**Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 28**

**Via Zoom and RSF Community Room**

**Attendees:** Susan Hoehn, Nikki Ream, Sabrina Applegate, Marian Benassi, Sara Bennett, Mara Buchholz, Cathy Burch, Mary Consalvi, Sandra Coufal, Vivian Hardage, Candise Holmlund, Cynthia Hudson, Kathy Sage, Cheryl Salmen, Diane Solomon and

Beth Terrana

Susan Hoehn called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Susan welcomed and thanked everyone for their support and Nikki for hosting the Slainte Slate and Cheers to Charter Members gatherings.

**RSFWF Chair** – Susan Hoehn

Motion to Approve Minutes: Beth Terrana

Second: Kathy Sage

Vote: Unanimously approved

**Grant Co-Chair Updates** – Kathy Sage

Quick overview

After the Grantee Presentations, 85 members voted – combination of physical and online votes.

Results were very clear, from best to worst. Out of the eleven, ten can be funded leaving $7,500.00 additional funds.

Kathy noted that members who went on the site visit to ASYMCA, all agreed that they under asked, Kathy along with Candise would like to have the Board consider splitting the $7,500.00 additional funds between SD Rescue Mission who received the highest number of votes and ASYMCA as follows: SD Rescue Mission $2,555.00 and ASYMCA $5,000.00.

**Grant Co-Chair Updates cont.** - Cathy Burch

Went over votes received:

Resounding Joy scored the lowest in interest.

The top four were all within 20 points of each other.

The following three were within five points of each other.

The last four were within 62 points in closeness to each other.

Resounding Joy was 125 points behind the Gail Gillies Award winner which was SD Rescue Mission.

The Grant Co-Chairs felt confident to eliminate Resounding Joy.

Four options being considered:

1. Award $7,555.00 to Resounding Joy (10th % of asking).
2. Rollover the $7,555.00 for next year.
3. Above and Beyond recognition (one being proposed by Grant Co-Chairs) ASYMCA asked for $25,000.00, adding $5,000.00 for a total of $30,000.00 could be used and appreciated. The $2,555.00 to be added to the $57,831.00 SD Rescue Mission asked for, for a grand total of $60,386.00.
4. Take the $7,555.00 and give it to the top voter SD Rescue Mission.

Roundtable comments and comments with regards to options:

Beth Terrana noted that the general feeling at her table was that there was no matrix for Resounding Joy.

Nikki pointed out that by eliminating Resounding Joy they would have the opportunity to re-apply and not have to wait for three years.

Nikki is in favor of the Grant Chairs recommendations.

Susan appreciates dividing the additional funds and calling it Above and Beyond.

Cynthia Hudson agrees with the plan and is very happy with the recommendation.

Cheryl Salmen said a few ladies brought a printout of the summary and it seemed to help them.

Susan suggested having printouts available at the tables in the future and asked for a show of hands for those in favor.

It was brought out that historically not all members vote, for this grant cycle, only 59.4% of the 140 members voted.

Beth Terrana suggested that it would be good to tabulate who voted based on tenure. She suggested doing an analysis and a survey to find out what the members are most interested in.

Mary Consalvi mentioned that at the Founders meeting Nikki held, she had the opportunity to talk to one of the founders and she mentioned that in the early days, site visits were the one thing that brought them together.

Susan suggested giving more visibility to the members about the organizations. Fill in the background.

Motion to Approve recommendation of accepting distributions of Grant Funds as laid out in the Grant Co-Chairs option #3 and as was email to the Board: Nikki Carmody Ream

Second: Beth Terran

Vote: Unanimously approved

Mara with regards to the matrix, mentioned that after tabulating the votes, 27 of 85 voters had joined in 2023 Grant Year and 13 had joined in 2022.

Vivian Hardage noted that historically long-term members such as herself, enjoy supporting financially and trust the judgement of the grants committee, which goes back to “do a little” or “do a lot”. This is a valid point that needs to be considered instead of being terribly concerned about who voted and who didn’t.

Sabrina pointed out that there might be “procedure fatigue” and it is cumbersome.

Susan suggested using ‘points’ instead of ‘votes’ to make it clear.

**Grant Co-Chair on Focused Areas** - Cathy Burch

Focused Areas:

The top two for 2023-2024 will be:

Women’s Services and Social Services.

Women's Services:

Domestic Violence

Sex Trafficking

Physical/Mental Health Support for Women and Teen Girls (13 to adulthood)

Social Services:

Homelessness

Economic Empowerment for the Disabled, Elderly and Immigrant Populations

Beth pointed out adding more content and detail.

