

Alliance Board Meeting February 25<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm -> 2:00pm

### **Proposed 2014 Standard Board Agenda Format:**

- Checking if the proposed format for maximizing alliance collaboration works for everyone.
- No one disapproves of this process.

### **Alliance Organizational Issues**

- Bob votes to move the agenda. Art seconds this.
- Art moves to approve the adopted minutes. Erin seconds.

### **Strategic Planning**

- Ryan- Cara made a recommendation for a supplemental amount of money to make the strategic framework into a strategic plan for the Alliance. Estimated time about 3 months.
- Ali- we need more focus groups and more voices into this process. Thinks there's viable funding that wouldn't compete with individual organizations. Would push it out to a 6-12 month process.
- Ryan- what are the questions we would ask? What is the process to ask for more funds from foundations? How would we go about this? Create a working group of 4-6 board members to work with this person. This can be used to leverage funding from national groups.
- Jay- asking about adopting for framework.
- Ryan- yes we've adopted it.
- Jay- would like more information and would like to vote on where we move forward with this.
- Bob- thinks engaging member groups is critical.
- Ali- hard to meet diverse needs. They're going to recognize the value of creating the strategic process.
- Ryan- we need to have a better definition of how we can position ourselves for national funding.
- Micaela- has heard about lack of trust of what the alliance is doing. Does feel that the strategic process would bring together collaboration of the different process groups. Concurring with the \$5000.
- Ryan- had originally asked Cara if funding was available. We were able to use a small portion of money for the retreat. There is some leftover to be used in the context of strategic planning.
- Micaela- pointed out we already voted for yes on this.
- Ryan- Do we want to be a 501c3 in the future?
- Ryan- want Community Foundation to be big advocates of this. Ali can put together a draft scope and then we can circulate this to the board for comment.

- Ryan- motions this. Bob seconds.

### **Treasurer Report**

- Ryan- we have very little funding right now. Just trying to get through our fiscal year. Trying to find innovative ways. We also have to think of a way to start getting revenue in as part of our strategic plan. We have just enough to get through the year itself. We are decreasing 10% a year and we haven't made that up yet.
- Rebekah- what is our fiscal year?
- Art- June. But this tends to differ- never the same.
- Bob- our fiscal year was meant to line up with the Community Foundation.
- Ryan- we've also been getting supplemental funding from them.

### **Nominations**

- Rebekah- reminder to fill out survey.
- Ray- Buffalo Institute of Urban Ecology application
- Ryan- needs to send it out to everyone
- Bob- they've been around for a while?
- Jay- yes since 1990.
- Ali- seconds the nomination.
- All in favor.

### **Working and Process Group Updates**

- **Brian Parks & Rec-** no meeting this month but a few monthly meetings moving along work with UB.
- **Andy Pollution and Hazardous Waste-** no meeting today due to conflict with our board meeting. Working on figuring out a new permanent time and date. Sometime in the middle of next month. Sent a letter to the governor and Joe Martins from the DEC expressing opposition to CWM Hazardous Waste site in Erie County. Looking to figure out how to send out this letter to appropriate elected officials. Expansion of incinerator. Not sure how we can block this yet. Will be accepting 100s of 1000s tons of waste from NYC by rail. City of Buffalo Recycling report by Sam McGaveron. Recycling at special events- staffing with recycling rangers. Waste mapping on website- updating. Open to suggestions.
- **Jay Habitat-** wetlands designation for Niagara River corridor. Invited to participate. Jay will be attending their meetings. Continue to talk about ethicacy of the alliance. Have been having very interesting discussions on this. Group feels that there needs to be more ways to engage members. Continue to develop state of environment report. Hope to have a draft

document in late March. Recommendations on how to protect habitat and biodiversity. Wider conversation on anti-fracking in the community. Fracking, energy, consumption, and the economy. Meeting with different groups on this.

