



Board of Directors Meeting

5.25.2021 Notes by Dave Zak

Board Attendance: Kyle Gracey, Dave Zak, Bruce Chan, Mike Q Roth, Dan Fox, Matt Bremmer, Maura Brainbridge, Mary Ann, Lauren Nichols, Jodi Lincoln, Vicki Mayowski, Tara Faye Coleman, Katie Markowski, Vlad Lungu, Dan Barrett, Robin Nitkulinec

Staff:

Status: Approved

Call to Order: 6:32pm

Icebreaker: Business District - What are you most looking forward to this summer?

Resolution to approve April meeting minutes

Motion made by Dave, approved

Finance Committee: Vicki Mayowski

- Finance committee moved to a week earlier so board financials are included in the board info packet, next one is June 9th.
 - There are minutes for the most recent meeting that we'll start to include w/ the board info packet.
- Financial position - April 30th cash = \$95k, accounts receivable = \$74k, most of this is the ACCBO grant, another piece is the neighborhood development grant, the remainder is vendor fees.
 - Grants and contracts receivable is for bench project
 - prepaids identical to last month
 - Total Assets \$195,953.26
 - Liabilities paying for benches and cory our bookkeeper
 - Credit card higher than normal, \$2k higher than normal, most of which is the lawrenceville mystery box program, Lville will reimburse us. The remainder is conference fees, which will be covered by the neighborhood devo grant.
 - Payroll liabilities and other liabilities will be resolved soon, had programs getting IRA contributions into Vanguard account.
 - Total liabilities = \$249,854.17
 - helpful to compare w/ total assets, Christina talked about this at financial meeting, a report of a listing of all grants we're pursuing including the status and projections likelihood
- contributions = \$185
- market fees = \$770
- Total net revenue = loss of \$13,811.24
- Under 6160, that's the PCRG bill that is higher than expecting and put us over budget a little bit. What we pay for Corey hits here.



- Christina going to meet with them and ask about the increased price.
- Net Loss for April \$13,811.24
- Budget to Actual
 - Last meeting we'd discussed about how this report could be better. It currently wasn't something Aurora could get to.
 - Right now it shows January - April actuals vs budget
 - Vicki wants to see the full year displayed in the future, and someone else had suggested seeing a percentage of how far into the budget we are.
 - aiming for next month
 - doing well on contributions
 - sponsorships also ahead, total for year is \$35K but ahead of schedule
 - same w/ vendor fees, we're @ \$45k for the year
 - Personal expenses will be over budget b/c of deferring some of Christina's salary, almost \$11k overage right now
 - Program supplies, mentioned last month, \$17k is all benches. It's split over two months, the other is in May. Will sort itself out next month.

Executive Committee: Kyle Gracey

- Main topic is board recruitment, now is the time to talk to your candidates to apply.
 - Submit any applications and ask us any questions, we want to get the interview applications up and running
 - have received 4 applications, a few other people are planning on applying
- Jodi will be at the Saturday market all day this Saturday, if anyone interested would like to stop and chat with her
- Officer positions elections are coming up, we need to fill vice chair.
 - Jodi will be moving back to a board member role.
 - Think about potential roles for yourself for the coming year and will talk about reorganization and officers squared away.

Fundraising: Dave

- Still working on a fundraising video featuring market vendors, have done some personal outreach to vendors asking what kind of process they'd prefer.
 - Gotten some feedback to keep it simple and open ended, to even bring a phone to the market and record a video on site.
- Kyle - if video isn't working, consider something else less technically savvy b/c we need the money.



Anti-Racism Committee: Jodi

- Update notes - awhile ago we talked about community conversations about policing. Hoping to get these happening within the framework of community health and safety office has hired some new staff to work with police and 911 calls
 - framed as a way to educate the population about this new program in the city, invite some politicians
- Christina shared that the board she's on @ Assemble is going to start doing 15 minute conversations at each of the board meeting about an article or something they read prior to the meeting around anti racism, she shared some of the resources and what they're working on.
 - Could be interesting for something to do with our board, would take 5-10 minutes beforehand and have a convo as a board during the IAR time so we could continue talking about things as a board.
 - Looking for feedback about this idea, also looking for what people would be interested in talking about, would create a content list. Would love to hear what people think and if there's anything they'd wanna learn and talk about.
 - Maura - Heather did a lot of research about farmers market diversity, wonder if she'd be willing to share some of those sources, might be useful for us all to learn about
 - Jodi is in support.
 - Kyle mentioned red lining and similar strategic planning that affecting our work and our goals
 - Jodi - something that is on topic right now is racism is appraisals.
 - Dan - I often find the language of the contemporary social justice movement to be alienating to working people of all races.
 - In favor but want to be careful that it doesn't create exclusionary culture. Corporate and nonprofit culture has absorbed some of these terms, has heard from it a lot from north side residents.
 - Jodi - this could be great to talk about, would love for you to share any resources or experiences.
 - Q - yes making things accessible to the average resident who doesn't have a strong opinion one way or the other.
 - Dan - the idea of what Kyle was getting at, if we ground these ideas in material experiences and avoid academic language. People can understand things like property value assessments and there's a good article of how it's affecting people in a real way, I think those convos are great. I'm just cautious around the language we use and certain words that are inaccessible to certain folks.
 - Jodi - anything you think about later on in committees, property and places are doing work around parks, thinking about this as committees are reporting out on future projects.

