

L.E.A.F Board of Directors  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 16, 2009  
KDV Conference Room

Members present: Tami DeLand, David Eickhoff, Kenton Frohrip, Gayla Holmgren-Hoeller, Rolf Jacobson, Pat Krueger, Craig P. Lietha, Pat Mullen, John Oxtan, Jim Pehler, Ken Voss, Bruce Watkins, John Weitz, Bruce Hentges

The meeting was called to order by President Mullen at 4:45. Several new board members were welcomed and handbook updates were distributed to those who missed the February meeting. New nameplates were distributed, and will be left at the meeting site for future use. This site will be available for all meetings this year (Thanks to Craig Lietha).

Agenda items

1. Minutes of February 16 meeting were reviewed. Pehler moved and Watkins seconded approval as printed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Craig Lietha presented the monthly treasurer's report, reviewing printed materials detailing balances and transactions (as distributed).
  - a. Bruce Hentges explained that confusion about an anonymous donation that has been received for three years has been cleared up, and that each year it is to go to support the all-day kindergarten program at Talahi School.
  - b. Pat Mullen suggested that the letter accompanying Apollo raffle-winners' checks should suggest that prizes can be donated back to support the LEAF mission.
  - c. Eickhoff moved and Holmgren seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.
  - d. Pehler initiated and DeLand seconded a motion to approve the payment of bills. The motion passed unanimously.
  - e. Lietha reviewed the new travel reimbursement policy.
3. Bruce Hentges provided a Night of the Start event report.
  - a. The financial report is not complete, as several expense items have not been added yet, but a five-year comparison provided both good and disappointing news.
  - b. Sponsorships are down
  - c. Student ticket sales and walk-ups increased.
  - d. Expenses were significantly higher due to the following:
    - i. Printing was not donated, only discounted this year
    - ii. Paramount fees were up
    - iii. A photographer was hired
    - iv. Additional T-shirts
  - e. Other notes:
    - i. A mailing was sent through the SC Area Chamber

- ii. Total on-line auction bids were down, but site visits were up. The possibility of off-setting on-line auction costs by allowing other groups to hold auctions under our annual license fee was suggested. Discussion indicated enough interest to consider with more information.

Another suggestion was to move the on-line auction away from NOTS and make it a separate fundraiser. It was also suggested that this might be a way to involve alumni.

Extended discussion of the on-line auction might be worthwhile, and the PR committee will be asked to consider this and the value of other means to promote NOTS

- 4. Acting Executive Director Bruce Hentges presented the Executive Director's report:
  - a. He attended a grant writing workshop recently that he considered to be worthwhile. Among the ideas:
    - i. NOTS may be an event for which some funding agencies would consider support
    - ii. Financial assistance is available for programs for "at-risk" students (defined as low-income)
    - iii. Most all funding agencies require evidence of official board action regarding any request, so there may be a related agenda item next month
  - b. Cycle two for LEAF Grants has netted 20 requests amounting to \$57,146.00. Bruce reviewed the grant allocation calculation formula, used to determine the amount available, including contingency reserve, and provided a handout with that information. There will be just over \$9,000.00 available for this cycle. There was discussion of the possibility of dispensing with the contingency in favor of increasing the allocation funds available, but the consensus was to keep the contingency in place.
  - c. An update of the endowment campaign was provided
  - d. Hon. Justice Alan Page was again asked to keynote the second annual welcome back luncheon, but is again unavailable. Board members are asked to help find a qualified speaker who may volunteer his or her services.
  - e. The prospect of honorary membership to be bestowed on area law-makers and mayors was discussed. Board members are asked to forward thought on this to President Mullen by email before next month's meeting.
- 5. Information regarding consideration of expanding LEAF's mission and operation into more of a comprehensive community education foundation was introduced. There is a group of education supporters within district 742 who have been discussing formation of more general, more academic focused education foundation, but potential organizers are more interested in combining with LEAF than creating a competing entity. Discussions with this group have been initiated, and Board members were asked to share concerns and raise questions. Some

points include:

- a. Some possible donors have indicated a desire to donate to a more general or academic oriented foundation
- b. Would some loyal LEAF supporters' support be lost or reduced with a broadening of focus?
- c. If two foundations are the result, will the competition for funds compromise effectiveness of both?
- d. How will the original mission and funding base of LEAF be preserved within a more general organization?
- e. What would the structure be and who will determine that?
- f. Will there be adequate interest in participation to accommodate an expanded mission?

During the next 2 weeks there will be meetings with those interested in this proposal. The concerns will be addressed and a suggested plan will be drafted. Staff from the Community Foundation will work with the group to provide expertise. More information will be provided at the April meeting.

#### Other Business

##### Executive Director position

Because of Phil Welter's medical condition, he has requested to be removed from the LEAF payroll. An interim executive director has been appointed through June of 2009. There is a need to provide compensation for the interim. At that time (or before) the position will be revisited and possibly posted. Holmgren initiated and Voss seconded a motion to provide Bruce Hentges with the regular compensation for the position of Executive Director through June of 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Announcements

1. Jim Pehler reminded the membership of a May meeting with The Community Foundation regarding a review of the LEAF account
2. Pehler also announced that the Finance committee will provide a major update in May. u