Motion to accept Focused Areas for the 2023-24 Grant Year: Nikki Carmody Ream

Second: Beth Terran

Vote: Unanimously approved

**Membership** – Sara Bennett

The total membership for the 2022-2023 Grant Year is 143, and there is a lot of interest with others wanting to join.

The goal is to keep momentum going and having a variety of events at different times to allow everybody the ability to attend.

Susan asked Ruth to add an email to the members to bring a friend to the last event.

**Finance Chair** – Diane Solomon

Finances are fine, everything is going well. Reports have been received late, i.e., March was just received in May. Diane hopes that going forward Ruth may be able to send reports in a timely manner.

Estimates in April show that there will be a surplus of a couple of thousand dollars as of now. Diane hopes that Ruth will be able to provide information regarding the events as they happen to have an idea of what is coming in.

Susan asked Ruth to email the March report to the Board Members. Susan also asked Diane about the report that Karen sent regarding analysis versus actuals.

Nikki updated the board about a meeting that will be held in May with Karen, Jeff, Ruth, Diane and Nikki to discuss alternatives moving forward so that there can be real-time financial information. As well as having access to numbers that will be workable for Diane and at the same time alleviate Jeff’s work.

Beth noted that she and Diane have been working on a spreadsheet which is very detailed and if needed it can be posted on the Portal. Susan asked to have it on the portal for every board member to see.

Susan thanked Marian and Sue for coordinating the programing and Muffy for planning meetings and creating the flower arrangements.

For the Awards Ceremony Susan asked Ruth and the Membership Chairs to be at the registration, Sara confirmed that she would not be able to attend but will ask Donna. Susan pointed out that this is a good opportunity to attract new members.

**Social Media Chair** – Cheryl Salmen

Continue posting to make people aware of what is going on.

Likes are up and there is more visibility, when the 24-hour story is posted an average of 150 people have been viewing it.

Cheryl is helping Hazel as she will take over.

Sara Bennett pointed out that it is very effective how Cheryl does the story and then posts it, as doing it both ways, tracks how many people are viewing it. Sara asked if there are non-members that are viewing these? Cheryl confirmed that there are.

Cheryl stated that anybody in the US can view it, but there is no information as to whether they live in RSF. However, if they reach out to her directly, she will interact with them and send them on.

**Technology Chair** – Mara Buchholz

Working on technology projects.

Cleaning up, organizing and re-naming files in WildApricot and the share drive. The goal is to make the archives more user friendly in the share drive.

In WildApricot, capacity was at 78%, after the cleanup it went down to 75%. Mara will keep an eye on price and storage once 100% is reached.

On contact vs. members listing the pay point only allows 250 contacts. Archived is possible as it does not count against the contact allowance; however, archived members cannot be emailed. In order to email them, they have to be reactivated.

Working with Sara Sheppard to finetune the Website.

Susan would like Ruth to learn more about the process regarding Mara’s work. Mara confirmed that some cross-training has been done and over the summer more training will take place as things slow down during that time.

**Publicity Chair** – Sabrina Applegate

Cheryl Salmen shared photos of the Grantee Presentation in Sabrina’s absence. An article will be written, and it will be in next Tuesday’s Review.

Laureen has been great to work with. Also, tie-up with Bob for the May 17th. So, there should be coverage from both Ranch and Coast and the Review for the main meeting.

Susan pointed out that Sabrina writes the articles every month and takes pictures instead of waiting for the newspaper to do it, Susan would like this to be added to the job description.

Sabrina will update Elia about writing articles and taking pictures.

Elia was not in attendance today.

**Volunteer Chair** – Ellie Cunningham

Not in attendance.

Nikki thanked everyone for the success of the grant cycle.

If anybody has any updates for the Board Planning Retreat let Nikki know so she can add them to the agenda.

Susan thanked everybody, and she is looking forward to seeing everybody on May 17th at the Awards Ceremony and at the Board Retreat on May 24th, in the Community Room at the Foundation, where the first part will consist of ‘thanking’ everybody with a brunch to those who served. The second part of the meeting will be for the new incoming members. Board Members not continuing, can dismiss themselves after the brunch.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38

Upcoming meetings and events:

Wednesday, May 17th – Grant Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, May 24th – Brunch and Board Planning Retreat

Board Transition Meetings:

Monday, May 15th, Tuesday, May 16th and Wednesday, May 17th