 Board Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2020

Present: Trustees: Andrews, Cooley, Hoff, Keller, Meletti, Mosgrove (term begins 7/1/20), Ogletree, Person, Whitely, Yingling; Executive Director Hoskins

This meeting began at 1:00 pm, continuing over Zoom, starting with centering silence. It followed the board retreat.

Clerk Jim Whitely asked for comments on the morning session. Several people said that it went well, moved quickly, covered a lot in a short time. It was pleasing that the Mission-Vision-Values statement approved in 2016 had held up so well, both reflecting the underlying principles of FFA and allowing for continuing revelation to guide us in these challenging times. Some had been anxious about the overlay discussion of pandemic and racial justice, but felt that the discussion was fruitful. The Zoom format worked well. Some expressed concern that the discussion did not move us forward. The Sprint groups are necessary to make progress and achieve clarity. It was agreed that an additional zoom meeting should be scheduled in addition to the sprint groups to continue this discussion.

The business of the **Annual Meeting** was then addressed. Nikki Mosgrove was welcomed to the board, in the class of 2023. The reelection of Eric Andrews, Tyler Hoff and John Cooley as trustees, each for an additional 3-year term, was then unanimously approved, and the re-election of the officers Jim Whitely, President, Eric Andrews, Treasurer and VP, and Beth Yingling, Secretary, each for an additional 1-year term, was also unanimously approved.

The minutes of the April 9, 2020 meeting and called meeting on April 27, 2020 were approved.

**Finance** Eric reported on his recent call with Amelia from JP Morgan, including current balance and investment priorities. He also asked if there were any questions on the Balance and Profit & Loss statements circulated with meeting materials (there were none).

Susan read an email from Marylee Evangelista, accountant, who recommended increasing the 2020 grant disbursement to $750,000. It was noted that she had not included the operating expenses in her calculations (at least $150,000), and that grants totaling $500-550,000 would be a better target, especially in such a volatile year. FFA has not dipped into principal in its 11 years, but may this year as several other grantmakers are doing. There was not agreement on whether to exceed the minimum distribution amount. More exact figures will be available when the 2019 audit and 990PF are completed.

The innovation mini-grants were labeled as “discretionary.” 11 grants of $1000 were made.

**Governance** Lisa reminded all board members that the Conflict of Interest forms (included in materials) must be completed annually. Please sign and return to Susan. Lisa also noted that an updated contact list and meeting list for 2020-21 were in the materials. The February meeting will be at 6:30 by Zoom regardless of pandemic restrictions. There was brief discussion about meeting times, with a preference for daytime, but not all can do daytime. Governance to work out.

The Mission-Vision-Values guiding document from 2016 was ***reaffirmed***in the retreat session.

The Board approved giving a gift of $1000 to Kendal Foundation in appreciation of David Jones’ facilitating the retreat.

**Executive Director** Susan has attended several virtual meetings and conferences on the pandemic, racial justice and philanthropy, recommending The Crisis of White Supremacy in America (Philanthropy Network) to the board (link sent).

Response to the Innovation mini-grant for ideas from front-line staff to address pandemic challenges was very good. 16 proposals were received, and 11 approved by the grant committee (Tyler, Beth HK, Susan). Several grantees expressed appreciation for the funds and the idea. Susan will share the press release, sent to the grantees, FSA, Kendal Foundation and the grantmaking networks FFA belongs to.

**Grants** Susan reviewed notes from calls with the Fall grant cycle organizations. Jaisohn has suspended its navigator services but is considering how to resume. Callie, with NYYM ARCH, was ill, and is feeling led to consider her role more widely, including supporting meetings in pastoral care of all members. Further discernment is needed about whether this changes the relationship with FFA. The Board reaffirmed its focus on funding for older adults only, suggesting an assessment of % of time spent on traditional ARCH, and reassessing in the Fall.

Grant requests deferred in April will be followed up on in late August/September when plans for fall programming are clearer.

A letter of intent from Burlington Quarter (PYM) was reviewed, and **rejected**. The request is to build their aging assistance fund, which gives grants to individuals, while FFA made the decision from inception to grant to organizations for programs that enhance quality of life. Susan has a call scheduled.

The meeting ended with silent worship at approximately 2:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan W Hoskins, Executive Director