the idea of bringing interesting topics about the funder community in Arizona to the attention of board and staff members. Included in this month's board packet was Jack Jewett's letter regarding the current state of Arizona and the opportunities that are emerging. Jerry encouraged board members to send similar articles and information to Marissa for inclusion in future board packets.

There being no further business to discuss, Jerry Wissink called for a motion to adjourn.

***The board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m.***

Minutes approved by:

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Jerry Wissink, Board Chair

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Date