BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Board members present: Deborah Jayne, Mickey Lahmann, Alicia Varvaro, Bob Butts, John Skinder, Jacob Reeves, Matt Gerard, Mary Sue Wilson

Absent: Kevin Partlow (excused)

Director/Staff/Past Board members: Jody Suhrbier, Joe Sanders, Mary Barrett

After some members joined an informal half hour social gathering between 5 & 5:30, the board *meeting convened at 5:30 pm*.

1. **Introductions** and watched video and shared observations about video.
2. **Consent agenda (5:45) ACTION**: John moved to approve with minor edit (January meeting summary to reflect 2021, not 2020), Bob seconded. *Measure to approve passed unanimously*.
3. **Recruitment (5:50) REPORT/ACTION**: Bob summarized qualifications and experience of two new board member applicants, Julie Watkins and Curt Gavigan. John moved to approve both joining the board, Deborah seconded the motion. Discussion had regarding their qualifications, whether they would fill gaps on the Board, Bob believed they would, Curt as a state agency official and Julie as an environmental mediator. Discussion regarding how they became interested (reached out on their own, versus others reaching out to them). Discussion regarding how many new board members should be onboarded at the same time. It was noted that a full board is 15, and even if we added these two, plus one more, the board would still number only 12. Another candidate (urged to apply by Mary Sue) has submitted her application. There was consensus that after vetting and considering this newest candidate, we should pause recruitment until late Summer and to assign new board members to positions that will result in staggered terms, so they all don’t end their terms at the same time. *Motion to approve Julie and Curt as board members passed unanimously.*
4. **Finance (6:10) REPORT/ACTION**: Deborah reported that the last official audit was done in 2015 on fiscal year 2014. The committee invited firms to bid on the task of performing an audit. Two finalist firms were identified, and then one of the two withdrew from consideration. Martha Lindley & Associates was the remaining firm available to do the audit. They were the same firm who did the 2015 audit. They can start the audit in April and complete it within 6 months. Given their experience last time (familiar with the work of the DRC and the findings from 2015), the Finance Committee has confidence in them and recommends selecting the firm. John moved to approve hiring Lindley & Associates to perform the audit and to authorize expenditure to pay for the audit. Matt and Bob seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously*.
5. **Capacity and Community Campaign update (6:20) REPORT**:Joe and Mary provided updates. Joe reported that requests for nominations for the Peacemaker Award have gone out (on Thurston Talks, Olympian, Jolt). Joe asks the volunteers for award selection ad hoc committee to contact him. Mary reported on behalf of Capacity Campaign chairs (Mary, Kitty Parker, Terry Teale, all past board members). She summarized the campaign goals and recent events in early February. She led the discussion of how board members can be most effective in the campaign. She explained one goal of encouraging donors to move up incrementally (e.g., last year gave $ 100, this year $ 200, or last year $ 100, this year become a monthly giver). Mary said the DRC is like many organizations with 80% of the gifts coming from 20% of the givers. The goal of moving up donors is to move folks into the larger or more consistent giving categories. She observed that we had 58 new donors in 2020, which was a large number, particularly in a year when we did not have any live events like the Toast which historically brought in new donors with the enticement of beverages and chocolate treats. She described board members as “champions” who would promote the DRC to others and encourage donations. In a year without a live event, she urged board members to consider thinking about outreach like filling your table of attendees at the Toast.
6. **Board Chairs Academy (6:35) REPORT:** Mickey, Deborah, Jody and Bob are participating in a Board Chairs Academy. They shared what they are learning, including a helpful video (Ted Talk) and graphic (concentric circle with board in the middle, and staff, volunteers, contributors, and community on circles working outward). They emphasized the importance of knowing WHY we are part of the DRC. We brainstormed what the DRC does and why.
7. **Celebrations and meeting wrap up (7:00)**: Jody shared the support the DRCs are receiving in the legislature this year, as funding is important as ever now. Board members shared by chat what they enjoyed about tonite’s meeting (e.g., great decisions and process, circle exercise during item 6) and what they found challenging/looked forward to at future meetings (e.g., last item felt rushed, because we were short on time, hearing from Jody).

*Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm*.