



Board of Trustees Minutes April 8, 2021

Present: Eric Andrews, John Cooley, Tyler Hoff, Beth Hudson Keller, Abigail Meletti, Nikki Mosgrove, Lisa Ogletree, Conrad Person, Jim Whitely, Beth Yingling, Susan Hoskins (Executive Director)

The meeting started with silent reflection. Jim then welcomed members, noting that he had noticed a theme emerging in the grant proposals, engaging people with a range of programs and technologies. The pandemic has highlighted loneliness and isolation as public health concerns. Grantee partners serve a wide variety of aging adults through many different programs addressing key needs.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Susan asked for feedback on some issues raised in the Executive Director report. Members responded positively to the new Theory of Change document and the opportunity to join in meetings with grantees, and did not feel that a separate agenda document was necessary. Meetings rather than reports are preferred by board and grantees; they convey enthusiasm and commitment as well as an opportunity to ask questions. The shared links to information about the grantees and major issues in the field were also appreciated.

It was noted that the grant to the Black Doctors Consortium was sent to their fiscal agent. Appreciation was expressed for the link to the interview with founder Dr Ala Stanford, and it was noted that new organizations like this may need support to secure their infrastructure. The board encourages them to establish their own 501c3 designation. It was also noted that the grant approved in October 2020 to Ujima Friends Peace Center was sent in March after they designated a fiscal agent while they work to have their 501c3 status reinstated. The request from ARTZPhiladelphia for an additional grant of \$5000 for the mural was **approved**.

The NYYM ARCH program has requested a meeting of the Aging Concerns Committee and FFA. Jim and John will join Susan for this meeting.

There was discussion on the news that Ralston is closing the My Way program, reflecting disappointment that this program which appeared so promising when FFA started to support it in 2009 has not succeeded.* The question was raised whether there were lessons to be learned for FFA such as red flags about the business model and absence of a plan to replace FFA funding.

GRANTS

Rise – A grant of \$20,000 was **approved**. The need for food assistance, especially fresh food, is clear in these challenging times. Rise has a stellar reputation and provides a wide range of services to a largely latinx population. The leveraging of collaborations was also notable.

Lutheran Social Ministries – A grant of \$4450 was **approved**, without the need for a full proposal. Gardens provide fresh produce, purpose and social interaction for residents in subsidized housing. It is hoped that once the gardens are created with this grant, they can be sustained through the Lutheran community.

Broadmead – Proposal was denied. Board members continued to find the concept and business plan confusing. Questions included how a position would emerge, whether a candidate had been identified, whether the real goal was the stipend for the mentor, and whether the candidate would stay.

Kendal at Home – A grant of \$35,000 was **approved**. Many organizations providing care coordination are adding virtual social, educational and health programs. This proposal includes a robust list of partners and the opportunity to share programs in the wider local community and Kendal communities.

Mercy LIFE West Philly – A grant of \$22,825 was **approved**. The program is well thought-out, provides training for participant success, uses simplified technology, enables improved social contact and medical monitoring, and will be replicated if successful.

Pendle Hill – A grant of \$20,000 was **approved** (half of requested). Pendle Hill was acknowledged for its long standing role in spiritual deepening and resource for Quakers across the US and world. In addition, they were commended for recognizing that they must develop virtual or blended programming to meet the needs of the community in the 21st Century and a pandemic, and for collaborating with Woodbrooke in this endeavor. There were questions about the budget, whether they might connect with FGC, PYM and others also exploring blended worship, and whether the focus was on new programs.

Woolman Hill – A grant of \$30,000 was **approved**. While FFA usually does not support capital campaigns, it was clear that accessibility is at the core of participation for aging and disabled adults, and that all participants benefit from intergenerational interactions.

Barclay Friends – A grant of \$25,000 was **approved**. The concepts of expanding employee garden plots and collaborating with the local garden club in creating gardens for area residents are an appealing addition to the resident programs which may provide opportunities for employee satisfaction, interaction with residents, and opening the campus to the community.

Friends House Retirement Community – A grant of \$35,000 was **approved**. There was great excitement about the concept of creating a dementia friendly community across all dimensions, a refreshing new idea in a lifecare community which strongly reflects Quaker values.

Jewish Family & Children's Services – A grant of \$30,000 was **approved**. JFCS implemented some smart pivots to virtual groups to continue client support during this crisis, nurturing peer facilitators for the graduate groups. It was also encouraging to see them seeking ways to serve more who are not Jewish, and ways to get insurance reimbursement for services as the time nears to transition from FFA support.

National Church Residences – A grant of \$20,000 was **approved**. The new staff person in Pittsburg, April has played a key role in reducing vaccine hesitancy and has some creative ideas for engaging congregations in the communities she covers. Another year of funding will help her implement, but we should have conversations about how long we will continue to support.

Quaker Voluntary Service – Support of \$18,000 was **approved** for 2021-2. QVS has asked that FFA reconsider providing funding for a portion of the full cost of a fellow rather than subsidizing just the cost for the host organization. This seems reasonable. They also asked for assistance with finding additional placements, which Susan has responded to. It is important that the site placement pay something.

Witness to Innocence – A grant of \$35,000 was **approved**. WTI is doing important work, and had great coverage in National Geographic. Their pivot from a social worker to a peer specialist has proven to be a better model.

FSA – A grant of \$2000 was **approved** (half of requested) to support the speaker Dr Howard Stevenson for the symposium in June. An invitation to attend was extended to the board and our grantees. The question lingers of whether these programs will effect change in the member communities.

Total granted \$297275 + 47000 (Ujima and BDC)= \$344,275 YTD

FINANCE: Eric reported that the Finance Committee had met with Amelia and Maryann from JP Morgan. There is comfort with the current 60:40 allocation. A discussion ensued about socially responsible investment/non-renewable energy per the policy approved last year. Amelia will do an analysis of current holdings. The need for sufficient cash to meet grant obligations was also discussed; the dates of grant meetings can be anticipated as April and October. This discussion led to a desire for greater understanding of Friends Fiduciary, and a meeting was set for next week.

The committee also discussed the preliminary invitation to join the Ziegler LinkAge Fund III, which requires an investment of \$375,000, higher than the current \$250,000. Questions were raised and a follow-up meeting was scheduled for later this month. Links for both meetings will be sent to all board members.

GOVERNANCE: Lisa reported that the committee met once. The February meeting evaluations were positive, with some concern about length of meetings and number of items on the agenda, connected to having fewer meetings per year. The board retreat and annual meeting will be on June 5 -possibly blended with some in person in Newtown and others virtual. The committee is discerning which grantees to invite to present virtually. Lisa will solicit input when she sends out the meeting evaluation.

CONSENT: Minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting were approved.

The meeting ended with silent reflection –early. Meeting began at 3 pm, ended at 5:45.

Susan W Hoskins LCSW
Executive Director

*An email was received from Ralston after the meeting giving more details, as well as the fact that \$37,430.85 remained unused. The board decided that this should be returned to FFA.

