



Board Meeting Draft Agenda
Tuesday, July 22nd 12:00 to 2:00pm
Community Foundation, Larkinville

I. Roll Call. Justin, Erin, Jay, Ryan, Art, Ally, Lindsay, Brian, Bob, Rebekah.
Guests: Rick, Kristen, Alex (CAC)

II. Alliance Organizational Issues

- Approval of Agenda and March board meeting minutes. **Loren moves, Erin seconds, the motion carries.**
- Treasurers Report—budget update (AW & KK) Kristen- We put in a request for \$4K for the balance of 2014 and then will submit a request for calendar year 2015 (at the \$8K level) to get on the same cycle of CFGB. \$9621.47 is in hand of which \$5K is allocated for strategic planning.
 - Art requests that he get something electronically from Kristen in the future.
- Membership Report (LS) No report.
- Board Engagement & Nominations Process Report- Jay nominates Lynda Schneekloth to be the chair of the Advocacy Process Group. Ryan seconds. The motion passes.
- Bob- clarification is she replacing Makayla. Yes replacing chair of advocacy.
- Action Agenda & Advocacy (deferred to in depth section) Several groups are working on the climate march in NYC coinciding with the UN meeting in September. Ryan would like to use the Alliance's symbol to represent people from the WNY area. **No opposition for the Alliance supporting this rally.**
- IRF Update (RM)- Ryan encourages folks to check this out.
- Communication Report- few outstanding questions from Kristen's presentation but other than that nothing.

III. In Depth Briefing/Discussion—Issue Specific

- *Strategic Planning & the Outer Harbor Pilot (BD/AM)*
- Brian update- Ali and him coordinated the agenda- meeting is set on July 31 8am-9am here at the Community Foundation. Agenda includes overview of public input process, facilitated by Perkins and Will, turn attention to landscape, identify features on what is essential and what is important to the site, think about the site in the context of the city and greater Niagara region, and best use for all citizens. There are a lot of defined proposals on the table but at the end of the day there needs to be a paper summarizing all of those priorities. A field trip will be scheduled for a Saturday. And then another meeting next month.
- Ali- would like feedback on agenda and a vision statement that represents shared goals.
- Rick- will this come back to the board to be voted on by the alliance?
- Brian- Yes- he would like to coordinate meeting schedule with board schedule if possible.
- There should be an official mechanism to make this a stance on the Alliance- Rick
- Jay- the habitat committee is looking forward to discussing this more and giving their input. Is this meeting open to more than board members- would like the habitat

committee to be included. Jay was asked by the group to send a letter explaining their position to the big players.

- Ryan- this meeting is meant to be inclusive to all alliance members and people who have interest.
- Ali- would like to facilitate an additional way for voices to be heard if they can't make it. Also a call in number.
- Erin- would like to clarify values vs. endorsing a specific proposal
- Brian- values are most important- individual proposals can stand.
- Erin- thinks that the one hour meeting- maybe one or two of the agenda items would be better- like focusing on the values
- Ryan- a five minute context at the beginning would be helpful.
- Erin- departed at 12:45pm.
- Jay- concerned about time frame.
- Jay- suggests making the meeting public would be more powerful.
- Rick- potentially critical issue for the Alliance- process might already be over- should use this to demand a seat at the table for issues like this. Need to be involved earlier on in order to be effective. Concerned about making sure we represent the environmental groups in the area instead of just the board.
- Jay- some people that are ready to do direct action.
- Loren- this was not communicated to the public- minimally we need to understand how this process was gotten to. Freedom of information request.
- Ali- thinks there are groups out there that could align to push a vision
- Bob- suggests leveraging connections that we already have
- Ryan- do we think this time frame is feasible with these big players? If we don't think we have this then we can also use this as a message to the public to show we didn't have a say in it.
- Brian- thinks that the letter may be the only effective option at this point because realistically they won't be stopped.
- Jay- should circulate that private letter to politicians in the area
- Ryan- proposes that we take the vision, make it clear that over the next month we're putting it together, we're not happy with this process as it has unfolded, we'll be very active in the upcoming months in promoting the environmental community's agenda in the public. Then we have something to go back to in September when they take action.
- Art- concurs- left meeting at 1:00pm.
- Loren- we already have the vision- we are putting the environment first and foremost in these visions and that's not what happened.
- Rick- business as usual process- unless we break the process then it will happen for every project that they do not include the public in their decision-making.
- Ryan- asked Jay to tweak the letter to include some of the things that have been discussed
- **Ryan- make a motion to formulate this communication- that the board has a chance to edit/amend, send it to key executive folks (Higgins, Sam Hoyt, the governor).
None opposed. Motion carries.**
- Jay left meeting 1:08pm
- *Advocacy Agenda and Process*- Ryan and Kristen will be meeting with Lynda.
- *Organizational Legal Status (BK)*
- Bob- if we step up and become better funded then there are more layers of auditing that come into play. We need to determine whether we want to have members. We're either charitable or noncharitable. Charitable organizations are not required to have members. We have a choice whether want our members to have voting rights or whether we want to operate as we have as a board.
- They don't define members. We can continue to operate under member groups if that's what we want to do. We could potentially create board members with voting rights and stay as we have right now. This is just for NYS.
- Rebekah- why would we be going in this direction?

- Ryan- from a Community Foundation perspective- we are too tightly intertwined. This move was seen as an intermediate step to give us some legal identity if we ever want to become a 501c3.
- Justin- left the meeting 1:13pm.
- Bob- the IRS likes to see some kind of structure- in order to become a 501c3 more easily. Bob thinks we should become a nonmember organization- gives us more flexibility. We can always become a member organization later.
- **Motion- moving to become a nonmember organization- Bob, Ryan, Rick, Loren, Brian, Rebekah, Lindsay, and Ali vote yes. Motion carries.**
- Bob- will prepare the documents necessary for signature.
- *September Quarterly and November Congress*
- Ryan- need to wait at least a week until after the election for a date on Congress. Quick convo with the attorney general's office on pieces that the alliance would like to partner on. May have a speaker from them. Should start brainstorming- week night instead of a weekend? Don't want to conflict with the education group's mini conference- Nov 18th
Objective- are we trying to draw from the public or just speak to our immediate membership?
- Rick- thinks that it's a good opportunity to make contact with the public. An interesting speaker can definitely help with that.
- Rebekah- no issue with putting our agenda out to the public. It was very powerful with Bill McKibben. Connection to the work the alliance does with a well known figure.
- Ryan- perhaps a partnership with UB- international week and they're currently looking for a key note speaker for November right now.
- Loren- need to hold people's interest
- Ryan- Maybe someone that has a story that can align with the Outer Harbor.
- Ryan- needs specific names for potential speakers within the next few days. Any ideas should be sent ASAP.
- Ryan- any briefings from the other process groups or topics to go over? None.
- Traditionally don't have an August meeting- need to see who is here and if we have quorum.

Adjournment

Ryan motion to adjourn. Loren seconds.