

## **AERO Board Conference Call**

**August 17, 2015**

**Present: Trina, Steph, Ephie, Martha, Ellie, Kim, Laura, Janet, Paul H, Corrie**

### **BOARD VOTES: *(Please see past emails for information on these issues)***

#### **Helena Sun Run**

Approval from 7 board members via email, which I believe is our quorum, to sponsor the Helena Sun Run at the \$50 level.

#### **Annie's brother's memorial fund**

Board will not contribute as AERO to Annie's brother's memorial fund, but individuals interested in donating can send money to Martha.

#### **MREA Clean Energy Fair sponsorship**

MREA Clean Energy Fair sponsorship 9/18

Jen is looking into potential trade for a spot. The sponsorship swap might have happened already.

\$75 member fee. \$200 sponsorship is the level Jen asked for in the email.

- We need to know what the options are for how much it costs and then we will need to coordinate who can staff our table that weekend.
- To make it worth our money, we need to think about what we are going to put at the table.
- We could use it to promote the annual meeting. We need to make the table more compelling and we need to have a budget for it to make that possible.
- General feeling that it is a good idea for us to be there, but more info/coordination is needed.

#### **Political Candidate table at the Expo**

Discussion:

- Suggestion that if we are going to allow tabling of any electoral candidate, we need to provide coverage for all the candidates.
- Is it necessary for us to seek out this balance political coverage? Or, would it be based on whomever approaches us.
- Suggestion that David Oien could put Bernie Sanders information on the Timeless Seeds table because then it is Timeless supporting Sanders and not AERO.

There are no concerns or objections with saying no to this request in the end.

### **ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE (Laura)**

All the big things are wrapped up and the registration is open.

Board members need to register and pay for the annual meeting.

### **AUCTION ITEMS!!**

Board members need to help with silent auction and live auction items. All board members need to take action on this. Make this a priority over the next couple of weeks to find some auction items. This will be the only thing board members need to do besides attend. Send Laura an email of who you ask and if they are providing an item or not.

What is the plan if we have too many live auction items? Please be sure not to say that this item is specifically to be used in our live auction so that we have the ability to use it for any AERO needs.

### **BOARD RECRUITMENT (Martha)**

We received a board application today! All who have left messages: please follow up in the next couple days so things can be finalized in the next week and then let Martha know.

We will be including job descriptions so that people nominated from the floor will be aware of what they are being nominated for. Encourage your nominees to come to the annual meeting because it is more likely that they will be voted in. However, it is not required.

Keep in mind that in addition to general board elections there will also be executive committee elections happening in October at our first board meeting.

### **5. Brief financial update (Kim)**

We are still having challenges with our bookkeeper. So if anyone hears of bookkeepers that are inexpensive and good, please let Jen know. Jen was just able to finalize June's numbers with the bookkeeper.

Jen's program update mentioned we are \$8000 short of unrestricted income for this year. That is not as bad as \$30,000 that we are short because we haven't gotten grants. There are opportunities to make some of that up, but those things are not guaranteed. The Annual Meeting can help make some of this up and hopefully there are good next steps for the board on specifics for how to raise this money. That should be a board priority for the rest of the year.

We are still making it through the year and at the end of the year at this rate we will still have \$11,000 in the bank. This is pretty scary because that is only a month or two of salary for Jen left.

Monthly expenses generally are \$8000 - \$13000. Three months of expenses are going to be minimum about \$18000. At the end of the year we will have about 1 month of operation costs in December if we continue on this projector.

Fundraising committee is still looking for suggestions for major donors to reach out to: If you think of any individuals, foundations, or groups that we could approach, send them to Janet.

### **DISCUSSION: Approval of \$2500 for High Stakes Foundation funds use**

Jen's Proposal:

- \$750 - \$1000 Hiring a facilitator to facilitate a discussion around regional food groups. Jen's tour has people on board in different communities. She suggests that in lieu of a staff person or volunteer, we get a coordinator to move this forward.
- \$750 - \$1000 To help with strategic planning process for AERO.
- \$500 Research and intern to start a revolving loan fund with Timeless Seeds.

## DISCUSSION

- Are we splitting up funds to do three little projects that could get more done all together?
- The decisions on the use of this money will help determine whether if we get further funding from High Stakes.
- Having a solid strategic plan will help us be effective into the future. High Stakes asked if we had one when we applied previously.
- Jen doesn't need a vote from the board on what to do with these funds.
- Board seems to be leaning more towards the first two items moreso than the Timeless Seeds idea.

Steph will share this info with Jen and she can make decisions from there.

## BOARD TASKS

Annual meeting auction items!!!!

Board recruitment – follow up with your individuals and send info on to Martha about people applying.

Register for the Expo. Contact people about carpooling and encourage people to come!

Send money to Martha if you'd like to donate to Annie's brother's memorial fund.

Steph will touch base with Jen about High Stakes money.

Ideas for donors or new ideas to bring in money-- be in touch with Janet.