



Board Meeting Draft Agenda
Thursday, September 23rd 12:00pm to 1:30
Community Foundation, Larkinville

I. Roll Call

- Karen and Brian were unable to attend- all others in attendance

II. Alliance Organizational Issues

- **Approval of Agenda and March board meeting minutes-** all in favor.
- **Some Words of Inspiration**—An Update from the Climate March in NYC- it was incredible
- **Treasurers Report**—budget update (AW & KK) \$8824.32- we have set aside \$4500 for strategic planning for the half year
- **Membership Report** (Beyond Waste WNY & 20th Century Park) (LS)- info was forwarded to group- **Loren moves that they are both made members- Ryan seconds this.** 100 member organizations total.
- **Board Engagement & Nominations Process Report-** chair for Grassroots Gardens could be a potential. Art will be speaking with PUSH folks soon.
- **Action Agenda & Advocacy** (deferred to in depth section)
- **Congress (RM)-** early November as a target date- keynote speaker- we could piggyback with UB if we would like to for International Week. Theme is sustainability this year- Naomi Klein is a possibility- week of November 10th. Educations mini conference is the week of the 18th. Contribution from Alliance board a possibility? **Vote- to move to allow Ryan to negotiate up to \$2000 to bring her to speak. Supported by BK and seconded by Lynda. All in favor besides RW who abstained.**

III. In Depth Briefing/Discussion—Issue Specific

- **Advocacy Agenda and Process (LS)-** one person was not happy with the fracking proposal- thinks we should focus on conservation. 8 people responded. Sending out two more reminders to groups to comment on the planks. Should put together a discussion on the correct way to be proceeding for 2015. One of the frustrations that planks were not received until the day before they were due. Part of the agenda is to be energizing the working groups- is there a better way to be doing that?
 - **BK-** some research could be done by some interns on different- we could all combine our experience and ideas with this.
 - **LS-** is there capacity to deal with these planks in the working groups?
 - **BK-** believes there is capacity to handle these planks with the groups involved.
 - **TY-** agrees
 - **Lynda-** it's important to identify long term vs short term goals
 - **JB-** thinks there is plenty of capacity for his planks
 - **Rick-** believes that there should action items that are long term but planks should have a few specific short term items. Are they doable within a year?
 - **RM-** anyone that has issues now should be discussed with the head of the group now instead of at the Congress
 - **Lynda-** feel free to ask for the full proposal for planks. Don't usually upload for full proposals- due to campaign tactics.
- **Organizational Legal Status (BK)-** Environmental Education Institute- educating people on how to comply with environmental law and working with the Great Lakes- has

501c3 status and it is going out of business- BK is president of the organization. Agree to convert this into the WNYEA would give us a 501c3 status in a very easy way. The board of the Environmental Education Institute has discussed this- have agreed that they will elect this board to the Erie County Environmental Education Institute and they will step down. The mission will shift. Up side- quick and easy and effective economically. Downside- responsibility of being the owner of a corporate entity that will comply with IRS filing and other things. Revitalization Act etc- ethics committee- good corporate governance. We need to make a decision asap. Education institute wants to do it immediately- they want to be out of business by the end of the year. A draft resolution would be signed by both boards to initiate the transfer. We can do this on our own- don't think we would have any difficulty but it would be an expense. BK urges us to get an attorney to look at this before we make a decision.

