



Board Meeting

December 11th, 2024

Lincoln Children's Zoo

Call to Order: 1:03

Attendance:

- **Board Members:** Britta Muhleisen, Alex Cassidy, Jeff Owusu-Ansah, Karli Mackley, Mike Tavlin, James Walbridge, Trent Fellers, Deb Rasmussen, Ed Schulenberg, Mo Boyd, Joan Mendoza-Gorhan, Guy Trainin, Nancy Hove-Graul, Russ Uhing, Ginna Claussen
- **Staff:** Angelina Cuning, Lindsay Rogers, Kass Mounce, Allison Bock, Dr. John Neal, Parker Dushan

Welcome and Call to Order:

- James welcomed Michelle, the LPS Science Focus Program (Zoo School) coordinator, who provided an overview of the LPS's Zoo School's mission, history, and programming.
- James recognized Brent Comstock for making the Forbes 30 Under 30 list and highlighted the board's gratitude for his involvement.

Consent:

- James asked for a motion to approve each agenda item.
- Karli stated October Financials (item 2F) should be removed from the agenda for approval since they hadn't been approved by finance.
- Motion to approve everything except item 2F was made by Karli, seconded by Guy, and passed by the board.

Life of a Dollar:

- John introduced this segment, with Kass explaining how gifts are processed from start to finish, covering types of donations accepted, recording & financial management of gifts, and designation and allocations.

Annual Goals:

- John discussed the progress on the first annual goal, breaking down how the committees have been fulfilling these goals.
- Karli provided an overview of the current financials, noting a deficit.
- Mike gave an update on the investment committee, including the RFP process and upcoming firm presentations to take place on January 10th to the Investment Committee.
- Guy talked about Spark's future options and the importance of making it profitable to serve the Foundations operational costs. These options will be discussed in detail during the sustainability meeting. He introduced a generous \$100k donation from Google for Spark.
- Kass provided an update on Development, including nearing completion of the audit process. She will be creating a presentation for the Sustainability Committee.
- Angelina discussed the split between scholarships and awards. She then shared updates on scholarships, with 63 applicants, and mentioned an intern joining from the Foundry/UNL honors program.
- John provided a marketing update from Kayla on building closer ties between the Foundation and LPS.
- Britta and Alex discussed the executive search process, with 30 applicants narrowed down to 3-5 for final interview but are still accepting applications.

HR Update:

- Angelina reported on the HR committee's work, including the hiring of Allison Bock to fill Cassidy's position. The hiring process was done by using My Staff staffing agency which was discussed in the consent agenda.

Development Policies:

- Kass introduced two policy updates:
 1. Nominal Funds Policy - Reallocates cash from underused funds.
 2. Underutilized Funds Policy - Ensures proper use of funds that have not been used in a long time.
- A discussion took place regarding the amount for reallocations, and it was amended from \$100 to \$500 for the Pass-Through Funds & from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for the Permanently or Temporarily Restricted Funds.
- Both policies were approved after a motion by James and seconded by Guy.

Second Terms Approval:

- A discussion was held regarding the approval process for board members' second terms with an outcome to amend the process.
- Ginna asked if her second term needed to be approved since she believed her time on the board was ending.
- It was decided that Foundation staff would confirm each member's start and end dates.

- James asked for a motion to approve second terms. Trent motioned and was seconded, with the board's approval.

Board Member Recommendation:

- John introduced the Board member commitment document, which would be signed annually by each board member to confirm their roles and responsibilities and would allow for the growth of donors and gifts.
- The document aims to ensure 100% board giving.
- The motion to approve the document was made by Alex, seconded by Guy, and passed without dissent.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.