



**FULL BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, August 17, 2022**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Margaret Niles, Michelle Moersfelder, Sal Mungia, Ron Knox, Mark Griffin, John Hoerster, Gerald Schley, Richard Manning, Bruce Brooks, Jon Bridge

**Staff:** Katie Karcher, Emily Van Yuga, Caitlin Davis

### **Meeting convened at 12:00 PM**

- Committee unanimously voted to approve June meeting minutes
- Committee reflected on Race Equity series
  - We have not conducted a formal survey yet, but the responses have been positive so far

### **Operations and Investment Committee Report**

- Committee discussed amending and updating investment policy because:
  - It's good to do this periodically
  - It's important to clarify how we will invest in funds that we're working on with Canterbury
  - We want the policy to incorporate the organization's values, vision, and core principles, namely race equity
- OIC wants Board to weigh in on how to use investment program to further our goals
  - In 2018, the Board drafted a statement about our vision and values that we did not incorporate into our investment policy
- We should consider what ESG factors matter to us, as there are innumerable options
  - One aspect that the Committee wants to focus on is diverse investment
- The Board has decided so far to avoid companies with direct links to or that derive revenue from predatory lending practices, that lack gender diversity, have ties to firearms, or operate in cooperation with private prisons
  - We can implement these screens with help from investment managers who will handle our portfolio
  - We still have a fiduciary duty to grow the Endowment and balance that with our values
- Canterbury has not reviewed our investment policy draft, and we need their advice to determine what is doable or not
- Question: Is the OIC investigating possible portfolios that serve racial equity and diversity?
  - Our policy does not yet identify how to further these goals, which is part of why we want to consider diverse investment managers
- Board agrees that we should add a specific reference to race equity in the investment policy

- OIC will discuss the policy with Canterbury next week to see what they think is doable
- The Endowment also does not have to reinvent the wheel – we can look to other organizations to see how they apply a race equity lens and follow their lead

#### **Board Support Committee Update**

- The Board welcomes our newest member, Jon Bridge
- At the last meeting, the Committee decided not to change our criteria for new Board members
- Goal is to have 23-25 Board members with more racial and geographic diversity
- Several Board members are reaching the end of their terms but will hopefully stay longer
- In terms of geographic diversity, we need to focus on recruiting from Spokane, Yakima, Bellingham, and Southwest Washington in general
- Board needs compiled information about potential Board members who come from a variety of geographic areas and donate to the Endowment
- Board members do not have to be attorneys; the Committee wants to recruit members from a variety of professional backgrounds
- The three main factors in considering new members are racial diversity, geographic diversity, and their support for the Endowment

#### **Justice Society Committee Update**

- Committee members have been following up with those on our Seeds of Justice list
  - Nancy Williams pledged \$100,000 in her estate and Joan Kleinberg and Phil Katz are leaving a bequest of an undetermined amount
- Last week, the Committee also identified visibility opportunities such as CLEs, and being an exhibitor at an October estate planning conference

#### **Development and Communications Committee Update**

##### **2022 Board Fundraising**

- Prospect List Review and Update
- 6 board members have not signed up to reach out to any prospects yet

##### **Event Calendar**

1. Voices for Justice
2. Gerry Alexander Reception in Olympia – cancelled
3. Beth Bloom Event – cancelled

#### **LFW Grants Program Presentation**

See LFW's Equitable Grantmaking Practices

- LFW is committed to applying a race equity lens to our practices
- Recent actions include prioritizing multiyear grants and general operating funding to increase organizational stability; improving our data collection to include BIPOC leadership; removing barriers to potential grantees; and deepening our equity analysis
- In first four years of piloting the race equity grant, we have made 45 grants
  - We use a participatory grant model which means our race equity grant advisory panel, a group of community experts with lived experience in the legal aid system, make the decisions
  - Most groups receiving race equity grants are new grantees
- We are also improving our data collection metrics to include BIPOC leadership
  - Example: Why did our Covid-19 emergency eviction defense grants exclusively go to white-led organizations?
- We are also trying to remove barriers to potential grantees by offering grant applications and reporting in languages besides English and providing oral reporting options

- LFW needs to ask these overarching questions about our organizations and our grantees: How do our decisions impact BIPOC communities? Who do we benefit and who do we harm? Are our programs applying a race equity lens? Does our grantees' work identify the root causes of inequities? Do they have BOPOC leadership? What role do impacted communities play in their decision making?
- Board suggests that LFW might want to consider grants even longer than two years
  - LFW has funded most of our grantees for a long time, so we do provide some stability for those organizations, but it would indeed be ideal if we could make longer commitments at some point in the future when we have the money
- Meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Melinda will reach out to Kevin Baker about conducting a survey
- Melinda and Katie will add geographic information to Board Recruitment Prospect List