

SCFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 19, 2009

1:00 pm

Thorne Ecological Institute

Meeting Minutes

SCFD Board members present: Vice Chair Stevan Strain, Treasurer Jim Martin, Joseph Arcese, Mark Addison, Khadija Haynes, Dave Montez

SCFD Board members absent: Chair James Harrington, Marcia Johnson Secretary, Kathleen Stapleton, Bob Grant, Shepard Nevel

SCFD staff present: Peg Long, Executive Director, Program Manager Nancy McCamey, Program Manager Donna Smith, Office Administrator Sheila Mieger

1. Introductions

Stevan Strain called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm, followed by introductions. A quorum was present.

Alyson Duffy, Executive Director of Thorne Ecological Institute, welcomed the Board and gave a short presentation. The Institute was started in 1954. Their bilingual staff of five make 1,400 contacts with children a year. The site was a school equipment dumping ground until the Institute helped clean up the saline wetland.

2. Approval of October 22, 2009 Board Minutes

Mark Addison motioned to approve minutes. Dave Montez seconded with a correction under the Executive Director's report David Montez moved that the Board should accept the nondiscrimination policy, Stevan Strain seconded. The motion to accept the minutes as amended passed.

3. Preview of 2010 Legislative Session

Melanie Layton, Colorado Legislative Services, shared with the Board the current political climate. The Governor has proposed a budget in which every line item will take a cut. His hope is that by everyone sharing a little of the pain the impact will be less and of shorter duration. Main issues for this session are:

1. Budget Items: 4.6% decrease in K-12 funding. No further cuts in higher education are anticipated. State employees will not be given raises and will be required to take 8 unpaid furlough days during the year.
2. Tax Credits and Exceptions likely to be proposed include: energy use in industrial and manufacturing sectors, candy and soft drink tax of 2.9 %, enterprise zone investment tax credit, gross conservation easement credit.
3. Senator Pat Steadman is proposing a bill expanding to cash-funded state building projects the 1% for public art requirement. The current statute has some exceptions including cash-funded projects. Melanie expects fiscal conservatives will be against this, art supporters will be for it.
 - a. Peg Long asked what entity manages these funds. Colorado Council on the Arts receives 15% of the revenues collected from the 1% sales tax to manage the public art program. Mark Addison asked if this bill is appropriate considering the economic climate. Melanie said Senator Steadman does not see this as extending the taxation. He sees it as closing loop holes. Peg stated her concern the public may confuse this tax with the SCFD tax. Melanie said there could potentially be public backlash in the way of awakening the public as to how much of their tax dollars are spent on art. Khadija Haynes and Peg agreed to meet with Senator Steadman to make him aware of the SCFD concerns regarding this bill.

Peg asked if Melanie has heard how the sales tax hold back for administrative costs is being handled. Melanie said she would check into it. Stevan Strain asked Melanie to comment on the possible new bills to re-establish TABOR on some issues and what would need to take place to defeat these bills. Melanie said it is easy to get issues on the ballot in Colorado. To defeat such bills fundraising would have to take place to allow advertising against them. Dave Montez asked Peg if the SCFD is planning to go before the legislators this session to increase the ¾% for the SCFD administration budget to 1%. Peg feels 2010 is not the year to take such action. The topic will be on the agenda at the April Board Planning Session. Peg has heard from some of the SCFD funded organizations saying they would be in support of such a proposal.

4. Reports

4.1 Treasurer

Jim Martin reported September 2009 SCFD month-to-date (MTD) sales and use tax revenue was \$3,270,871.71 as compared to September 2008 tax revenue of \$3,624,896.23. The 2009 MTD variance is (\$354,024.52), which is a 9.76% decrease over September 2008. The 2009 year-to-date (YTD) sales and use tax revenue total is \$27,103,508.37 compared to YTD 2008 \$31,734,880.79. The variance is (\$4,631,372.42), which is a 14.59% decrease in YTD 2009 over YTD 2008.

4.2 Chairman

Stevan Strain reported James Harrington is sorry he had to miss the Board meeting. He had a medical issue arise he had to address.

