



Endowment for Equal Justice Board

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Phone Meeting

MINUTES

Board Members present over the phone: Rima Alaily, Beth Bloom, Bruce Brooks, Ellen Dial, Kay Frank, Ele Hamburger, John Hoerster (President), Mark Hutcheson, Nancy Isserlis, Ron Knox, Gail Mautner, Dick Manning, Gerry Schley, Mike Schwab

Absent: Mark Kamitomo, Michelle Moersfelder, Sal Mungia, Margaret Niles

Staff: Melinda Mann, Caitlin Davis, Jessica Niewohner

Meeting start 12:02 PM

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Kay Frank and seconded by Mark Hutcheson that the Board approve the minutes of the January 22nd, 2020 board meeting. The motion was approved. Ellen Dial abstained from voting because she was absent from the last board meeting.

Presidents Report:

John Hoerster gave a brief President's Report, thanking board members for participating in two on one meetings and noting that a few still have to be scheduled in the next few weeks. He stated that the response to the Advisory Council meeting on January 29th, 2020 was overall quite positive, particularly in regard to the Columbia Legal Services panel.

John noted the irony of his statement in the January board meeting minutes that the Endowment's corpus was on track to hit \$20M in 2020. Due to the recent changes in the market, our corpus has experienced a significant decrease since then.

Though the next board meeting in May was set to be the board retreat, John is considering postponing the retreat to better assure that the Board will be able to meet in person and so we have greater clarity about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. This change would be finalized in the next several days. John also noted that Endowment Reach 20 events scheduled for this spring will need to be postponed.

Ellen noted that she agreed that postponing events and in-person meetings for the next few months is the best response to the current public health crisis.

Mark noted that in lieu of fundraising events and in-person solicitation, remote solicitations do work, and that we should capitalize on this tool while we are unable to gather in person.

Operations Committee Update

Portfolio Update through 2/29/20

Bruce Brooks reported that 2019 was a very good year for our financials. Our portfolio performance had us closing the year at over \$18M, and our returns were consistent with the allocation strategy we set up. In 2020, dramatic changes have occurred over a short period of time. Though our portfolio is down significantly, the diversification of our portfolio has moderated our losses in this volatile market. Canterbury Consulting's strong recommendation is that we stay the course in our allocation strategy. Though we have taken a hit, we have not declined as much as the headline markets, and our strategy remains sound.

Gerry Schley asked what our allocation to equities was. Bruce answered that it remains at 65%, with a 35/30 domestic vs non-domestic split.

Spending Policy Update

John noted that before a distribution in 2021, the Operations Committee will revisit the percentage in the spending policy and, if there is to be a change, how the transition would occur.

Reach 20 Fundraising Update:

Melinda Mann started her report by telling the board that we have raised over \$100,000 this year, but all spring fundraising events have been rescheduled for summer. Women for Justice has been moved to June, and the Voices for Justice Concert will take place in the fall. Palm Springs has been rescheduled for 2021, and house parties will likely be rescheduled for June and July.

Melinda emphasized that events are not the only fundraising opportunities we have-- remote solicitations can still take place as Mark described, noting the tools that can aid this, such as the Columbia Legal services video, the video with Kathy and Brad Smith, and a new Splainer video which will be available for distribution on Monday.

Mark described his success with remote solicitations—he sent a letter to Martha Kongsgaard and followed up with an email including the CLS video. Martha responded immediately with a significant contribution. Melinda will be sending out draft emails and links to these fundraising tools.

The EJI Montgomery trip is still scheduled for the fall, but the NW Detention Center visit has been postponed until June. Melinda noted that the Campaign Seattle Beer and Justice event has been postponed to June or July.

Reach 20 Team Activity Updates:

John gave the Green Machine Team report. Green Machine is working with Jim Degel and Jeannie Berwick on their event (which has been moved to May 28th), where Jorge Baron will speak. They are hoping for a large gathering of around 50-70 people, and John encouraged board members to extend invitations to their networks. The Palm Springs event is being postponed for March, 2021, and Jorge Baron will likely speak at this event as well. There is an extensive list of invitees for Palm Springs, so John believes the event will be very successful in 2021. Green Machine is also working with ret. Chief Justice Alexander and his wife Christine Alexander on an event on June 3rd, which will focus on outreach to Olympia-based judges. Chief Justice Debra Stephens will speak.

Mike Schwab reached out to Paula, who is excited about having another Voices for Justice Concert in 2020. She has written at least six new songs based around social justice that she would like to perform. The band has offered a few dates in mid-November, so a date will be confirmed in the next few weeks. It is likely that FAME Gospel choir will perform again, John McKay will emcee again, and we can get another poetry reading at the event. Our goals for this event will be to raise over \$100,000 and to completely fill the room.

John reported on individual solicitations, noting that Kay and Melinda secured a \$10,000 contribution from Judy Bendich. Mike noted that he is attempting to leverage his connections in Yakima, as Yakima is a currently untapped market.

Rima Alaily gave the Chile Verde team update, stating that they are preparing for an event at Ele Hamburger's home over the summer, and a tamale making party sometime after June. Women for Justice is postponed for June, but a lot of work has already been done, so the event should be successful in June. Rima noted that Sal is working on a major solicitation, and Gail is planning outreach to the Estate planning community. She also stated that she and Melinda are thinking about how best to leverage Brad and Kathy Surace-Smith's gift in the community. Rima encouraged board members to consider attending the EJI trip, or considering donors that should be brought into the fold with a stewardship event. The trip will take place from October 18-20th.

Melinda reported on Team 20/20 Vision in place of Michelle. Bruce Brooks and Deb Prinzing will host an event, potentially in May. Beth Bloom will host an event in June and Justice Yu will be the speaker.

John Hoerster adjourned the meeting at 12:52.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Niewohner
Development Associate, Endowment