

Minutes
Bridges Board of Trustees Meeting
March 7, 2016
Oakes Center, Summit, NJ

PRESENT: Lois Bhatt, Amanda Parrish Block, Alison Bryant, Coni Frezzo, Brian Ginsburg, Coleen McCaffery, Kathy McHale, Jon Maslin, Malcolm Mead, Jennifer Rooney, Joshua Schor, Victoria Smith, Beth Tulloch

ABSENT: Michele Damodaran, Laura Zinn Fromm, Geoff Worden

Meeting was called to order by Amanda Parrish Block at 7:00 pm.

GOVERNANCE:

Based on discussions following the Governance Committee's report at the January meeting and divergent opinions on an online survey, the chair invited each board member to express opinions on the topics of homeless representation on the board, term limits, and a give/get requirement. Discussion ensued, but a formal vote was tabled until the next meeting.

In summary, there was a consensus that the homeless perspective should be represented on the board, but not necessarily through a standing board seat, rather possibly through regular, formalized contact. Suggestions included an advisory board of homeless friends, a homeless friend speaking quarterly at Board meetings, and regular reports from core volunteers.

Regarding term limits, opinions differed on the necessity and structure, but most spoke of the need for clear expectations about board service to be set for future incoming board members.

Opinions about a give/get requirement and how it might be structured also varied. The Executive Committee will refine the policy proposals based on the discussions and they will be put up for a vote at the May meeting.

CONSENT:

Consent Agenda: January 2016 minutes; Administrative Policies; Candidate Slate: Steve Fromm, Steve Woitsky, and Seth Ruderman

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Amanda Parrish Block and seconded by Alison Bryant. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Lois Bhatt announced that the Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 7 at the Summit First Aid Squad and the date for the next Brown Bag Bash has been set for the last Saturday in March 2017 at Maritime Parc in Jersey City. Mary Conway is again planning the event. In addition, the exhibit from the homeless photo project in Newark will be held in May at Aferro Gallery.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Beth Tulloch urged board members to vote for Bridges on realtor Sue Adler's online contest for donations to local charities. Invitations to BridgeFest will be sent via email this week, including an optional pre-party with a mixologist. Sponsors, auction items, and advertisers for the event journal are needed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Kathy McHale reported that the current budget through February has a surplus of \$49K based on increased income from the annual appeal (+\$35K), a significant increase in grants, and savings in compensation from 1.5 unfilled jobs. Expenses remain consistent, while income is cyclical based on fundraising event revenue; Kathy proposed creating a 2-year cash flow statement to reflect this.

Following meetings with staff, the finance and executive committees, a proposed budget will be presented for a vote at the May meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Coni Frezzo reported that strategies are clear in 11-page rough draft of the strategic plan, based on the SWOT analyses compiled by staff. The next step will be to put budget numbers to programs. A final document will be presented before the May meeting.

There was no new business. Amanda Parrish Block adjourned the meeting at 9:17 pm.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Monday, May 2

Tuesday, June 7 – Annual Meeting at Summit First Aid Squad

Respectfully submitted by Victoria Smith