- Justin- asked about engaging in the energy master plan? Jay said no but Bob said yes for energy group.
- Ryan- point of clarification. Will be briefing us on that in March.
- Jay- working on NYS energy plan and there is a listserv. Does this organization want to make comments?
- Ali- mentioned potential opportunity for the comments- list out organizations that support the comments. Can be really powerful.
- **Bob Energy Group**- Haven't heard from Terry Yonker.
- Rebekah- Suggestion to send him a card.
- Ryan- are people supportive of the presentation by Wendel of the City's energy plan?
- No objections to this.
- Andy- can be quite lengthy.
- Ryan- working with her to make it shorter.
- Erin- there's nothing in writing, nothing has been made public. And people have been invited as an after thought.
- Ali- and they're working for a public entity.
- Jay- why do they want to talk to us?
- Ryan- they'd like to get our input.
- Justin- thinks the mayor will most likely not support it.
- Bob- we need to be careful in approving of anything.
- Ali- anything may have to be in writing if we plan on "approving" it.
- **Justin Transportation**- NOTA gave alternative analysis. He's in the process of writing a response to that. Alliance was invited to serve on the advisory committee. Petition online with Sean Ryan- over 600 responses on that. This is the summer where we're shutting down the highways. Studying the impact of this and where the traffic ends up going.
- **Erin Environmental Justice**- great visioning sessions- Sue McCartney. Turning the visioning session into a more strategic plan.
- **Rebekah Growing Group**- given group some time to review strategy. Figured out target audiences. Wanted to hit underrepresented consumer groups. Looking at some indicators put out by the Food Lab. Figuring out food access needs and engaging their membership. Having members step up. Strategizing advocacy.
- **Art Urban Regeneration**- more of a focus on green jobs. Great support from Buffalo Niagara RiverKeeper (Laura). Good conversations with Jeff Conrad. Trying to partner with PUSH Buffalo. Presentation on Sierra Club's push for Tonawanda power plant. Meetings at 10am at the end of the month.
- **Ali**- believes our greatest need is revenue. Believes that people at this point are spread thin as it is and is holding off on creating another working group for revenue. Would like feedback on that.

- Jay- believes that there needs to be more than just a few minutes in general meeting and that we should reach out to members.
- Ali- would be asking for more time on the agenda. Will prep for next meeting on this.
- Ryan- communication policy always ends up falling off the radar. Is fine with making more time for anyone that needs it.
- **Jay speaking for education-** Strategic planning issues. Focusing on educating on biodiversity. The speakers bureau concept will be sent out to board members. Figuring out scheduling quarterly meetings. Great Lakes Summit, Stanis Conference, will be presenting at both of these.
- Art- pointed out that he was scheduled to speak via the bureau.
- Upcoming events:
- Ryan- next quarterly is on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Mapping exercise- good engaging activity. How do you want to see this place develop? And GROW 716 info session- but there is no location yet.
- Planning to present the strategic framework at the quarterly March meeting. All the working groups, contact person, and the times of the location. On the back of the strategic framework.
- Need to ask for more nominations at the quarterly meeting!
- Next board meeting- March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Annie Lenard- Center for the Arts- March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. RSVP [buffalo.edu/sustainability](http://buffalo.edu/sustainability)
- Sierra Solar Homes Event: March 24<sup>th</sup>- how do you go about this?

## **Earth Day & Alliance Awards Discussion**

- Likes the format of last year- how do we create a message for the new sustainable Buffalo? A person of stature to be that MC? Higgins?
- Awards- E&E last year. But Ryan would like to see the Alliance take it over. Can we create categories that are aligned with our goals?
- Rebekah- focus on communications and move the awards to our Congress.
- Ryan- concern with that is that there is a freebie on earth day for the media to care about us. There could be potential for the following year for the congress to be held on earth day.
- Bob- feels like it's a space that is just very crowded.
- Erin- feels like it may be hard to get people out for an actual event. Can we do other things to get media rather than plan a whole event?
- Ali- could do virtual awards.
- Ryan- the idea could be more of festive event.
- Intern (uncertain of her name!)- idea to do a sustainability tour. Could be more affective for students in general.
- Micaela- planting a tree in someone's name?
- Ryan- would like us to own the earth day awards and not E&E

- People have major problems with E&E.
- Ryan- do we want to own the awards?
- Rebekah- have nominees by Earth Day and then announce the winners at the Congress.
- Bob- concern- thinks that members should be able to participate in this.
- Rebekah- create a checklist based on our strategic process. And then let the working groups decide.
- Justin- suggested a system ranking people's environmentalism by metals
- Ryan- more about positioning the Alliance rather than the awards.
- Justin- how do we facilitate the change we want to see?
- Rebekah- feels like we could spend more time strategically focused rather than Earth Day this year
- Bob- perhaps partnering with UB. Something more simple.
- Jay- can we figure out how to partner with other institutions? And maybe not leaving the city?
- Ryan- doubts whether we could get UB to support this fully.
- Rebekah, Lindsay, and Erin- agree to discuss the goals.
- Micaela- will be happy to event plan. People can filter ideas from there.
- GROW interns can help out as well.
- Art- suggested perhaps adding the Quarterly meeting for Earth day.
- Ryan- clarified that this was happening already. Ryan tabled the communications discussion- better for Kristen to be there anyway. Asking what we need to do in terms of the E&E awards. Alliance to be on record?
- Bob- we've never participated in a formal way with the awards.
- Erin- they've given the awards and then we've done the work.
- Bob- suggested response we will not be participating this year- we will be promoting our member organizations.
- Ryan- one of the ideas was to bring in some corporate money to help the Alliance.
- "WNY Environmental Alliance will not be participating this year with the E&E environmental awards process."- Motion carried- no opposition.

**Adjourned**