Business District: Maura Bainbridge

- Wanted to remind you all that volunteering @ the farmers market is part of your board membership
 - link = https://pittsburghcares.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=136707



- You have to create an account

Property & Planning: Bruce Chan

- We've been looking at different ways to activate the open spaces in Bloomfield
 - 4 parks
- Focused discussion around Bloomfield bridge under area and friendship park
 - Longterm and short term of what we can do to activate these spaces
 - Longterm - talk to Deb Gross w/ Christina, to make sure we're not asking for things that are already in the works
 - things like maintenance, future planning, etc
 - Short term - concept was try to activate with an event, maybe roaming, something that wouldn't require a special events permit
 - Activating things that are already there, like the marbles rink, [city paper just ran a story about the marble resurgence](#). Maybe a marbles tournament
 - Or a bocce tournament or learn how 2 bocce, use the bocce court
 - lowkey movie night kind of thing, just need a projector
 - other ideas were line dancing
 - Friendship park - chalk arts competition or something fun w/ chalk, reached out to a chalk artist who often works @ friendship and asked for her help to organize something, which also has dual purpose of highlighting the bad sidewalks around friendship park.
 - another idea is to team up w/ West Penn b/c they send all their smokers to Friendship Park, ask them to sponsor some kind of event.
 - Asked for any other ideas:
 - Dave - do something with skating, biking, mobility, there are already a bunch of event that use the under the bridge section as a staging ground. Switch and Signal in Swissvale does a lot of community events like learn 2 skate, etc
 - Jodi - do something in conjunction with the pool opening, and show what else the park can be used for.
 - Q - opportunities for some silly tournaments, cornhole or something else. Get together, something lowkey with prizes, something that people already know how to do, unlike bocce,
 - Bruce - looking for partners or other groups who do fun things throughout the city.

Highlights from Activity Report: Kyle Gracey

- Talked to Christina, do check out the staff report for a really good summary of what's happening.
 - We do still need market volunteers, especially for this coming Saturday.
 - This will prevent Kyle from reminding you in June, if you haven't volunteered since last July you need to get your hours in.
 - Next 2nd Saturday is June 11th
 - Explore BGO events @ Trace coming up on June 9th in late afternoon and another in the morning on the 14th.



- tho these are mainly targeting small businesses in the community, board member are encouraged to attend b/c it's a great way to meet local business owners.
- Fundraising a top priority, Kyle and Christina check in every week. Three grant applications going out soon. Will keep talking about this, pretty much forever.
- Christina working on the renewal for our contract for the food pantry, they've been somewhat slow and we're proposing an increase in the fee basically b/c it's taken more of Christina and our financial managers time than anticipated. Hopefully this goes smoothly, we've had to set a hard deadline to get a clear answer about signing the new contract. Board might be needed to help with this process. Not a immediate issue but please be aware, hopefully will be resolved one way or another.
- Kyle asks for any questions re activity report, or will pass it along to Christina, or any other announcements.
 - Jodi mentioned Tara's art performance last week attended by some board members, where Tara read aloud a [report of Inequality across race and gender in Pittsburgh](#). She invites anyone to read the report if the haven't.
 - Bruce - Bloomfield Livable Streets is happening next Thursday the 2nd 6pm, it's the official pedestrian and bike committee setup by Bike PGH, the liaison with the city about infrastructure asks. Haven't met through the pandemic but are meeting for the first time next week, short bike ride for all levels and end up @ Trace around 7pm. Meet there if you'd like to attend but don't want to do the bike ride.
 - Dan Barrett - any additional updates to the builders association lawsuit issue re: inclusionary zoning.
 - Kyle - no additional updates, waiting to hear how the city is going to respond and if they want any orgs to intervene. No plans for a legal action on our end at this point. We've had some support from media relations on this point, lots of good press featuring Christina. That's continuing, including social media on our end and with other community orgs. Doing a bit of fundraising around it, we've been fighting for this thing, lots of support, etc. The orgs engaged with this are meeting often to see how this lawsuit evolves.
 - Next meeting is June 22nd, we'll be getting into elections and board member roles.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:37pm.