

L.E.A.F Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, November 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Barclay Carriar at 4:55pm.

Members present: Barclay Carriar, Tami DeLand, Joanne Dorsher, Rolf Jacobson, Lori Johnson, Pat Krueger, Craig Lietha, John Oxton, Jim Pehler, Mark Sakry, John Weitz, Pat Welter, Bruce Hentges, and Phil Welter

Agenda

There were no changes or adjustments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of minutes of October 17, 2011 Board meeting (attached)
- B. Approval of November 1 Executive Committee minutes (attached)
- C. Approval of bill payments for October
- D. Fundraising Report for October (attached)
- E. LEAF Emeriti By-Laws Update (attached)

Weitz moved and Pehler seconded approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/action items

1. Treasurer's Report

Lietha reviewed the report as printed and distributed. He called attention to the Community Foundation report section, noting that a tough month in the market resulted in the lower quarterly numbers. He announced that there has already been some bounce-back to date. He also explained the net income loss that is expected because of the fall granting round. Earned income from the Learning Renaissance was noted.

Pehler moved and Jacobson seconded approval of the report. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Learning Renaissance Academic Fundraiser Review

Hentges shared detailed copies of the financial report. Net proceeds were very respectable and there is no doubt that this event should be continued. Of special note:

- The cork pull could have netted more if more items had been available. It can be expanded next year, and thanks to Jim Pehler and his group for building the enthusiasm.
- The venue certainly contributed to the success, but we can easily outgrow it within a year or two.
- Fewer silent auctions items are recommended.

All feedback was positive.

3. Leaf Office

Hentges explained how acquisition of office space separate from the ED's home might improve organizational efficiency and growth. The Executive Committee authorized some exploration of potential sites. The Community Foundation has space available, but the cost is prohibitive. The school district has space available in the Wilson Building – no longer used as a school site; it has both 100 feet of office and possible (classroom) meeting space available on the third floor. The cost would be \$800 for a year. Thoughts shared included:

- Staying out of a school building has been a practice to make LEAF's independent status more evident; Wilson is no longer a school.
- Third floor access might be an issue.
- Parking would be easy
- Would something more central, i.e. at the Paramount – provide more visibility and access?

It was also suggested that a discussion about how we might “leverage” the office should be a part of strategic planning. Waiting until that happens in several months was suggested. Consensus was that Hentges should continue to explore opportunities.

4. Strategic Planning

Proposals from two potential facilitators were distributed. They were submitted by Clear Path LLC (Marty Moran) and SCSU professor Bassey Eyo. Both were considered excellent and costs were similar. Eyo has suggested that the Granite City Rotary might provide funding assistance for such a project. Through discussion it was noted that the Eyo proposal was more comprehensive and perhaps more in depth than needed or practical for the organization at this time.

Jacobson moved and Welter seconded selection of Clear Path. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Appreciation & Awards Reception

The event is set for Saturday, December 10 at Apollo High School. The reception will begin at 5:30 and will be followed by the Apollo production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Hentges reported that the invitations are ready and will be in the mail this week.

Nominees for the awards have been notified. They are:

- Phil Welter Volunteer Service – Patrick Henry
- Charitable Giving – Patty Yarbrough/McKay's Family Auto
- In-kind Charitable Giving – KDV/Loren Viere, Managing Partner
- Coaching/Advising Excellence – Paul Bates and Megan Pederson
- Instructional Excellence - District 742 Advanced Placement Program

All AP teachers and coordinators will be invited and acknowledged, especially for efforts to involve more underrepresented students.

As is standard for this event, a \$2000 grant in support of the musical theater production was proposed. Pehler mover and Welter seconded approval.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Committee Reports

Nominations

Hentges reported for Chair Ken Voss. Seven people have agreed to be nominated to the LEAF Board. Word is awaited on a third inquiry, which will round out the roster. A slate of officers for the year includes:

- Barclay Carriar – President
- Rolf Jacobson – Vice-President
- Tami DeLand – Secretary
- Craig Lietha – Treasurer

These nominations will be on the annual meeting agenda in February, 2012.

Adopt-A-Classroom

Hentges reported that contributions are still coming in.

7. Executive Director's Report

Hentges shared thank-you notes and covered the following items:

Fall Kick-off: Hentges reported that the fall Kick-off event grossed \$1500 and the cost was \$2100. While the event has actually made money at times, it is currently not considered a fundraiser. The Committee recommended continuing the event for the PR and public awareness benefits. However, efforts will be made to recruit more and greater sponsorships that will at least meet costs, and possibly more.

Annual Campaign: This year's mailing will be increased by the addition of Tech alumni. Parents, district employees, and the donor base are included, and district retirees will receive a special solicitation. Board members were also reminded that LEAF should be one of their top three charities.

Grants that include non-public education students: Following some discussion at the October meeting, Hentges suggested that board policy and practice should be revisited regarding the inclusion of non-public education students in shared programs. Some grants currently may support private or neighboring district students. Consensus was that this is an appropriate discussion agenda item that will be added in the near future.

Designated Funds Policy: Hentges noted that LEAF currently manages two flow-through funds, and that procedures and intent are clear regarding their management. Annual named grants are different. They require a total accumulated contribution of \$25,000 over a five-year period. These may be designated as support for a specific program or may support a scholarship. A concern raised is that recipients of these named funds should not be exempt from regular LEAF grants, and perhaps policy or at least practice should specifically assure that eligibility. It was also suggested that the assessment of a percentage management fee should be reviewed. Consensus was that the Budget and Investment Committee should consider these concerns and provide the board with a recommendation for discussion/action. Any changes will be applicable to future funds, not retroactive.

December Meeting: Hentges noted that some years the December meeting has been cancelled. Those present decided that the meeting should be held on the regular date, **and that treats would be a nice, festive addition.**

Carriar adjourned the meeting at 6:03

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Krueger
Secretary