



Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2020
8:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Present:

Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Co-Chair Lew Chamberlain, Treasurer Bob Herr, Amanda Barbour, Kristina Donaldson, Lynne Ferrell, Maureen Hale, Sue Jandernoa, Melinda Johnson, Karen O'Donovan, Juan Olivarez, Julie Ridenour, Milt Rohwer, Michelle Van Dyke, Carl Ver Beek, and Sean Welsh.

Staff:

Annemarie Valdez, Shelby French, and Jill B. Salisbury who recorded the minutes.

Absent:

Ron Caniff

Welcome:

8:30 a.m.
Kate Pew Wolters welcomed everyone.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Consent agenda:

Kate Pew Wolters made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the May 28, 2020 meeting.
Support: Bob Herr
Unanimous

Finance Report:

Treasurer Bob Herr reviewed and presented FSK's June Financials and the Ready By Five June Financials. Next, Treasurer Bob Herr made a motion to approve the renewing of the \$150,000 Mercantile Bank Line of Credit including \$25,000 in credit cards. Designated signatories are President Annemarie Valdez, Co-Chair Lew Chamberlain, and Treasurer Bob Herr with only one signature required to sign any loan documents.
Support: Carl Ver Beek
Unanimous

First Steps Updates:

Annemarie Valdez provided updates on the following:

- **Pritzker:**

FSK applied in January for a \$350K, three-year, community innovation grant. This is centered around shared services work and supporting child care providers. The Pritzker Fellowship program ends August 20, 2020. This is the date for Pritzker Fellow Anissa Eddie's capstone.

- **Shared Services:**

Annemarie Valdez reported that the Pritzker grant will focus on alternative ways to support child care providers. Despite COVID-19 relief funds, many child care providers have not received funding for their child care business. Since March, FSK has supported child care providers using funding from two Heart of West Michigan United Way grants.

- **Ready by Five – Contracts / Data:**

Annemarie Valdez reported that FSK now has contracts with all the grant awardees, including data-share agreements.

- **Equity Work Plan:**

Annemarie Valdez reported Equity is the number one goal in our strategic planning. FSK has a three-year Wege Foundation grant to do Board leadership work around Equity. FSK is currently meeting with contractors to move this work forward. There will be future opportunities, specific to Equity in the areas of early childhood for Board and Staff to participate in.

Nominating Committee Update:

Melinda Johnson reported on the following.

- **Board Survey:**

Melinda Johnson shared the results on a recent Board survey. She asked for feedback regarding the current Board member roles and responsibilities.

- New members:

- Next steps:

- Short-term – The Committee would like to suggest two new names for Board approval by September 2020. Board members are encouraged to provide two names to Melinda Johnson by Aug. 10th.
- Long-term – The Committee will keep a list of potential candidates, including their strength areas. Geographically, the Committee is aiming for representation in some of Kent County's outlying areas. The Committee also thinks cross-over transition time is crucial as new members come on and current members retire. Finally, the Committee will keep Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the forefront.

- Roles & responsibilities: There are six Board meetings per year. When recruiting, the Committee wants to remind that attendance and participation are a high priority.

- Comments:

- These roles and responsibilities are very governance related. Can we develop some points around passion, advocacy, and compassion for early childhood?
- Agree that we need to widen the voices of this Board.

- Do we want to think about a national player? Virtual meetings have eliminated distance barriers.
- We would like to have a virtual option available if/when Board meetings go back to being held in-person. This will allow current Board members accessibility when out-of-town.
- There needs to be more Board diversity.
- New member onboarding and orientation are important. We want new members to come in feeling empowered, prepared, and comfortable. We should think about adding constituents of the communities we serve, especially as we think about the next Millage renewal. An onboarding and orientation training/mentorship should be considered.
- Board needs to model Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all aspects of the organization. We are adding it to our words and documents, but we need to be mindful of action.

Strategic Planning Update:

Annemarie Valdez provided an update on the Strategic Planning goals. FSK Staff has been working on flushing out the goals. The next step is to create a workplan so this has accountability and can be operationalized for the next three years. We will give this plan to the Board first so it can be reviewed. There is Wege Foundation grant funding for putting the plan to action.

- Comments:
 - An Equity lens needs to be carried through all organizational work. This is being done through grant proposals and RB5 Millage service provider contracts.
 - Would like to see a dashboard, used at every meeting, so that Board members are held accountable.

Adjourn:

Meeting closed at 9:47a.m.

**Next Commission Meeting:
Thursday, September 24, 2020
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Location TBD**