

Board Meeting Minutes 1.27.2015

I. Roll Call

II. Alliance Organizational Issues

- Motion moved to pass the minutes from November- early December. Moved by Loren.
- Art- needs the name of the people we need for a signatory- suggests three people. Other document is the IRS certification. Should contact an attorney to confirm we're changing the name properly for the 501C3. Mike Defradas has been confirmed. Also need to transfer over the existing funds.
- Erin- asks if anyone has a relationship with First Niagara- could apply for a grant.
- Lynda- suggests secretary, treasurer, and president are the folks we will use for signature. **Passed- none opposed.**
- Loren- membership report. New member is Chautauqua Citizens Respond to Climate Crisis and new supporter is Adam Gasiewicz. New York State Parks Interpretive Programs will be an affiliate. **Motion passes- none opposed- carry as recommended.**
- Bob- read the purpose and feels our group fits into this but some things in the certificate need to be tweaked. Strongly suggests that Mike straightens out the documentation. Mike will give us a proposed amended document that would then be approved by the board.
 - The current purpose of the organization- "To enhance the quality of the environment by expanding awareness, broadening understanding, and increasing knowledge among all of the members of the WNY community; and to do any action or other thing incidental to or connected with the foregoing purposes or in advancement thereof, all without profit to the Corporation."
- Would like to bring him in for the next meeting- he also needs some input on what we would like to be. Also need to file tax forms for 2014.
- Would like a quote for a DNO policy. Insurance for board members. Nancy Dursik is recommended as the insurance agent by Justin.
- Rebekah- reminds us she is no longer a board member so can no longer serve on the nominations committee. Need someone else to be on the nominations committee. **This should be a topic for an upcoming meeting.**

III. In Depth Briefing/Discussion- Issue Specific

- **L. Smith-** 3 year \$150,000 a year proposal to the Community Foundation- currently have 2 page request and a half page budget for \$450,000
- \$150,000 is more than the Community Foundation has to distribute. A request of that magnitude is likely to not be successful.
- The two-page proposal may look like we are taking the Community Foundation's support for granted. Took a look at the competitive grant

application and there is an opportunity to look at the request and be pragmatic about it.

- This year could be a transitional year- could use this for the development of a more significant ask and this could also reach to local and national funders.
- Request for less than \$150,000, should focus on capacity building, should talk about the successes that we've had. Will also help us to have specific deliverables for 2015 and continue our trajectory to becoming an independent 501C3.
- New external grants director with Community Foundation- Adrienne Stanfield. Ali is also talking about creating a committee for this.
- Jay-clarification- not going into the competitive to go up against other environmental organizations.
- Ryan- if there are others who want to serve on the proposal there will be a meeting set in a week or two. Would focus on the bigger picture on where we would like to be moving in the future. We also need an immediate plan- a few months to develop the gap funding that will get us through this period.

Deadline of Feb 12th. The community impact meeting for the Community Foundation is March 5th. Need to ask a year of annual operating support, grant writing, annual event, and strategic planning. Maybe staff as well? We either need to distribute the responsibilities that Kristen was taking care of or we need to replace her. Ex. Organizing the interns from the Alliance end of things.

- Same committee to work on these things but maybe Ali could be in charge of long term and Loren in charge of short term.
- Is there a project we can develop or it just operational funds?
- Community Foundation can offer expertise in where to look for potential funders. Point from Cara- can frame it that we're looking for a co-funder and not just money for operations.
- **Lynda**- Advocacy process working group. Add public education to this. New issues- distributing energy- Sierra Club website. Thursday at 2pm and 6pm-6:30 rally on energy democracy-Lafayette Square. Open public process that's no longer a corporate process.
- Outer Harbor- winning the public discussion- they're going back to the drawing board. Higgins and Ryan and Common Council. Close to 3000 signatures. Economic study will be coming out on why it's important to develop this as a public space.
- ECHDC may have a new plan- instead of reacting to this we could create the next conversation. We could encourage Common Council to hold public hearing so people can have their say- instead of us as an interest group hosting it.
- Need to decide our end game- also may have a few member organizations with different opinions on the proposal. Need to help people to stay united in our reach.
- Justin- proposes community conversation at the Sky Ride this year. Rebekah thinks that visions are really important to promote with this.

- Potentially using the ask for a process as a bargaining chip. Ex. Sean Ryan had asked for a schedule and never got anything back from it.
- Rick- proposing asking for input from member organizations. Rebekah points out that we have done this before.
- Terry-Climate Change summit in WNY
- Erin- governor attempting to raid RGGI to fund the DEC
- Next board meeting- February 24th
- Quarterly meeting- food policy council- vision for food in general for WNY
- One Region forward rollout- February 12th
- **Adjourned.**