Erie County Environmental Education Institute

Board Meeting Draft Agenda
Tuesday, December 2, 2014 12:00pm to 1:30
Community Foundation, Larkinville

I. Roll Call Justin B., Kristen K., Lynda S., Rick S., Jay B, Loren S, Cara M., Dan Avilan (intern), Terry Y, Ryan M., Andy G., Robert K. Lindsay A., Art W (via the phone), Rebekah W.

II. Alliance Organizational Issues
   o Approval of Agenda and previous board meeting minutes. Lynda moves to accept the agenda minutes, Jay seconds. The motion passed.
   o Treasurers Report—budget update (AW & KK) Pre-congress there was a balance of $8,683 in our account, $4500 is allocated for strategic planning. Of the $2500 allocated for legal expenses $500 has been paid.
   o Membership Report (Loren) Community Power for Health and Justice and Concerned Residents of Portland, NY were recommended as members. Loren moves to accept, Terry seconds, all approved. A review of organizations that are defunct or non-responsive likely should occur. We might also consider having a better virtual board meeting mechanism.
   o Board Nominations and Orientation (RW) rolling into the new board members into a second orientation of the board.
   o Congress Review and Post Mortem- Jay wasn’t pleased with the Sustainable Business Association (Rich Products) but appreciated the work that went into it
   Lynda was impressed with people who came- someone suggested the speaker go first and then be able to eat and chat with each other (Bob concurs)
   Ryan pointed out last time more networking was suggested but this time may have overshot that
   Terry pointed out that more local collaboration is helpful
   Cara thought that it was a great space and there was a great attendance
   Daniel’s message was really great on how to build a bigger environmental group.
   Ballots- formal election process with a ballot? Andy felt the piece of paper was wasteful- Rick suggested an electronic ballot sent out beforehand.
   Jay thinks Rebekah has done a great job- would like more people to become involved in working groups to become even better candidates.
   Lynda brought up how to engage members better and how much programming/events we should be doing. Jay suggests maybe a committee would be good for this.

III. In Depth Briefing/Discussion—Issue Specific
   o Outer Harbor Advocacy Strategy (Lynda)- possibility of presenting a new vision for the ECHDC to work off of- to provide talking points that everyone can reference moving forward. Press conference to present this vision. After power mapping session “they” have all the formal power and we have all the people power. The Common Council has become an ally by supporting our stance. Linking a petition to the GROW site- Kristen to create a comprehensive webpage. Also present an informational meeting on this issue.
   Move to adopt the Proposed Revision Principles (Lynda) and Bob seconds- all in favor- no opposed.
   Discussion on who should be involved in the Outer Harbor campaigning group.
   Bob suggestion that the progress by the task force group shouldn’t be hindered by formal rules- motion- To authorize the group that’s been working on this matter to proceed as long as they provide 24 hours notice before any public
action/announcement takes place. – Ryan seconds. Rebekah would like the subject to entail specifically what’s taking place. Motion carries- none opposed.
- Jay would like it to be clear that our mission is separate from 21st Century
- Terry is suggesting that we have a press conference at some point to show support
- Kristen- how do people get involved if they’re interested? Answer: folks who are interested can contact Lynda and Jay.
- Ryan- balance between discussing strategy and being smart- how transparent do we want to be?
  - Organizational Legal Status (RK)- need to clarify our name- are we keeping the Alliance? Reviewing bi-laws. Need to confirm with Mike Defradas to confirm there’s no IRS restrictions. Motion by Art- we the Erie County Environmental Institute- change our name to Western New York Environmental Alliance. Seconded by Loren.
    - Rick would like there to be a member from the Community Foundation present at the board meetings
  - Moving Towards Independence with CFGB & Formation of Working Group (LS)- short term and long-term goals. Motion made by Loren to create a working group to develop a rough business plan with input by the entire board to figure out where the board is heading for the remainder of the fiscal year. Seconded by Justin. Motion carried- none opposed.
    - Ex. Bank account that needs signatory
    - Kristen’s role of the Alliance and Community Foundation is changing
    - Can stretch out money in the account for a few months to figure out what we want to do over the next year
    - Need DNO insurance
    - Develop a comprehensive ask for the Community Foundation- more formal funding relationship
    - Creating a small committee potentially with Bob and Ryan to figure out where the organization is moving. Specifically work plan and a raw budget for this year to have a better sense of what we’re trying to accomplish.
    - Lynda- suggestion of an advocacy committee and programming- how does that fit in? Loren believes that we would reach out to all board members and ask their individual needs. Another question is where does GROW belong?
    - Jay’s concern is that the Alliance may become competition for other member groups, Lynda also wants to be sure that we’re not following the money and then it affects what actions we take
    - Ryan’s opinion is that the goal is to get unique funding that the Alliance can distribute to the member organizations
  - Big Picture Alliance Strategic Planning & Direction
    - Much discussion on the concerns about involving funding with the Alliance

IV. Working and Process Group Quick Briefs
  - Parks & Recreation
  - Pollution and Hazardous Waste
  - Habitat
  - Transportation
  - Energy and Climate
  - Environmental Justice
  - Growing
  - Urban Regeneration
  - Education/Outreach
  - Organizational Capacity
  - Advocacy

V. Next Alliance Meetings:
  - Next Board Meeting?
  - Orientation and Strategic Planning Retreat (MLK Day?)
VII. Adjournment