

Battle of Homestead Foundation Board Meeting 12/15/21 – Minutes

Present: John Haer, Rosemary Trump, Suzanne Donsky, Perry Recker, Mike Stout, Lawrence McCullough, Brittany Sheets, Dan Beeton, Joseph Hornack, Pauline Greenlick, Jacqui Cavalier, Bob Mason

Absent: Charlie McCollester

Excused: Patty DeMarco, Kallie Sheets, Kelli, Vereb Mark Fallon

President John Haer called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM.

Rosemary made a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting, 8/30/21 and Mike seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rosemary provided the Treasurer's Report, noting the financial documents provided to the board. She stated that the foundation is on track to almost balance the budget. Income for the first 11 months of 2021 was almost \$30,000, primarily due foundation grants and dues 23% over budget. Expenses were lower than anticipated because of not having increased the number of archive interns and not contracting for a half time executive director. At the end of November expenses were \$33,910 and income was 30,688.21. Assets balance is \$144,000, only \$1,712.09 decrease from 2020. We hope to expand archive staff in 2022. We are anticipating a grant from the Rivers of Steel DCNR Mini-Grant Process to support our archive digitization project. Rosemary offered a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Suzanne seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

John provided the Executive Committee Report. He announced recent and pending changes in board membership. Dennis Robinson moved to Florida, Karen Bryant resigned, Patty DeMarco will be resigning, and Bob Mason is moving by the spring of 2022. Two members' terms are expiring: Mark Fallon and Dan Beeton. Dan said that he will not be running for a new term due to time constraints. If Mark decides to run for re-election there are likely to be 5 other vacancies. The following people of indicated interest in running: Perry, Pauline, Larry, and Howard Scott. John said a notice will be sent to all BHF members inviting anyone to run for a board position. The notice will explain nomination and procedures. As was done last year, members who are current on dues will be able to vote by email.

Discussion about possible in person Wednesday breakfast meetings and Zoom meetings ensued. Rosemary reported that our server, Kandi, had informed her that the back room at Eat N' Park was now open. Frequency of Zoom meetings and how often to have the evening desert meeting were discussed. Given the increase in Covid infection rate, one suggestion was requiring vaccination, including boosters for in person meetings. Perry suggested exploring option of a hybrid meeting. John said discussion should be continued during Old and New Business portion of the agenda.

Larry announced that he had drafted a membership renewal letter. It would be included with the information about seeking board nominations and the election and the annual meeting email.

Larry provided the Communications Report. Our first participation in the Big give was successful. We obtained \$2,735 in donations. The new website is operational. We are seeking program speakers and submissions can be made on the website. He is still tweaking

the website which is easy to do. The design team really like BHF's mission and has been very helpful. He suggested that we add an artists and allies page, with hyperlinks. He is working on a member log in process, but the donation and member pages are working.

Suzanne then provided a Program Committee report. She noted the success of the last program, Vertical Bridges. The Committee has reviewed survey results from this year's programs and these have provided valuable feedback for making improvements. Participants overall were very positive about the programs and most of the criticism on technology. The committee has received good suggestion for future programs. Suzanne announced the plans for the virtual annual meeting on January 24th. She solicited program proposals and anticipates more than last year and increasing number and diversity of participants. She encouraged board members to join the committee and is also seeking someone to replace her as chair. Podcasts have resumed. Nathan Ruggles has produced 2 new ones recently, including an interview with Professor Joe Trotter. Please "like" and share. Finally, attendance of bi-weekly breakfast Zoom meetings and evening desert meetings has decreased.

Jacqui provided the Archives Committee report. She explained that there has been a re-organizing of duties. Perry is now serving as co-chair. Sinead Bligh is now Project Advisor, providing oversight and pursuing funding opportunities, putting in 4-6 hours per month. Kallie now has the title of BHF Archivist, which is important for grant applications. Cassidy Knott (sp?) is Archives Administrator at about 10 hours per week. Planning to hire 1-2 new interns in the spring and to begin work on digitizing the archives. We were awarded \$4,881 grant and Jacqui thanked John, Sinead, and Rosemary for their contributions to the grant application. The committee is looking at additional acquisitions. She explained how our linking with the Power library and digitization means that our archival material is more searchable and available to people world wide.

Under New Business: John proposed and Bob seconded a motion that BHF serve as a "Financial Sponsor" of a \$3,000 donation from Rae O'Hare to support a new documentary film by Mark Dixon, "Inversion: The Unfinished Business of Pittsburgh's Air". His company is Blue Lens, LLC. The motion was approved unanimously. Rae made another donation to support a documentary being produced by Pauline. BHF will hold the donation pending project completion.

Returning to the discussion about possible in-person breakfast meetings, Rosemary, Perry, Suzanne, and Bob and Sharon Beattie will go to Eat N' Park to determine feasibility and report back.

Rosemary also announced that there would be a 2022 budget proposal presented at the annual meeting.

John referred to tentative dates for 2022 board meetings that were listed in the agenda.

Mike moved that the board meeting be adjourned. Joe seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Bob Mason