4.3 Executive Director

Peg Long read a letter from Holly Osgood, former SCFD Board member, requesting the Board honor Lewis Sharp with an honorary Rex Morgan Award. Dr. Sharp is retiring from the Art Museum. There will be a breakfast Saturday, December 5th at the Art Museum in his honor. The Board does have precedence in bestowing an honorary Rex Morgan award. In 2008 the Board awarded an honorary Rex Morgan Award posthumously to Clayton Freiheit, who served as President of the Zoo for many years until his death in October 2008. Stevan Strain asked if Mr. Freiheit's and Mr. Lewis's names will appear on the public art tribute. Peg said they will not. Joseph Arcese asked if the award is for volunteers only, considering Mr. Sharp is leaving a paid position. Peg clarified that, as an honorary award, it does not have the same restrictions. Mark Addison spoke to the many contributions Mr. Sharp has made that went beyond his official position. Peg made the Board aware the expense for the bowl is outside the budget. Donna Smith suggested copy for the bowl. Khadija Haynes suggested taking the year off so it does not conflict with Gully Stanford being awarded the 2009 Rex Morgan Award. Dave Montez asked if there was any reason not to honor Mr. Sharp. Peg said there is not. Joseph Arcese made a motion to award Lewis Sharp an honorary Rex Morgan Volunteer Award. Jim Martin seconded. The motion passed.

Peg distributed copies of Gully Stanford's Rex Morgan acceptance speech and the staff activity report for June-November to the Board

Several CDs are maturing in December. She will check rates, cash flow, confer with Jim Martin and Jim Harrington, and renew as appropriate.

Peg's SCFD credit card limit is currently \$2,500. She requested approval to increase the limit to \$5,000, the same as current check writing authority. Peg had problems with payment of Rex Morgan catering expenses, the contract required payment by credit card and payment exceeded the \$2,500 limit. Mark Addison made a motion to allow Peg Long to increase her credit card limit from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Dave Montez seconded. The motion passed. Peg will prepare a letter for Jim Martin and Jim Harrington to sign formally approving the request. She will submit this to the bank.

Reminders: SCFD office closed 12/24 thru 1/3/10. The Cultural Forum will take place January 1, 2010 from 11:30-1:30 at Newman Center on the DU campus. Richard Evans, President EmcArts will speak.

2010 meeting calendar correction: February 25, 2010 should read "approval of excess or deficit 2009 revenue."

The eligibility presentation will be rescheduled for 2010 Annual Board planning session.

Peg asked the Board to approve use of an alternate SCFD logo that The Denver Center for the Performing Arts created. The new logo has a line added above the phrase *Scientific and Cultural Facilities District*. It says "Citizens of". Khadija Haynes made a motion to approve the use of the update SCFD logo with "Citizens of" added. Mark Addison seconded. The motion passed. The alternate logo will be posted on the SCFD website.

5. Rex Morgan Award Event

Stevan Strain asked Donna Smith to recap the event. Donna said despite the weather both the Tribute design unveiling and the award ceremony were well attended by about 250 people. Ten thoughtful nominations were submitted showing across-district appeal of the award program. Donna has received positive feedback from several people regarding the venue, format and amenities. Fundraising has reached over \$51k in pledges towards a \$60k goal. SCFD has received about \$24k thus far. Stevan Strain asked Donna to thank the many people involved. She thanked the Board, staff, volunteers, DPAC, Centerplate and committees for their work on the event. Stevan thanked Donna and the SCFD staff for putting together one of the premiere awards events in the City.

6. Other Matters

Mark Addison gave Board members a handout of topics he would like them to consider going forward. He felt he should put some thoughts down on paper since he will have served the maximum number of terms allowed and will be leaving the board in early 2010. Many of the topics are related to reauthorization such as strengthening communication between the Tiers, political leaders, CBCA members and community leaders. He would also like to see the Board continue to enhance collaborative efforts to bring more art, science and culture to K-12 schools in the seven-county District. Board members expressed appreciation to Mark for his thoughts. Peg assured Mark she is working on many of these items.

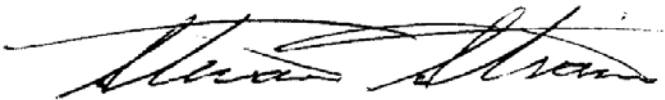
7. Public Comment

Steve Wilson, SCC and Mizel Center, passed along a letter to James Harrington and the Board concerning Peg Long's review. The letter states Peg is an excellent communicator. She understands the complex nature of the statue and how it effects the organizations. She is warm and available. Steve thanked the Board for giving the SCC the opportunity to comment.

Donna Smith wanted to also extend an acknowledgement to James Harrington for his great job being Master of Ceremonies at the Rex Morgan Award.

8. Adjournment

Joseph Arcese motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jim Martin seconded. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



Vice Chair