- **RW-** mission statement? Would change? Advocacy route?
 - **BK-** broad mission statement- no advocacy piece to the education institute. 501c4 would have an impact on the tax status.
 - **RM-** we would still be able to do advocacy- there are constraints and tests that are used on this as well. We are not an entity at all currently. We have no way to do business except for the anchoring of the Community Foundation. Also the board is not protected in terms of the individual members under a corporation.
 - **BK-** can advocate but can't lobby
 - **Jay-** would like financial statements, mission statement, IRS statement, strategic goals etc. We also need to talk about insurance at some point.
 - **BK-** would transfer zero funds and no liabilities.
 - **TY-** federal filing recently?
 - **BK-** can send what he has
 - **RM-** what is BK's recommendation?
 - **BK-** save money and save time- and find an attorney asap to look this over. We can also Mike for a legal opinion.
 - **CM-** would be pleased to help with this transaction to allow the alliance to become more independent. Suggests using their firm.
 - **Art-** much easier to get grants the longer that you've been in existence. Consistency in terms of leadership as well.
 - **RM-** limit on direct lobbying (support of specific legislation) but no limit on advocacy. It's lobby and political limitations. No protection as board members right now- we are currently all suable.
 - **Erin-** happy to hold a training on creating a 501c4
 - **Loren-** moves to get an opinion from Mike Lofreda up to \$500 with conversations that the full transaction cost by covered by the Community Foundation- RW seconds this. Carries unanimously.
 - **TY-** any pieces of the mission they would like carried over?
 - **BK-** Environmental Leader award. Would take a few weeks to get the opinion.
 - **RM-** we can tell them we are definitely interested- just need a bit more discussion on this before confirming.
 - **RW-** can we get the info circulated for the board?
 - **BK-** yes will forward the PDF.
- **Outer Harbor Principles & Strategy-**
 - **Lynda-** established principles were sent out- no negative feedback. Times beach group had a meeting held by Jay- political leaders were contacted. Another press conference will be coming up. 21st Century park people- all on the same page. Riverkeepers have been very involved. Editorial board meeting- Ryan, Jill, and Lynda attended- Dawn, Mike Connolly, Ann Warren, and the publisher- were there for about an hour- going over the principles. Relationship to the city, fiscal responsibility, process issues and involving groups much more. They were willing to engage- one of the questions was on whether or not we were trying to stop the project. ECHDC also with them prior. Some of the leaders that could be on our side will not be going against the governor before election season. Robert Joya is not supportive of us at this point.

- **Need to decide what the end game is and whether or not we will have a meeting where people can speak.** Lynda believes we can win on public opinion and fiscal responsibility- she personally does not want a negotiation with any bad points involved. We need to decide this as a board.
- **BK-** now is a good time to get things in the record- legal wise.
- **Jay-** next Monday is the two-week period where Joya said there would be a decision made. Thinks we need to demand an economic analysis- agrees with needing legal process as well. Meeting with the mayor on October 3rd- Jill, Ryan, 21st century group, etc. Rally on Saturday with 200 commitments at Times Beach- discuss principles and should have press there. Sean Ryan is meeting with Joya and should be pushing for a public hearing.
- **RM-** Alliance should be able to communicate these principles. Board should state how much further we're willing to go with this.
- **Erin-** are there ways we can mobilize to create more political pressure to get the elected folks to do what they're supposed to do?
- **RM-** yes just questioning the vehicle to do so. We should delay ECDHC to vote before election period. What will prevent them from voting? Elected people should be receiving more pressure. Sending letters directly from organizations to elected officials is a good solution. We want to delay the vote not the process.
- **Lynda-** should reach out to council members.
- **AM-** thinks we should do a call to action- paper trail.
- **EH-** one day online petition and call to action for members.
- **JB-** no urban growth boundaries which is why we're sprawling
- **RM- Alliance to be on record- board has authorized the Alliance to move forward with its member organizations to communicate how this is going against principles –Jay seconds this. All in favor.** Erin proposes an ask to delay the vote until after the election. RM- Nothing should be voted on until the principles are in line with what we want.
- **Rick-** environment should be a part of all public discussions- this is one of our main value statements.
- **BK-** members should be encouraged to go and meet the candidates.
- **Loren-** ask Advocacy group to distribute this as quickly as possible.

IV. Working and Process Group Quick Briefs

- Parks & Recreation
- Pollution and Hazardous Waste
- Habitat
- Transportation
- Energy and Climate- Terry is back at least for a couple of months.
- Environmental Justice
- Growing- **RW-** Grassroots Garden, BK is not planning on running, Ryan is. Art had put up two possible people as well- will be meeting with them Thursday. We have room for additional at large as well- just need to have an odd number. We have not taken the time to discuss strategy on diversity. Keep process transparent use the same message as last year- with Kristen. To common council members.
- Urban Regeneration
- Education/Outreach
- Organizational Capacity
- Advocacy

V. Next Alliance Meetings:

- October 28th Board Meeting (Loren to Chair?)
- Annual Congress??

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Loren and BK.